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Term 1 Newsletter for 1st Year students 2025/2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we approach the Halloween break, we are already one quarter of the way through the year. I am writing to you to provide you with an update on the progress our 1st Year students have made and on upcoming events.

School policies and procedures

I would like to thank you for your support in relation to our school policies and procedures. As I stated to the students on their first day in August, and in my first communication to you on Compass, fostering a happy, healthy and safe environment for 1st Years is my priority as Year Head. Compliance with school policies is in function of that. The students are very much aware of our rules and expectations in relation to the code of behaviour, uniform, and mobile phones. Consistency in approach between school and home is key, and I thank you for your support in this regard.

Dialann and Compass

Students are aware of the importance of their Dialann a record of their homework and academic activities. Please continue to support this by signing the relevant section each week.

You will have received an email from the school with your log in details for Compass. Please ensure that these are correct. A video explainer of Compass is used is available on the school website.

IT

All students have been given log ins for the Microsoft suite of apps, including Outlook, Teams and OneNote and for the Compass app. Announcements pertaining to 1st Years are regularly posted on their 1st Year Teams page.

Attendance

At Coláiste na Mí, regular and punctual school attendance is valued as essential for every student's educational success and personal development.

If your child is absent, please submit a note through our Compass system to explain the absence. A short video tutorial on how to do this can be found <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r584sR9wiJA>

There is a strong link between attendance and attainment, and we encourage full attendance where possible.

November assessments

Our November assessments will begin on Monday, 17th of November. This will involve a timetabled exam in each subject. Individual subject teachers will direct students as to the content of the assessment in their subject.

Exam revision

The school has made a significant investment in purchasing log ins for each student in the Examrevision.ie website. I recently visited each 1st Year class and distributed the log ins and gave a demonstration of the excellent interactive resources for each subject on that website, including video tutorials, presentations, notes and quizzes. We encourage you to remind your child to make full use of this tool to enhance their revision and exam success.

Extracurricular activities

Please see below for extracurricular activities currently running in school.

Activity	Teacher(s)	Location	Day	Time	Comment
Basketball 1st Year (Girls&Boys)	Máistir Skehan, Iníon Giles and Iníon O'Growney	Sports Hall	Mondays and Thursdays	After school	After Christmas
Soccer 1st Year boys	Máistir Caldwell and Máistir Gallagher	Grass Pitch	Wednesday	After school	
Art Club	Iníon Thornberry and Máistir McKiernan (Juniors)	M110	Friday	Lon	Junior & Senior Art Club
CNM Equestrian Club	Iníon Brady	M110	Thursday	Lon	Junior & Senior Equestrian Club
Maths Support Class	Iníon Elliott	A202 and A200	Tuesday	After school	
	Iníon Raza	A200	Wednesday	8:00 AM	
	Iníon Raza	A200	Tuesday	Lón	
Junior Choir	Iníon Greene, Iníon Thornberry, and Iníon Murray	A108	Mondays and Fridays	Lón	Musicians and singers welcome
Tae agus Plé	Iníon Rafferty, Iníon McManus and Iníon O'Growney	M129	Tuesday	Lón	Limited to 12
Darts Club	Máistir Rayel	A113	Wednesday	After school	
Club Comhrá & Cultúir (Juniors)	Iníon Boyd and Iníon Finglas	A133	Thursday	Lón	

Student leadership

Congratulations to our students who have been elected to leadership positions in the school, as Class Representatives and as members of the Student Council. They were elected by their peers based on their vision for student leadership. I am sure they will continue to be role models for all 1st Years and the wider school community.

SPHE

SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) is an important part of your child's learning that helps them develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to make healthy and informed choices in life. During the coming terms our SPHE program will focus on Drugs and Alcohol Education from 3rd of November to 19th of December, helping students understand the effects and risks of substance use and how to make safe, responsible decisions. Later in the school year, from 23rd of February to 17th of April, we will cover Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), which supports children in developing respect for themselves and others while learning about growing up, relationships, and emotional wellbeing. These lessons are delivered in a sensitive, age-appropriate way and play a key role in helping students build confidence and make positive choices for their future. These dates and links to resources associated with said topics will be communicated through letters in the lead up to the teaching and learning of these programs.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for your continued support. I wish everyone a safe and happy Halloween break.

Kind Regards,

Máistir Horan

1st Year Year Head