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Term 1 Newsletter for 5th Year Students 2025/2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you are and your family are keeping well. It has been a very first few months for 5th Year students and I am sure both you and your child are looking forward to a well-deserved break.

There is no doubt that this transition to Senior Cycle has been significant step and I am pleased to say that the students have adjusted very well. They have approached their new subjects and option choices with enthusiasm and maturity, and their teachers have commented positively on their level of engagement to their studies.

This has been an important period in finding a rhythm with new timetables, subjects, and expectations, and each student should be commended for the efforts they have made in getting used to this change.

I would like to use this opportunity to provide you with important updates for 5th Year. Thank you in advance for taking the time to carefully read through this newsletter as we reach the end of our first term.

Extra-Curricular

Our first term has been a very busy one outside the classroom. There have been a number of extra-curricular opportunities for all including Games Clubs, Art Clubs, Halloween dress up day, participation on various sports teams, and student council election canvassing and speeches. Well done to all who took part. Extra-curricular plays a huge role in school life. Opportunities will continue after the break and all students are encouraged to involve themselves where possible.

It was also lovely to meet some of you recently at our recent Tea and Coffee Morning. It provided a great opportunity to connect informally and share insights into the year ahead for what already has been a very busy term.

November Assessments and Revision

Looking ahead, November Exams are scheduled for the week beginning November 17th. This will be an important time where students have the opportunity to showcase their knowledge across their subjects. Details of exam requirements and the exam schedule will be communicated to each student upon school return.

As part of preparation for these assessments and to give each student the best chance to focus their study, each subject teacher will have assigned targeted revision work for the midterm break.

The purpose of this work is to ensure students are guided on what to revise. It will be important that each student is able to keep up these good habits and find the balance between making time for rest and relaxation, but also have some structured study to build confidence and ensure a strong start to the next term.

I have attached to this newsletter a detailed subject list and expected engagement time for assigned work. I would appreciate your support at home to carefully monitor and ensure this guide is followed. Please note that this list will contain all subjects in 5th Year, and students should only concentrate on the subjects that are applicable to them.

ExamRevision.ie

To help with study and revision, the school has purchased access to ExamRevision.ie for every student, providing a valuable online resource to support exam preparation. Each student has been given a personal username and password to log in which gives them access to a number of excellent study resources including support notes, videos, and quizzes. We encourage each home to encourage their child to make full use of this tool to enhance revision and exam success.

SPHE Drugs and Alcohol Program

The Drugs and Alcohol Program will be delivered to all students in SPHE for a 6-week period (6 Classes) between the dates 3rd November - 19th December this year. As per the Curriculum during this period, 5th year students shall examine topics including the consequences of substances such as Alcohol, Cannabis, Smoking and Vaping. An information handout in regards to this with links to relevant support resources is provided with this newsletter. If you have any queries or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

Gaisce

We are delighted to inform you that Coláiste na Mí is offering students in 5th Year (and TY) the opportunity to participate in Gaisce – The President's Award at Bronze Level this year.

Gaisce is a highly regarded national youth development programme that encourages young people to challenge themselves, build confidence, and develop new skills.

Through Gaisce, students set and achieve personal goals across several areas of activity. It promotes independence, teamwork, resilience, and community involvement — qualities that benefit students in school and throughout their lives. Completing Gaisce is also an impressive addition to any CV or college application.

On Thursday October 23rd, all 5th year students were given a letter to bring home to explain the programme and to fill in an expression of interest form if they would like to take part. While this is optional, it is a fantastic programme that has huge benefits for participants and we would love for as many students as possible to take part.

If your son/daughter are interested please fill in the form and return it to Máistir Burke no later than **Wednesday 5th November**.

College Open Days

Next term will also bring a fantastic opportunity for 5th Year students to visit Open Days for some of Ireland's most prestigious colleges as part of Guidance and Careers.

On Friday November 14th, our 5th Year students will visit DCU, and on Friday November 28th they will visit Maynooth Campus.

Permission slips have been given to all students for DCU initially and should have now been returned to their Caomhnóir. If a permission slip was not received, please ask your child to speak to their Caomhnóir as soon as possible.

Attendance and Compass

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>

Whole Year Group Tionól (Assembly)

On Thursday October 23rd, we had our final whole year group Tionól (assembly) of the term. I have attached a copy of the PowerPoint for you to view. Please take the time to carefully look over and review with your child.

Thank you, as always for your ongoing support and encouragement, I wish you all a nice and relaxing Halloween break.

Kind Regards,

Máistir Murtagh

5th Year Year Head