



Christian Brothers College Monkstown Park

Newsletter

Edmund Rice Schools Trust

A positive environment where learning, kindness and gratitude are valued.

A few words from our Principal, Mr. Duffy

Fáilte romhaibh ar ais go CBC and every good wish to you and your family for 2020. Enclosed is a copy of your son's most recent school report. Our second term this year will be as eventful as ever and for our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle exam students, the year ahead is an important one as their focus is on the various coursework preparations and classroom-based assessments in advance of the state exams in June. Our first year students are settling well into all aspects of CBC life and we pray for God's blessing to protect and guide them and indeed all our students, staff and parents in the busy year ahead.



CBC - A Hive of Activities:

Among the many initiatives, activities and CBC-related events that have taken place in CBC in recent months are the following: Former CBC student Michael Fitzsimons winning his seventh All-Ireland GAA Football medal and a second coveted All-Star Award with Dublin; Visit of former CBC student and current Irish Ambassador to Austria, Tom Hanney to his alma mater as part of the Global Ireland Schools Project; the presentation of the UN Flag and Charter to CBC by Lieutenant Howard Beary of the Irish Peace-keeping Mission; CBC hosting teachers from the United States as part of the Global Gateway for Teachers; Ongoing planning and liaising with building consultants and the school's Board regarding our main construction project; Preparation for Catholic Schools Week 2020; Poetry Aloud Workshops; Science Week; Maths Week; LGBTQI Week; Fundraising for the 2020 CBC Immersion Project in Zambia; CBC Advent Service; CBC collaborating with the St. Joseph of Cluny Advent Service; Hamper collections for Francis Street CBS; Zambia Fund donation to Francis Street CBS; Cycle Safety Talk for our First and Second Years; First Year Quiz Evening; TY Retreats... the list goes on.

The generous dedication and time commitment of the teaching staff and special need assistants, the Board of Management and you, the parent body, ensures that these student-centred events take place and I thank you all for your co-operation and willingness to get involved.

Safety for School Cyclists:

We would like to make a direct appeal regarding road safety to the parents of our students who cycle to school. Helmets, high visibility jackets and proper bicycle lighting are highly recommended safety features for all cyclists. Please ensure that your son is kitted out for his bicycle journey to and from school during the months ahead.

We want all our students to be safe and to be seen on the roads. Listening to music while cycling is not advisable nor recommended as full concentration is required by all road users at all times. Footpaths are for pedestrians and not for cyclists and all our school cyclists are asked to respect all other road and footpath users. Please remember that since 2015, Gardaí have the power to stop cyclists for specific cycling offences.



Admissions: A reminder that the closing date for application forms for entry to First Year for 2022 is Friday 24th April 2020.

Classroom-Based Assessments in the New Junior Cycle Programme:

All Junior Cycle students now receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) at the end of third year instead of the traditional Junior Certificate. The JCPA will reflect a much wider range of your child's achievements over the three years of Junior Cycle. The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:- Subjects, Classroom-Based Assessments, Short Courses and Other Learning Experiences.

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination, for example, their verbal communication and investigation skills. CBAs will be undertaken during a defined time period within normal class contact time and to a national timetable. Students will

JuniorCYCLE



complete one CBA in second year and one in third year. Once the CBA is completed students in third year will complete a written Assessment Task. This task is undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. This Assessment Task will be worth 10% of the overall mark in the case of most subjects. At the end of third year, students will sit the final SEC examinations in June. CBAs will be reported on in the JCPA using the following descriptors:

- Exceptional
- Above Expectations
- In Line with Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

Further information is available on the website www.jct.ie

Leaving Certificate Mock Exams & Exam Preparation:

Following a consultation process involving parents, students, teachers and the school's Board of Management, we have decided to hold formal mock exams for our 6th Year students this year. As the old saying goes, 'there is no substitute for experience' and this is the case with the mock exams next month. Mock exams allow both students and teachers to gauge progress, identify where improvements need to be made and highlight necessary time management issues. They also enable students to experience an exam scenario, away from the comfort of the classroom, often focusing the mind of students whilst also ensuring that when they walk into the real exam months later, they are familiar with the environment. Our message to students here in CBC is that exams are to be faced, not feared and then we move on.

Having said that, we are also mindful that exams can be a major stress trigger for students and we are encouraging our students to discuss any such issues with you and with either one of the school's two guidance counsellors.

- The best way to support your child during the stress of revision and exams is to make home life as calm and pleasant as possible. Don't let your stress become their stress.
- It helps if other members of the household are aware that your child may be under pressure and that allowances should be made for this.
- Make sure there are plenty of healthy snacks in the fridge and try to provide good, nutritious food at regular intervals.
- Encourage your child to join family meals, even if it's a busy revision day - it's important to have a change of scene and get away from the books and computer for a while.
- Also encourage your child to take regular exercise. A brisk walk around the block can help clear the mind before the next revision session.
- Try not to make too many demands on your child during exam time. Arguments are counter-productive and will only add unnecessary stress and distract from revision.
- It's important to get a good night's sleep before an exam, so discourage your child from staying up late to cram. And make sure he or she eats a good breakfast on the morning of the exam.

Throughout the run up to the exams and after, it is important to reassure your child that no matter what results they receive, they are much, much more than a result. It is up to us who are so privileged to be part of their lives to acknowledge that they are supported as they continue to develop their IQ and their EQ (Emotional/Social Intelligence). Our students, your sons, are such valuable members of our society, irrespective of their results.

Please feel free to contact me or your son's year-head and/or form-tutor via the school office if you wish to discuss any of the above or any other matters pertaining to your son in CBC.

Best wishes to you and your families. Beir Bua agus Beannacht.

Gerry Duffy, School Principal.

Academic Awards

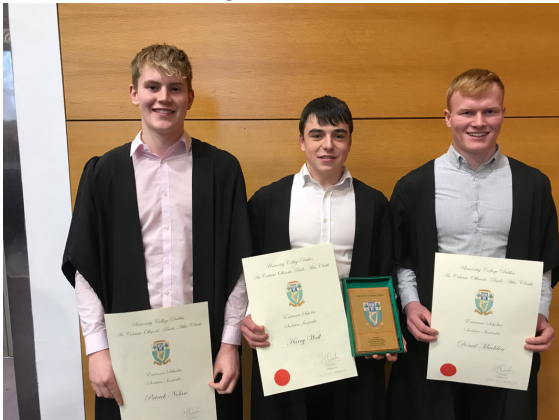
Congratulations to our Academic Award Winners for 2019. It was great to have so many of our Leaving Certificate Class of 2019 back to receive their awards which included subject awards, the prestigious Brother Kingston Award for Student of the Year and the Best Overall Leaving Certificate Award.



Awards were also presented to some of our current students. A Student of the Year was selected from each class group. Congratulations to all of our award winners. Well done!

University Entrance Scholarships

Congratulations to Patrick Nolan, Harry Wall, Donal Madden (all pictured below) and Zak McCarthy on receiving Ad Astra Entrance Scholar Awards at a ceremony in O'Reilly Hall, UCD in November. UCD recognises the excellent calibre of its incoming high-achieving students with these coveted awards. Entrance Scholar awards are presented to First Year undergraduate students who attain 560 points or more in their Leaving Certificate.



Congratulations to Daniel Drummond CBC 2019 (pictured below with his father Tommy) upon receiving his Entrance Award at Trinity College in November. Congratulations to Jack Read (CBC 2019) who also received the prestigious award.



List of 2019 Academic Prize-Winners

Harry Wall

- Best Overall Leaving Certificate
- German
- Applied Maths
- Accounting

Donal Madden

- Home Economics
- Brother Kingston Award - 2019 Student of the Year

Eoghan Fay

- Religious Education
- Sean O' Neill Memorial Prize for Excellence in English
- James Hurley Memorial Prize for Excellence in History

Patrick Nolan

- Biology

Luca Haran

- Business

Ralph Swords

- Chemistry

Kim Wan-Soo

- Brendan Phelan Memorial Prize for Excellence in Maths

Theo Brady

- Economics

Conor Kelly

- Music

Alexander Solyakov.

- Design & Communications Graphics

Sean Power

- Geography
- Eamonn McGettrick Memorial Prize for Excellence in Irish

Gareth Hughes

- Latin

Tadhg St Leger-Quinn

- French

Daniel Drummond.

- Dardis Corbett Memorial Prize for Excellence in Physics

Conor Coveney

- Brother Normoyle Award for Best Overall Junior Certificate

Evening Discussion Series



It was wonderful to see so many parents at our most recent Evening Discussion Event hosted by child psychotherapist and best-selling author Joanna Fortune. All proceeds on the night went to Aware.

Run in the Dark



Congratulations to all of our pupils and staff who braved the weather for the recent Run In The Dark. Staff member Mr. Emmet Jennings came 1st overall in the 5k and Jamie Ryan was the fastest CBC student with a sub-20 minute time.



Maths Week Winner

Congratulations to our Maths Week Puzzle Champion, 6th Year Student Moe Parvizi, pictured here receiving his prize from Mr Duffy

Stand Up Week



We recently had a very successful LGBTQI week, with student workshops and talks. Staff with the Rainbow Flag for Stand Up Awareness Week.

Debating

Congratulations to Donncha Murphy and Leon Reilly on winning the National Senior Mace Debating Championships in UCD. Congratulations also to Dara Grady and Jack Mulhall who were also in the final. In addition, congratulations to TCD Historical Society Mace winners Jack Palmer and Leon Reilly and runners-up Donncha Murphy and James O'Donoghue.



Senior Rugby

The Seniors had a great finish to the group stages of the Senior League when they beat St. Gerard's Bray 22-0 to book their place in the first round of the Leinster Senior Cup.

They were rewarded with a first round tie against Newbridge College in Energia Park, Donnybrook on January 31st.



Climate Change



What a pleasure and privilege to welcome Professor Peter Coxon of the Geography Dept., Trinity College in to speak to our 5th and 6th Year Geography students about Climate Change.

TY Rugby

The Transition Year Rugby team entered the TY League this year and have seen great interest from players who are not involved in the Senior Squad.

They did very well to finish top of their group following victories over Terenure and St. Mary's.

Unfortunately on a cold and wet day down in Kilkenny they came up short in the semi-final of the Division 1 League.

Rowing

Congratulations to Caleb Ryan who came first in the J16 race at the recent Leinster Indoor Rowing Competition in UCD.

Transition Year

Tys at the Think Languages Expo, learning about the opportunities that go with learning languages.



Some of the Transition Years getting to grips with skating at Dundrum on Ice.



Some of our Transition Years ran a Table Quiz for some senior members of our local community.



Our Transition Years have been working hard in their first aid module.



First Aid

CBC Carol Singing in Monkstown



Christmas Swim



Our SCT took the plunge in aid of Our Lady's Children's Hospital, Crumlin. We also had a polar plunge in aid of our Zambia Immersion Project.

CBC Christmas Hamper Donations

Thanks to everyone who very generously donated to our Christmas hamper appeal.



'Bin it to win it' Competition

Our litter competition has been running for 10 weeks now and it is amazing to see the fantastic improvement in the locker areas in particular. Our hard-working committee members have been grading the locker rooms and the canteen tables four times daily and it is great to see that all of the hard work has paid off. Students are availing of the new waste system in the canteen and using the compost and recycling bins effectively. The winners of the term prize (a Christmas party for their year group) were the 6th Years. A big congratulations to them. Let's keep the momentum going after Christmas and keep focused on our goal of earning CBC's first Green Flag next year.



Plant a Tree in Memory



Plant a tree in memory

Our tree planting initiative run by the TY Class (KB) and the CBC Climate Action Group has been a resounding success. The initiative saw small Memory Trees, either Mountain Ash or Crab Apple, being sold for just €5.

The aim of the initiative was to encourage CBC families to take a small but effective step forward in helping our planet by planting trees. The trees were dedicated to loved ones who had passed away and in the New Year there will be a corresponding tree in CBC upon which the names of all the dedicated loved ones will hang.

A huge word of thanks to Charlie Garland O'Connor, the brains behind the initiative, for all of his Trojan work. A special mention also goes to the very talented Max Tormey who designed such a fitting logo that perfectly represents the sentiment behind this CBC initiative.

Climate Action Group



What's Next?

We have lots of projects in the pipeline for the New Year. We are currently researching bin options for the locker areas to facilitate recycling in that part of the school. We hope to have the new bins up and running by February.

Our most ambitious project is the development of our CBC Community Garden. Through this project we hope to invite students, teachers and parents to come and learn how to grow their own vegetables and plants. We are inviting any teachers or parents who may be interested in helping us with this project to email us at greenteam@cbcmonkstown.ie

A big thanks to everyone who has supported us so far this year. We would like to mention in particular, the Parents' Council, the Board of Management and all of the staff and students who have committed themselves to reducing CBC's carbon footprint.



Instagram

Please follow us on Instagram and keep up to date with all of our progress

@cbccclimateaction

www.cbcmonkstown.ie

3rd Year Farm Trip



On Monday December 2nd 2019, dairy farmer James Walsh and the teachers of CBC Monkstown organised a trip to a busy dairy farm for all the third year students. Bright and early that morning we boarded our buses and headed for the 'Golden Vale'. Two hours later we arrived in Ballyneale, just outside Carrick-on-Suir and we were warmly greeted by farmer Pat Walsh who is Joe Doody's (Class 3LF) grandfather.

He spoke to us about why it is so important to support our local farmers by buying high quality Irish products such as milk, butter and cheese. He informed us that he doesn't need technology such as phones or televisions. Instead he goes out after his hard day's work and sits on a wall, watches as the sun disappears and gazes at the star-filled sky. We then headed over to the milking parlour and saw the cows stroll in one-by-one, waiting patiently to be milked by James. Some of us were feeling brave and stuck on a pair of gloves and an apron and helped to milk the cows. James explained to us how to milk a cow using clusters.

Afterwards we all headed over to the paddock where the cows were grazing. We had a quick bite to eat and then we met Brendan Hayes from Glanbia who came especially to talk to us about their company and how a dairy farm operates. Brendan told us that James's farm was a pasture-based dairy farm. He also explained to us how he uses James's milk to make butter, cheese and protein products. A photographer came on the trip to take some pictures of us milking. This was done to help promote and encourage younger people to take up farming as their career and to highlight that our community cares about our farmers and milk production. We made our way back to the farm and were delighted to see all of the chocolate milk and pens for us provided by Glanbia and the tea and biscuits provided by Joe's family. It was a great day out of the classroom. A special thanks to Joe and his family for giving us all this opportunity to see their wonderful farm and learn about many amazing new things that will stay with us all forever.

By Jake Fuller & Liam Hughes (3NF)

Transition Year Musical 2020



Our Transition Years along with the girls of Loreto Foxrock will be performing in We Will Rock You from March 30th – April 3rd. Tickets will be available soon!

We Will Rock You is a Rock Musical based on the songs of British rock band Queen and a book by comedian Ben Elton. The musical tells the story of a group of Bohemians who struggle to restore the free exchange of thought, fashion and live music in a distant future where everyone dresses, thinks and acts the same. Musical instruments and composers are forbidden and rock music is all but unknown.

It's not too late to volunteer, if you wish to help out in any way by volunteering or sponsoring the production this year, please email: musical@cbcmonkstown.ie and we will be in touch with you. Rock On!



CBC Monkstown's American Tea Party



Saturday 25th of January

Dinner Dance Party

*Generally considered the highlight of the school's social calendar
from a parental perspective*



- Great Food, Music, Dancing, Spot Prizes
- Auction
- Raising funds to support sport in the college
- Prize for the best decorated table
- DJ with music for all ages!

So why not come along and host a table or indeed allow us to accommodate you and your guest(s) among a table of other parents from your son's year.

€50 per person
Doors open from 7:30pm

The €50 covers your main course and a bottle of bubbly for the table

To confirm the hosting of a table or for further information, please contact

Ms. Amy Dunne

E-mail: ad@cbcmonkstown.ie

*****Book early to avoid disappointment as places are limited*****

Please contact Ms Dunne if you or your company are in a position to provide a spot prize.