



A.M.D.G.

CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

17 September 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians

I hope all of you and your families are keeping well as we all adapt to a new school year in Crescent. The ninth characteristic of Jesuit education is for students to be 'adaptable and open to growth'. If Jesuit education is successful, there emerges from it young people who are adaptable and open to growth. A recent Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Peter Hans Kolvenbach put it thus: 'the world desperately needs men and women of competence, conscience and compassion, who generously give of them to others'.

It is a period of time currently that this Jesuit ideal has never been more relevant, the Covid pandemic has in my view reinforced the absolute need for all use to adapt and grow for all in society to prosper.

Some Updates:

Student Behaviour: I commend all of your sons and daughters for the positive way in which they have engaged with the current public health advice and measures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe so far. The students have been fantastic in adapting to any new routines in school. We are happy that students are getting plenty of fresh air at break times but we would like to stress that students should maintain social distancing in outdoor areas also as much as possible. There will be constant challenges and changes over the year but so far so good!

Leaving Certificate Results 2021: Well done to all of the class of 2021 for the excellent results that this class achieved. The results are only a snapshot of a student's life in Crescent. However, the excellent results were a testament to the hard work of students and staff.

Junior Cycle Certificates 2021: The Junior Cycle results and certificates will be presented to students next Wednesday 22 September at 12.45. It is an important assessment point on a student's path through secondary school. Best of luck to all students.

School Drop Off/ Collection: As in my previous messages and in line with public health advice, I would encourage students to walk or cycle if they can to school. It is the healthiest option for students who can do this. In terms of collection please ensure that you park in the designated areas and please do not park on the roundabout areas or on the avenue.

Supervised Study: Supervised Study has resumed this term and Mr. Eamonn Tuite has sent the necessary details to all students and parents. Please if you have any concerns feel free to contact Mr. Tuite.

Extra-Curricular Activity: Extra-curricular activity has resumed and a schedule of training has been put in place. I am glad that we are trying to train straight after school and the outside shelters have facilitated this the use of dressing rooms for extra-curricular activities is still prohibited by the H.S.E.. We are still awaiting confirmation from the respective sporting organisations regarding the structure of games and competitions. We will update you as soon as we receive information. If your son/ daughter is availing of any extra-curricular options please make sure that you have paid the appropriate sports payment.

School Canteen: The cashless system is now up and running in the canteen which allows us to continue with this facility. **Pre ordering via the school app is the best way to ensure that you can access the canteen service.** Also when pre ordering please indicate which lunch time the order is placed for.

School Captains 2021/ 2022: We had our school election for school captains 2021/ 2022 last week. I am delighted to announce Eimear Cowhey and Conall Henchy as school captains for the year ahead. In addition, Karen Mulvihill and Jack Madden were elected as vice captains. Well done to all the candidates who had the confidence to put forward their names on the ballot paper.



Sixth Year Retreats: Our sixth year students went on day retreats today. Students travelled to workshop retreats in Castletown and Milford. Yoga retreats and Pilgrimage retreats to Ballina and the 12 O’Clock Hills were offered. Our retreat programme is a core part of our student experience in Crescent. Thanks to Gráinne Delaney and all our staff members who made it happen.

First Year Trips to Derg Isle: Settling into a new school can be a daunting experience. We currently have over 30 primary schools feeding into our intake so it's important to allow students to bond and mix. All our first year groups are going to Derg Isle and this is a great day to build on the initial friendships the classroom to the outdoor pursuits experience.



Student Facilities: Last week we got further good news as our Business in the Community Ireland group contacted the school. Our second year students had a successful connection with Eir as our partner business last year. Eir and their partner Huawei have now decided that Crescent will be one of only three schools in Ireland which will get the chance to be a Eir 5G school. Crescent will be partnered with a school in Switzerland. As part of this agreement Eir and Huawei are going to provide us with 20 tablets and an Ideahub interactive board for the school.

Parents Council A.G.M.: The Parents' Council A.G.M. will be held on the 30 September remotely via Zoom. Details of the Zoom link will be sent via the school app closer to the date.

School Twitter Account: Our school Twitter account is a good way to keep up to date with the events in Crescent. Crescent College Comprehensive SJ@SjCrescent is the twitter account. Please feel free to follow to keep updated.

Transition Year 2021: The Transition Years started off the year by participating in a workshop facilitated by a Limerick-based company called "Develop Me". The workshop began with the students being placed in engaging, interactive, fun scenarios with students then asked to work together to develop an approach aiming for a successful outcome. In preparation for the school show this year, the TYs took part in a drama workshop introducing the students to the skills required in a school show production. As part of National bike week, the TYs braved the elements and cycled the Great Southern Greenway, covering over 40km each day.

Over the next couple of weeks, the TY students will have the opportunity to take part in several different activities. These will include coaching our 1st years in a variety of different sports, the Young scientist award, Cansat, volunteering for the Homework Club and the Gaisce awards and we would encourage our TYs to take part in as many of these initiatives during the year. Over the next couple of weeks, our TYs have several activities to look forward to. At the end of the month, they will participate in the mini-marathon in aid of St Gabriel's, a charity heavily involved in the fast friend's programme within the school.

In October, TYs will be travelling to Derg Isle for a day of outdoor pursuits, and students will also take part in the first of our Gaisce adventure events by climbing Keepers Hill.

Work experience is an integral part of the Transition Year Programme, and already, our students have experienced the world of work. We are currently drawing up a list of companies who have kindly agreed to take Crescent students on work experience. If you would like to add your business to this list or have any questions, please contact Tony Trehy, our TY co-ordinator.

C.A.T.s First Year Tests: The "Cognitive ability test" for first years will take place next Wednesday 22 September. These are a suite of tests developed to support schools in understanding students, abilities and likely academic potential. The tests assess

- 1 Reasoning with words
- 2 Reasoning with numbers
- 3 Reasoning with shapes and designs
- 4 Thinking with and mentally manipulating precise shapes.

Peter Moloney will visit all the first year classes in advance of the testing to explain to the students regarding the test.

Captains Half Day & Calendar: Captains half day will take place on Friday 24 September with classes finishing at 12.35. As per the school calendar school is also closed on Monday 27 September.

Arts & Culture in Crescent 2021/ 2022: I am delighted to announce that we have a new initiative in Crescent as we have two Arts and Cultural officers to support the Arts in Crescent. Mr. Shane McDonagh and Ms Lisa Bennett Quaid have been appointed to these roles. If any parents have any ideas on how the role can be supported please contact Shane or Lisa via the school office.

It has been a busy but fruitful start to the school year as we all try our best to balance the pandemic restrictions and the move back to a more normal school year. It is indeed a time to adapt and be open to growth. I end this update with a poem from a group of our first years from Ms. Floyd's first year Canisius English class:

The Journey to Secondary School

I walked into my new school,
My Uniform spick and span,
The teacher told us all the rules,
And after that we learned all the ropes.

Second day I walked in happy as could be,
A new school so many things to see,
The teachers and caretakers
Pointing us all in the right direction.

The prefects showed us around the school,
And that's how we learned the one way rule.
Now we will learn the art of wood and metal.
Finally after a week we are starting to settle.

We will all make at least one new friend
And we will not wait until the end.

Brian, Eoghan, Francis & Jamie (Canisius –Sept 2021)

Best wishes
Diarmuid