



A.M.D.G.

## CRESCENT COLLEGE COMPREHENSIVE S.J.

26 November 2021

Dear Parents/ Guardians

Here are some important updates on recent school events and information for the remainder of this term. It is so heartening to see the range of activities that have returned to enhance our students experience so far this term. Well done to all our staff and students for their commitment to school life.

### **Some Updates:**

#### **School Building Project**

We received the good news on Wednesday that our 10.5 million refurbishment and addition of five new science labs has been moved to the tender stage. This will allow us to have a state of the art school some fifty years on from the initial development of the Dooradoyle campus. I would like to thank my predecessor Karin Fleming for all of her work in developing this project. I will keep parents updated throughout the remainder of this academic year as we move towards the start of construction.



## Parent Teacher Meetings

I was very hopeful that face to face parent teacher meetings could return. However, the Department of Education have restated that this is not possible and schools must continue with the arrangements that were put in place last year.

We will keep the same procedures as last year which were:

- A report outlining your son/ daughter's progress
- If you require any additional information a parent can request a phone call conversation with a teacher. Any requests must be emailed to [info@crescentsj.com](mailto:info@crescentsj.com) for the teacher's attention.

The following are the dates when student reports will be live on Compass for parents to view. A reminder will be sent via the school app to alert parents to these dates.

- Third Year: Wednesday 1 December
- Sixth Year: Wednesday 8 December
- Transition Year: Wednesday 15 December

## Social Media

I think it is important to highlight that one of the difficulties that we are experiencing regarding student behaviour currently in the school is the inability of certain students to be responsible in terms of their phone and social media use. There is absolutely no need to be in any snapchat classgroup to access homework or classwork. This communication can be via Microsoft Teams. Responsible social media is reinforced in the various junior cycle internet safety talks that we facilitate here in the school. **Please as parents/ guardians reinforce the need for your son/ daughter to be responsible and not hurtful towards any other student in any online exchange.**

## Arts & Culture in Crescent

Drama has started for students on Wednesday after school. Chess club began this week at lunch time on Thursday. There are plans for a book club and film studies later in the year. Choir and Orchestra continue each week and preparations for our school show are continuing.

## First Year Intake 2022

We are currently receiving applications for admission for 2022. The closing date for acceptance of applications is the 10 January at 12.30pm. Please if you can submit your application prior to Christmas.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

All the teams are playing at this stage in their respective competitions. In terms of success I think seeing the huge numbers involved and enjoying the physical activity is the ultimate success.

Senior and Junior rugby teams have topped their qualifying groups for the knock out competition in January. Our McCarthy team have qualified for their semi-final also.



Senior & Junior Hockey have had an excellent start and are unbeaten in all games. Minor Hockey teams have had numerous successful blitzes. Congratulations to Aoibheann Collins who captained the Munster U.18 hockey team in their win over Leinster recently.



Our soccer teams are progressing very well in Munster and North Munster Cups. In hurling our first years have reached the local final. Our basketballers have had a winning return to the court also. The U.16 Girls have qualified for their All Ireland semi-final. Please try to support our teams and the weekly fixtures are sent via the school app each week.

### **Parents C.A.O. Meeting**

A virtual meeting outlining the C.A.O. system for Sixth Year parents will take place on Monday 29 November from 7pm to 8pm. A separate invitation has been sent via the school app for parents to register for this important information meeting.

### **Masks/ Face coverings for students**

Since our return in September we have distributed 5,000 disposable masks to students. This is a huge number of masks and it is not sustainable from a school budget perspective. It is also very harmful from an environmental viewpoint. We are now going to do the following:

- Distributing two cotton masks to each student free of charge.
- It is then the student's responsibility to have masks when coming to school so any additional face covering that a student needs will cost 1 euro per disposable mask.

### **Christmas Exams**

Christmas exams will take place for Fifth Year students in the sports-hall. The exams will start on Tuesday 14 December and conclude on Monday 20 December. The exam timetable will be available for students at the end of this week. Second Year students will have their exams in their base classes. These exams will begin on Thursday 16 December and conclude on Monday 20 December. First Year students will have class exams.

### **Christmas in Crescent:**

It is important to bring some additional Christmas cheer to the school over the next few weeks. Our Christmas tree will be placed in the Central Area on Monday 6 December. On the 8 December we will have Christmas Jumper Day which will aim to raise money for our chosen charity Enable Ireland.

We are delighted, as a school community to be able to buy gifts for the residents in Knockalisheen Direct Provision Centre each Christmas. Our parents have been so generous in previous years and once again we invite you to buy Pyjamas (for women and children) and jumpers/hoodies (for men). If you would like to contribute please email [pyjamaappeal@crescentsj.com](mailto:pyjamaappeal@crescentsj.com).

You will be assigned a person to buy for and please indicate if you are happy to buy for more than one. We ask that you wrap and label the gift e.g **Male size medium**. There is no need for gift bags as these make delivery of over 300 gifts more cumbersome. If you would like to add a selection box we will distribute these to our community partners. The closing date for all of the above is 17 December.

### **Transition Year 2021/2022**

The T.Y.s started the term with a presentation from Kirby Engineering for an opportunity for five weeks' work experience in 2022. Crescent is the first school to pilot this placement, and we are very grateful to Kirby's engineering for the opportunity. School retreats have also started this term. The retreat is a very interactive experience led by the energetic Declan Browne. The retreat allows our students to be reflective through positive exercises. The T.Y.s visited the Limetree Theatre to see a comedy show hosted by Ger Carey, and T.Y.s also continued their preparation for the Gaisce Awards by hiking 12 O Clock Hills. Stephen Kieran from "Happy

Monday” delivered a very engaging workshop to our students during the week. Stephen guided our students through four fundamental principles of goal setting and how to apply them for best results.



This year, the D.A.T.s have been replaced by an online aptitude test called Career Fit. Career Fit is an online career interests and aptitude assessment that helps the student clarify their options by providing the students with a list of suitable careers and jobs based on the student's unique mix of motivations and abilities.

Our T.Y.s are preparing for their school show which we hope can take place in the Limetree Theatre on the 13, 14 and 15 December. It will be a collection of different songs and scenes from a variety of different shows. The last day of the term for T.Y.s will be the 17 December, and reports will be published on the 15 December.

### **Scam Smart & Fraud Aware**

Since September, Transition Year Business students here in Crescent have been engaging in a Fraud Awareness module, culminating in a Fraud Investigators Workshop and a Fraud Awareness Campaign to celebrate International Fraud Awareness Week 14 - 20 November 2021.

Our T.Y.s with the help of Ms.Scannell and Ms. Browne prepared the following video which outlines the dangers <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Bm-Drxvni4>

Over the course of two months, students learned the meaning of fraud, how to keep their finances safe, researched various types of scams including identity theft, smishing and phishing, identified the effects of scams on those involved and found out where victims of scams should go for help.

To help highlight this important issue to the school community the students created posters and videos on Identity Theft, Scams & Fraud and Money Muling.

The business of living in today's world means students must be skilled in recognising, detecting and reporting fraud and scams, such as money mules – a scam targeted specifically at teenagers & young people which can have far reaching consequences. This module provided interactive, practical and relevant learning for our students, in an accessible, inclusive way.

For more information see the TY videos and check out: [FraudSMART.ie](https://www.fraudsmart.ie)

In addition, this is a helpful video for parents regarding how to educate yourself on this issue:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqcP0q\\_TnfY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqcP0q_TnfY)

Stay safe  
Diarmuid

‘Only in darkness, can you see the stars’ – Martin Luther King