

Parents/guardians of 3rd & 6th Year students

April 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Already the Easter break is nearly upon us with only a short Summer term left to close out the year. This term is only five weeks long (one week of which being devoted to house examinations).

State Examinations

Your daughter will, by now, be giving first priority to preparing for the examinations in June. During this time a good balance of study, rest, exercise and nutrition should be maintained. Other pursuits such as mobile phones, facebook, television etc are of lesser importance. During the holiday period, a good programme of study should be followed. Good, focused study at this time of year can be very productive. Students should have a pen in their hand at all times while studying and should be regularly testing their ability to write out answers to exam questions. I would like to wish your daughter the very best during this time of preparation and I hope that her oral/practical examinations went well for her.

For your convenience, this is a reminder of the calendar for the last term. Your daughter should maintain a good record of attendance up to the end of term.

SUMMER TERM: 3rd May – 3rd June 2011		
<i>DATE</i>	<i>DETAILS</i>	<i>NOTES</i>
3rd May 2011 (Tue)	School Re-opens	Classes commence at 8.50am
10 th May 2011 (Tue)	Staff/School Planning Meeting: 3.00-5.00pm	Classes finish at 2.40pm
12 th May 2011 (Thu)	Transition Year Awards – 7.30pm	
24 th May 2011 (Tue)	Annual Prize-giving Ceremony	
25 th May – 3 rd June	House Examinations - 1 st , 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th Years	3 rd /6 th years – school as normal
27 th May (Fri)	Staff Meetings	No school for students
3 rd June (Fri)	Last day of academic year	Exam timetables will give details
8 th June 2011 (Wed)	STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMENCE (Written)	

We are still awaiting the standardised calendar for the next academic year, therefore I am unable to give you details in this regard. If you are planning holidays, you should keep in mind the new academic year is likely to start around the **25th of August**.



Building Programme

The news continues to be good in relation to our building programme and we are expecting to commence construction this month. The project (including the refurbishment of our existing building) will be completed by September 2012, all going well. Apologies to our 6th Years who won't benefit!!



Fun-Run/walk/crawl(!)

Our Parents' Association have organised a fun run (with the emphasis on 'fun') which will take place in the Castle Park (over a 5km route) on the 17th of April at 11am. There will be lots of prizes on the day (mainly of the chocolate variety!). This will be an enjoyable family event and you and your daughter are encouraged to take part and to help raised valuable funds for the school. Entry is €5 (€15 for families) and you just have to turn up on the day.



Dropping Your Daughter to School

Despite previous correspondence on the issue, the situation in the school yard/drive in the mornings, particularly between 8.30 and 8.50am, continues to be an issue of grave concern. Please do not drive your daughter into the schools grounds in the morning. Using the bay at the main gate to execute a u-turn is also highly dangerous. Your co-operation in this matter is essential to ensure the safety of all.

Reminder: Students who drive to school are **not** permitted to park in the school grounds.

Attendance

We would ask parents to continue to be vigilant in relation to school attendance. As the year draws to a close, some girls can become experts at concocting reasons why it is not necessary to go to school on a given day. I would emphasise that your daughter's teachers have a planned programme of work, often including revision, to follow for the remainder of the year. If the school has not given you a reason for not attending school

*Special reminder: **let's make a big effort to keep those uniforms neat and tidy right up to the end of the year***

Mobile Phones

I would like to remind parents that we operate a strict mobile phone policy in the school. ***If your daughter's phone is either seen or heard between 8:50am and the end of the school day (including lunch time) it will be confiscated for seven days.*** I would greatly



appreciate your support in this matter. If you have a message that needs to be passed on, please contact the school office. Furthermore, do not encourage your daughter to use her phone to contact home. The purpose of this policy is to minimise the distraction to teaching and learning that can be caused by mobile phones, not to mention the role they can play in bullying incidents.

As a cost-cutting measure, we have changed our phone system for outgoing calls. As a result, a call from the school will be 'number withheld'.

With every good wish for the Easter season,

Yours sincerely,

Colm Keher,
Principal.

"Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song." - Pope John Paul II