**January 2020 Newsletter**



**New School Buildings**

The Building project is now nearing completion. The Board of Management is delighted with the final outcome in all areas and are looking forward to seeing the ground works and snagging being completed. We have an application with the Department of Education to upgrade the remainder of the driveway and are expecting to receive a positive outcome shortly. We will then be privileged to have the best campus for many miles with student application numbers increasing.

**Dressing Rooms.**

The dressing room extension is nearing completion and will be available for use shortly. This will be a fantastic addition to our facilities and support the many extra-curricular activities in Knockbeg College.

**Parents Association**

The Parents Association would like to thank all those who contributed to the very successful envelope collection that was undertaken during first term. More than €2,800 was collected which is fantastic. Some of the funds generated have already been used to subsidise study skills seminars for our exam students and provide the prizes for our very enjoyable table quiz which took place on the day of the holidays.

 **School Uniform**

The Knockbeg College uniform is unique to our school. Wearing it is an essential part of our school philosophy. The Board of Management and the Parents’ Association are very clear in their view that they want all students to have equal status and this includes wearing the correct uniform, including shoes and jacket. These can be purchased from Shaws department store in Carlow or from School Uniforms Direct who are based in Baltinglass. Contact details are available from the school office or online, with purchases also available online with School Uniforms Direct. Most students work well with us and we ask all parents to ensure compliance to avoid unnecessary difficulties and possible embarrassment for you or your son if we have to enforce the rules and send someone home.

**Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones have a lot of very positive uses in school and elsewhere. However, when used in appropriately, they can cause considerable distress for many young people. While most of our students are very responsible in their behaviour and their use of phones, they do present a considerable distraction in class and are often a barrier to good communication at break times. The rule on use of phones was changed with the approval of the Parents’ Association. It is no longer acceptable for mobile phones to be used from 8-55 in the morning until the end of the school day, unless under the supervision of the teacher for use in class. All teachers are asked to confiscate any mobile phones seen in use during the day and give to the Principal for safe keeping.

**Study**

Study for all students now takes place in our new study hall and it was great to see such large numbers attending yesterday on the first day back. All students must bring all necessary books to the study hall with them as they will not be allowed to return to your locker during study. Fees are now due and seats will be assigned only to those who have paid these fees. Spaces are limited, so please ensure you are not disappointed. Our Senior prefects will be helping to supervise before study around the ref and entrance to the front building. It is important that all students take appropriate direction from them.

**Important dates.**

Leaving 1 Subject Options Seminar Monday January 13th in the Ref from 7pm to 8pm. All students intending to join Leaving 1 in September 2020 are invited to attend with their parents to gather as much information as possible and have any questions you may have answered.

Parent teacher meetings have taken place for our exam students. The remaining meetings will take place in the coming weeks as follows.

TY PTM Monday January 13th L1 PTM Thursday January 23rd

2nd Yr. PTM Tuesday January 28th 1st Yr. PTM Wednesday February 26th

Please come in good time to get as much information as possible from the event. **School will finish 15 minutes early** on these days with the meetings taking place from **4-10pm until 6-40pm**. **Study will also finish 15 minutes ea**rly on these days.

Mocks are expected to begin on Wednesday February 5th and conclude for the mid-term break. There are significant costs involved and letters will be given to all exam students early next week. If fees are not paid, then the papers unfortunately will not be corrected.

**Career Choices**

Mr. Hoyne, our Guidance Counsellor, meets with all Transition Year, Leaving 1 & Leaving 11 students in groups and individually to provide information in relation to career choice. He is providing important information on the significance of subject choices for Transition Year students and on all matters related to entry requirements for the different Colleges in Ireland and abroad for senior students. Please ensure that you have discussions at home in relation to this with your son to ensure the best possible choices are made in the weeks ahead. CAO applications will have to be submitted shortly and it is helpful if your son has put some thought into the courses and Colleges that he might be interested in attending.

**School Environment**

We are lucky to have beautiful grounds and a fantastic new school. The only damage being done is by students dropping litter which is a pity. Can each parent please ask your son to use the bins to dispose of their rubbish. There are many bins inside the school with more to arrive shortly for the outside areas. We all have a shared responsibility to ensure that our school and grounds remain in the magnificent condition that they are being returned to us. A clean, bright surrounding is a much nicer area in which to spend time.