

# September 2022 Newsletter



## **Welcome Back to School**

Welcome back to everyone – to all our students, parents, and teachers. It is great to be back following the summer break. The Department of Education and the HSE have advised us to return to school as we normally would which is great for us as a school community and is being done with the full support of the Board of Management. Our full program of extra-curricular activities will return this year with many having commenced already. It is the provision of such a wide variety of opportunities outside of the classroom that makes our school such a special place for all our students. The support of our wonderful teachers in so many different ways makes this possible and is appreciated by all.

A special welcome to all our new students and parents in 1<sup>st</sup> year and other year groups and to our new staff members. The key ingredients for getting on well in our school – good preparation at home and in school re classwork, homework, and study – respect for the school and all in it – will always be at the heart of all we do and guide us along the road to continued success. Getting started now, with a good routine re school and revision work is a sure and certain way to be confident about success throughout the school year. Ambition and hard work throughout the year will ensure that good results can be achieved by all. It is essential that students with the help and support of teachers and families get organised in a good routine – time lost now will not be recovered and this is especially important for those facing big exams this year.

We are asking all parents to give consideration to all and in particular our students at the end of each school day. Parking on the roundabout to collect your son restricts the safe movement of buses, parking on the footpath results in students having to go on the road to get safely to their own car. Please be mindful of where you stop in the car park to collect your son, as stopping on the road for a length time, particularly at a junction, results in other drivers crossing to the wrong side of the road to exit. We know and appreciate how busy the area is for a short period of time. While we fully understand that many parents need to park on the grass as we have so many students being collected by car every evening, we are asking parents to be sensible in their practice as we head into winter months and a time when the grass surface will be soft from rainfall and the weather conditions at that time of the year. We would really appreciate parents reversing in from the avenue to limit the risk of damage to the grass surface and help keep our grounds as beautiful as possible.

## **Meitheal Group**

The school's First Year mentoring programme called Meitheal began the day our new cohort arrived to school. Ten of our Leaving 1 boys normally spend a week of their summer holidays at a training programme for youth leadership organised by the Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin. This group work with and assist the present 1<sup>st</sup> year boys as they settle into secondary school life. They met with the boys for a large portion of

their first day in Knockbeg at the end of August. They took the boys on small group tours of the facilities to help them get their bearings and spent the afternoon out in the sun with the boys, helping them to make new friends and relax into their new surroundings. A very enjoyable sports afternoon organised by the team provided a fantastic Gaelic Football and Tennis blitz recently where the First Year boys got to enjoy the fine weather and cement newly formed friendships. They are available to all the boys at different times throughout the year and will organise a number of events. A big thanks to all the team members.

**Brian Broderick - Chairperson, Josh Brady, Daniel Brennan, Brian Cox, Bobby Daly, Luke Doogue, Gavin Dowling, Adam Hennessy, Mikey Kelly, and John Phiri**



### **Leaving Cert Results**

Congratulations to all our Leaving Cert students who received their results recently. We hope that all have received a suitable offer from the CAO to match their ambitions and wish all the group every success in their chosen field of study or in the world of work. A small number have decided to appeal one or more of their results. We hope that the recheck will bring good news to those concerned. A couple of statistics from our

results are as follows 54% achieved over 400 points and 76% achieved over 300 points, both of which are above the national averages.

### **Junior Cert Results**

We do not have date from the State Examinations Commission for the release of Junior Certificate results and ask our students to continue waiting patiently to see how well they have done.

### **Evening Study Arrangements**

The evening study programme has begun. This runs Mon – Thurs with the early session lasting 1 hr 30mins, and an extra hour for the late session. Application forms and cost details are available from Mr. Conway. We believe that the habits formed during study time from an early age make a significant contribution to the excellent results achieved in State Examinations by our students. Food will be available from the ref before entering study. Orders need to be placed with Mags during lunch break. Priority is being given to exam classes and senior students. We hope to be able to accommodate all interested students this year as the restrictions from previous years are removed.



### **Friday Afternoon Supervised Study**

The Board of Management has once again decided to offer a free supervised study opportunity for all groups from 3-30 to 5-00 each Friday during school term. This is a great opportunity to get some homework, study, project work, etc. done on Friday afternoons before the weekend begins. Students who wish to avail of this should bring in some lunch or order food in the ref.

### **Prefects**

Prefects were re-introduced to Knockbeg College two years ago. Students are nominated by their subject teachers and chosen by the Year Heads in consultation with the Principal and Deputy Principal. They will help co-ordinate a number of events during the School Year. Our prefects this year are are;

Conall Bergin  
Fionn Heslin  
Patrick Joyce  
Fiacc Brennan  
Patrick Marnane  
Tadhg Ronan

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## **Junior Cycle Class Based Assessments (CBA's)**

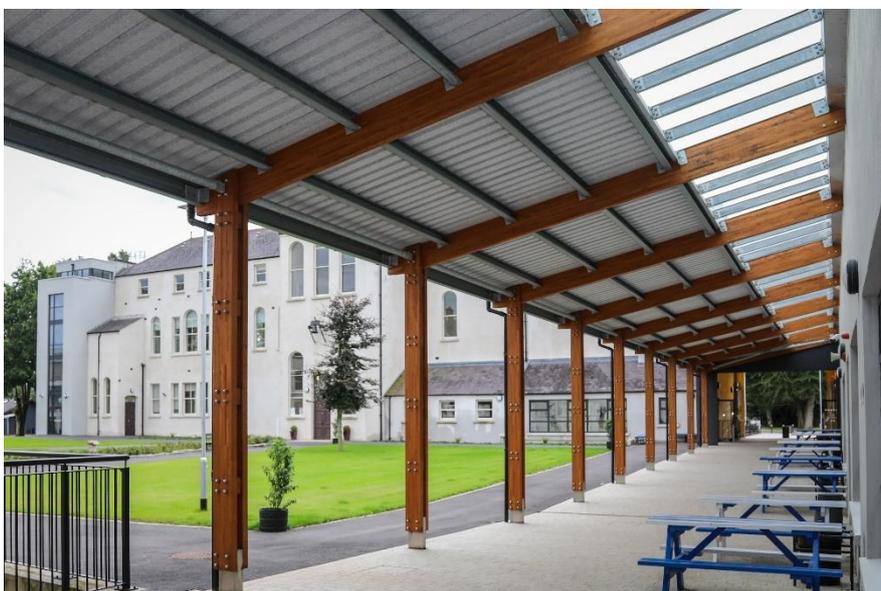
All second and third year students will have to complete a number of assignments which will form part of the Junior Cert results which they will receive from the Department of Education & Skills. These will take place in most subjects throughout the year. The arrangements for our third year students have been adjusted this year as a result of time lost during the school closure last spring. Subject teachers will advise their classes. The second Year CBA's will be spread across the period from the February mid-term break to the end of the school year.

## **Higher Options Seminar**

Mr. Hoyne took all interested students to the Higher Options Seminar in Dublin last Thursday. This was a fantastic opportunity for all Leaving Certificate students to get valuable information on possible Career choices. Mr Hoyne will be meeting all the Leaving 11 cohort individually and in groups over the coming weeks to discuss their future career plans and how to progress these thoughts into reality. It would be great if all parents could begin discussions about all the possibilities available next year as decisions will need to be made in the coming months. A good understanding of the requirements for any course being applied for using the CAO will increase the possibility of students choosing a career path that meets their interests and capabilities.

## **Open Evening**

Open evening takes place this Friday from 3-30 to 6-30 for prospective students and their parents to explore our facilities and meet teachers in their classrooms setting. All our enrolment information is available on our school website. We will commence taking applications from Monday October 3<sup>rd</sup>.





### **Transition Year**

Our Transition Year students have returned and have begun a year which allows them many opportunities to reflect, sample a wide range of different activities, mature and begin preparing for Senior Cycle. There will hopefully be educational trips and visiting speakers throughout the year as well as learning about First Aid, Car Safety, Young Social Innovators, Computers, TEFL, and many more. Many of these courses are expensive to run with students who attend and immerse themselves fully in all aspects of the course gaining most from the experience. It is important for all the students to engage with the Careers classes with Mr. Hoyne to ensure they make informed decisions in January on Subject Choices for their Leaving Certificate.

### **Liturgical Events**

Our First Year Group Celebrated their Welcome Mass last Friday. It was lovely to welcome parents again. A special thank you to Fr. Dunphy for giving so generously of his time as he always does along with the Art, Music and Religion Departments who put so much time and effort into preparing the boys. Our whole school year mass will be celebrated early next month.

### **Parents Association**

We have a very vibrant Parents' Association who provide tremendous support to the school on behalf of all our students. This does involve fund raising, but lots more such as input into school policy, being part of the decision-making process around developments within the school. **Our AGM is scheduled for Tuesday September 27<sup>th</sup> in the ref. We hope to see as many parents as possible attend as this is a fantastic opportunity to meet other parents, express your views on the school your son attends and have a say in the development of school policy.**

### **Green schools**

Our environmental change committee led by Ms. Hott with the support of our caretaker Jonathan have done tremendous work to inform all in our school community of the challenges that we must embrace to save our planet and to improve our own individual and collective practice. We are currently working through the requirements for the water conservation flag, which we hope to be approved for before the current school year is completed. Our Transition year students are currently engaged in a fantastic programme of workshops led by Susan Adams which is supported by Laois and Carlow County Councils.

## Sponsorship

Every year some of our fantastic local businesses provide sponsorship to support a variety of projects in our school for which we as a school are deeply appreciative. We want to give a special thanks to Joe Curran and VSS Ireland for sponsoring a set of jerseys for our Second Year Basketball team who won the all-Ireland last year and Barrow Valley Cleaning Products Ltd., who sponsored a set of jerseys for our senior basketball team along with ten kit bags to mind the gear for all our teams.



## Extra-Curricular Activities

Our Senior Basketball team have made a fantastic start to life in the 'A' competitions, winning the first two rounds of the cup competition away to Blarney SMGS and at home to Pipers Hill from Naas. This is testament to the wonderful work and preparation done by their coaches Mr. Maxwell and Ms. Dowling with them in recent years.



Our Senior football team have already begun competitive action with a keenly contested drawn match away to St. Peters in Wexford with further matches in the coming weeks as they hope to defend the South Leinster league title won last year before the championship begins.



There are plans in the making to attend a couple of premier league matches this year and possibly run a trip further afield. Teachers organising these events will advise the student groups involved as soon as possible.

We were delighted to welcome the RSA Ireland shuttle recently to offer a great opportunity for our Transition Year and Leaving Cert students to learn important life-saving road safety messages.



Our Transition Year along with the Fifth Year Agricultural Science classes went on an excursion to the ploughing championships last week and learnt how so many industries are connected to agriculture. Thanks to Mr. Osborne for offering them the opportunity.



## Tackle Your Feelings Campaign

Past Pupil and current Leinster rugby player, Martin Moloney, came to speak to our TY students on behalf of Rugby Players Ireland about their “Tackle Your Feelings” Campaign. Supported by Zurich Insurance, this initiative promotes positive mental health and provides people with the tools to proactively manage their positive mental wellbeing.

