



CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

15 March 2023

Dear Parents/ Guardians

I wish you all well for the break over the next few days. As always it has been a very busy few weeks in Crescent.

Some Updates

DELFL Exams

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Loic Guyon to our school to present DELF certificates to our transition year students from last year who completed their certification. Dr. Loic is the honorary consul of France in the mid-west region and complimented all of the students at a special school assembly. Thanks to Ms. Niclot for all her hard work in organising this programme for our students.

Leargas German Tour

Our students travelled on Sunday 5 March to Leipzig, Germany. We were met by our exchange colleague Rebekka, who brought us on a walking tour of the main sights of Leipzig. We then travelled by train to Zwönitz, a village deep in the Ore Mountains in East Germany.

Our students were very happy to be welcomed by their exchange partners. The great excitement and warmth, between the Irish and German students was a sign of the week to come.

On Monday morning we departed from the Youth Hostel through the snow to Katharina Peters Schule. Here we were treated to beautiful musical recital and dance. The principal addressed us and we began our exchange projects with the German students.

That afternoon, following lunch in the school canteen, we travelled to the Aqua Dome, where fun and laughter was shared by all! That evening the German students ate dinner in the youth hostel and spent the evening singing and dancing with us.

On Tuesday we had another early rise for our excursion to the local traditional Incense candle making factory. Here, the German students shared with the Irish students the unique experience of making their own incense candles. These particular candles are unique to the Ore Mountains. We each left with a box our own self-made incense candle souvenirs!



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That afternoon, we visited the local mine. We all travelled into the mine by means of mini trains.

Students and teachers learned about the various minerals mined here, through the local dialect of former miners.

Snow was aplenty in the region, therefore that evening after dinner in the Youth Hostel, students had the opportunity to throw snowballs, even at the teachers!



Wednesday morning brought another jam packed day where students finished off their projects. The Lord Mayor of Zwönitz visited the school, as well as local journalists who conducted interviews with students and teachers alike. Students were pleased to feature in the paper the following day. We continued the day with a walking tour of Zwönitz, a trip to the bakery and coffee shop and lastly took part in a football tournament against the Germans! The German students then walked us to the train station in Zwönitz for our departure to Berlin to bid us a fond farewell.

Upon our arrival in Berlin, we checked into our hotel in Alexanderplatz near the city centre and thereafter went to a restaurant at the base of the famous TV tower where we enjoyed a lovely meal and plenty of laughter!



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Thursday morning brought more snow and a very informative and enjoyable cycling tour of Berlin. Here we were broken into smaller groups and accompanied by our own personal guides to the Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie, Museum Quarter, Hitlers Bunker, Holocaust Memorial and the Berlin Wall. That afternoon students were given free time for lunch and a spot of shopping in Alexanderplatz shopping centre. Following our evening meal we visited the Berlin TV Tower. The weather was mixed, however students enjoyed the experience of being up high and viewing the lights of Berlin at night.

On Friday morning our own personal guides came to the hotel to bring us by train to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Again, we were split into groups and given a strong insight into Sachsenhausen and the role of this concentration camp during WW2. During the tour, we viewed the cell in which the Jesuit Priest, Fr. Rupert Meyer was imprisoned for three years due to his resistance to the Nazi regime. Having had such a joyful week, we were quickly brought back to the harsh realisation that humanity can be cruel. Although our students said that they found this visit very sad, they also felt that it was a necessary part of our tour and a vital part of German culture and history.

That evening, we travelled to Berlin airport and arrived back in Crescent College Comprehensive SJ at 3am on Saturday morning. We were exhausted but happy that everything went so well. As teachers, we couldn't have asked for a more pleasant and cooperative group to travel with. We are very proud of them all. On a few occasions, strangers commended our students' manner and enthusiasm.

Bis bald und liebe Grüße,

Niamh, Grace, Fiachra & Barbara

Extra-Curricular Activities

Over the last few weeks we have enjoyed the highs and lows of the many teams in action. Well done to all the teams and managements for representing the school so well. A special word of thanks to Fiachra who co-ordinates the sports activity and also the considerable administration regarding supporters. The key for me is the commitment of players to a code and the many lessons that can be learned through sport. There was a very positive atmosphere in the school for the games and well done to our supporters for the colour they brought to the games.

A reminder to all parents that students who miss class time the onus is on the student to find out the homework that is required or material that they miss. In addition, some students in first year are trying to play multiple sports so it is very important to ensure that your son/daughter is not missing valuable contact time. We value sport as vital for wellbeing but it is important that students have the required balance between class contact time, school sport and also club activities outside of school.



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First & Second Year Academic Achievement Certificates

Well done to our first and second year students who received excellent results in their Christmas Exams. They received their academic certificates from their respective year heads in the last few weeks. These certificates acknowledge the academic excellence achieved by these students. Onwards and upwards!





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Pre Examinations Reports

Pre examination reports will be available from Wednesday 22 March. Please take time to sit with your son/daughter and discuss the results of these exams. There is adequate time for students to improve in all areas of their study. There will be clear areas that students will have excelled in and also areas of improvement. Students have a number of resources in our school for support. Their respective subject teacher will guide them through the necessary course and revision work over the next number of weeks. Year Head support and guidance counsellors can also provide support regarding preparing for the next number of weeks. I would encourage positive affirmation with all students to continue to motivate but also alleviate any stress associated with the upcoming state examinations.

School Building Project

The work on the school building continues to take shape. The library area has been re roofed and internal electrics completed. This will serve as a meeting place for assemblies and talks for the remainder of this academic year. During the summer months the new layout and furnishing of this space will take place. The senior block classrooms and roofing are well advanced at this stage. In addition, the central area roof is now being replaced. We managed to have one last sixth year assembly in our old central area last Monday prior to the new construction. I would like to thank all of our staff, students and parents for their patience during this building project.



Leaving Certificate Oral Examinations 2023

The leaving certificate oral examinations will take place over the first week of the Easter holidays. It is essential that all students take careful note of the schedule for their orals. Ms. Cliona Gleeson is our examinations aide and will be the contact for students that require any information.



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Fifth Year Religion Talks

Over the last number of weeks our fifth year students have had a number of speakers who have given our students very interesting insights into their lives. Imam Khalid Ghafour of the Islamic Cultural Centre spoke to all our students. Our students also visited the John Paul II oratory at Crescent SC where Fr. Nikola Mladineo welcomed students and talked about his work in the limerick community. We also had our former headmaster and current Limerick diocesan advisor Dermot Cowhey deliver a talk on his experiences in his various roles within our school community. There will be a number of additional speakers in the next number of weeks and these provide a really important period of time for students to reflect on the interesting topics discussed by each of the speakers.





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Minor Hockey Munster Champions

Congratulations to our Minor Hockey team who defeated Mount Mercy in their recent Munster cup final in Crescent. This is a fantastic achievement and was then followed up by securing the league title this week by defeating Scoil Mhuire. The team have now qualified for the All Ireland June Smith competition where they will play against the other provincial winners in Loreto Beaufort in Dublin on Friday 27 April. Thanks to Cathal, Gary and Miriam for all of their time with this team.





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Regional Applied Maths Quiz

Well done to all our students who represented our school in the recent regional quiz. Congratulations to Jonathan Byrne, Ivin Mathew and Thomas Byrne who took second place on the night.





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Supervised Study

Supervised Study will take place on Thursday 16, Friday 17, Saturday 18 and Monday 20 March from 10am to 5pm.

I would like to thank all of our staff, students and parents for your support during this term so far.

Kind regards and Happy St. Patrick's Day,
Diarmuid

