

## **Dear Parent / Guardian,**

We hope you find this term letter informative. We had a very busy start to the Academic Year. Thank you for being so supportive at the various information nights held in the Coláiste. Your commitment and that of your son / daughter is paramount to the successful holistic education we provide in Coláiste na hInse. As the Acting Principal I want to thank our students, staff, parent's association and board of management for their continued support. I also want to welcome Martin McCabe, Acting Deputy Principal who joins our team alongside Deputy Principal's Kaye Duffy and Sarah Ross – we wish Martin well. As we prepare for the October midterm break can I wish you all the very best for the next term.

## **L Reilly, Acting Principal**

### **1ú bliain:**

Our wonderful 1ú daltai have spent the last nine weeks settling in to life in Coláiste na hInse. We and they have had a really busy start to the year with our information evening, Lá Spóirt, Seactain Wellbeing, Garda talk on cyber activity and bullying to name but a few activities. The results of a 'Settling in' survey carried out this week would indicate the vast majority of daltai have settled in, are participating in extracurricular activities and are in the main enjoying their transition to post-primary education. Comhghairdeas to the six daltai representing their rang group on the Student Council.

Our focus after the midterm will be on study skills and building their ability to focus on and do as well as possible in the upcoming scurudu. Remember our key word is resilience!!

### **2ú bliain:**

Our dara bliain daltaí have had a busy start to the year. Our information evenings, held in September, outlined the unique position this group is in as the Coláiste's first year group to complete all their subjects under the new Junior Cycle. Parents were given information about their student's Classroom Based Assessments and how their work is graded and reported. Further information for parents is available at [www.ncca.ie/juniorycycle](http://www.ncca.ie/juniorycycle)

After midterm we are taking the year group to Carlingford Adventure Centre (November 7<sup>th</sup>). This promises to be a fantastic bonding opportunity in, what will no doubt be, crisp autumn weather! Final information regarding the trip will be provided on the Monday after midterm.

The coming weeks will see our daltaí begin their shift in focus towards the Christmas Exams. Staying on top of homework is only part of the picture. Students should be planning their revision over midterm and beginning to organise study blocks for themselves so they can achieve their Réalt Eolais.

### **3ú bliain:**

Well done on the amazing LGBTQ+ workshops which took place onsite with ShoutOut on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup> last. It was wonderful to see the daltaí so interested and well informed.

#### Key dates:

- New Junior Cycle: Round 2 of Classroom Based Assessment ("CBA2") will take place in classrooms Dec 6<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup> 2020 in English, Irish, French, Spanish, Business, Art & Science. Results from these will appear on Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.
- Home Econ: Textile craft project & folder due by Dec 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Metalwork: Project brief is out now; due date is April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020

Our focus is now on the mock exams which are only weeks away (starting Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020). All students should now be studying to complement the great work happening in classes and the excellent homework we are seeing. To help motivate daltaí, our 3ú bliain Parent Teacher Meeting takes place Tues Nov 5<sup>th</sup>, this is a great opportunity to get individual feedback and direction. We hope to see you all there

## **IB**

It has been a busy beginning to the school year for IB dáлтаí. We completed a 10 kilometre hike of Carlingford in September sunshine and 73 dáлтаí followed it up by completing the gruelling Hell and Back course earlier this month. These experiences have really helped with the bonding of new rang groups.

Parents will be aware that the first work experience placement takes place from December 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>. A number of students have applied for Garda Vetting and should receive an email about it in early November. There will also be an increased focus on project work in the weeks ahead as deadlines set in for key assignments in different subjects.

With two months of school completed, all dátaí should have two of their nine Réaltóir Challenges completed, with reports on the various activities and trips completed and entered into your Portfolio Folder.

### **5ú bliain**

It has been a very positive start for our 5<sup>th</sup> year students. Lots of key dates relating to curriculum work on our information night in September, including Junior Certificate results day and facts relating to the 5<sup>th</sup> year trip to Italy in May 2020. The fantastic Junior Certificate results came out on October 4<sup>th</sup> were a cause for great celebrations. It was lovely to see so many parents celebrating with their sons / daughters and for us all to spend time together on that day. Our next big day is our 5<sup>th</sup> year bonding trip to the Zoo on the 24<sup>th</sup> October. It is a lovely opportunity for the old classes from last year's 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> years, to get to know each other better in their new class groups, in a fun social setting.

After midterm the focus will be on preparing for the Christmas exams in November. These exams will give 5<sup>th</sup> year students a very good idea as to how they are getting on in each subject, in this two year leaving certificate programme.

Staying on top of homework is only part of the picture. Students should be planning their revision over midterm and beginning to organise study blocks for themselves so they can achieve their Réalt Eolais.

### **6ú blain**

We have had a very busy start to this academic year. 6<sup>th</sup> Yrs attended the Careers expo in the RDS to investigate future college opportunities. Currently all 6<sup>th</sup> Yrs are working in Careers class to explore all options A-Z for next year. They are working on their CAT scores from last year's testing to see predicted grades for the Leaving Cert.

- CAO opens for applications 5th November. Apply by 20<sup>th</sup> January for the early fee of €30
- November and December are busy times for open days. We encourage dátaí to plan for these events and attend on Saturdays so as not to disrupt their class time. Full information and dates for open days can be found on [careersportal.ie](http://careersportal.ie) or [qualifax.ie](http://qualifax.ie)
- To assist with CAO applications and career planning, the guidance department will meet with all dátaí individually. Please prepare for these meetings by completing your one to one career booklet.
- CAO / Careers Information for 6ú dátaí and parents on Wednesday 20th November from 6-7pm. We encourage all parents to attend as we will go through the application process and all available third level options. There will be a DARE representative from DKIT present on the night.
- Better options to take place Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 10am - 13.00pm in Marino institute

### **Academic Monitoring:**

All 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year dátaí are in the process of receiving feedback from the testing they completed at the beginning of 5<sup>th</sup> year. Our Guidance Councillors are giving each dátaí an individual student report which gives an explanation of their results and where their strengths and opportunities for improvement lie. The report not only promotes self-reflection, but provides dátaí with ideas for maximising their learning preferences.

We are also now offering digital copies of the parent / guardian reports to the tuismitheoirí of all dátaí (1<sup>st</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> year). If you would like a copy of your child's report please email [colaistenahinse@lmetb.ie](mailto:colaistenahinse@lmetb.ie) This is designed to help parents / guardians understand their child's results and what actions they can take to further their learning. The report can be used as an effective tool for reinforcing school-based learning activities at home.