



# JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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September 30, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope you and yours have settled back into the routine of school. We are delighted to see all of our students again and welcome all new students to our school. Here are some notices that may be of interest:

## **Philosophy Themes**

To provoke discussion and thought, some of the themes for the past few weeks have been:

How can I be courageous?  
How can I take the first step?  
Does practice bring progress?  
Can you achieve more than you expect?  
Can meditation bring calmness?

For more information about the assembly themes, please click [here](#).

## ***Parent Association AGM***

The parents association AGM took place on Thursday, Sept 15. It is great to see so many parents involved in helping the school. For your information, the following parents were elected as the Parents Association Executive officers.

Chairperson – Suzannah Love

Vice Chair – Ciara O'Connor

Secretary – Alan Johnston

Treasurer – Jilly Clarkin

PA Committee - Aengus Nolan, Firas Bonas, Heidi Bonz, Dan Merryweather, Mary Mac Cabe, Niamh Van den Bergh, Joan Gallagher.

## ***Parent Teacher Meetings***

Parent Teacher meetings will start shortly. All meetings will take place online using Teams. Please note the schedule for meetings:

3<sup>rd</sup> year – Thursday, Oct 13

1A - Thursday, Oct 20

5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year – Tues Oct 25

1B – Thursday, Oct 27

2A – Tuesday, Nov 8

2B – Thursday, Nov 10

### ***Traffic***

To ensure smooth traffic flow, we ask that parents not stop or drop students off on the avenue or at the entrance to the car park. Stopping cars impede the flow of vehicles into and out of the car park and create congestion for all. Please also note that traffic leaving the school grounds should give way to traffic coming from the main road. I appreciate your support with this.

From October, Irish Water will carry out road works on Ferndale Road for three months, and Ferndale Road users will have to take diversions. We will pass on information from Irish Water as we receive it.

Please note that if you are a user of Ballyman Road, the road works will start on Oct 10, and a diversion via Rathmichael will be in place.

### ***Bus Transport***

There have been several requests about a bus service from North Wicklow. To help determine if there is enough demand to make it feasible, we ask you to express your interest by completing the form [here](#).

### ***Lost and Found***

A lost and found service is being operated by Ms Swan this year. To help return items to students, we ask that all uniform items be clearly labelled. Labelling water bottles and lunchboxes would be helpful also.

## **School Events**

### ***1<sup>st</sup>-year enrollment August 2023***

Our Open Days on Wednesday, Sept 21, and Saturday, Sept 24, were very well attended, with over 300 people attending over the two days. We thank all the student volunteers who acted as tour guides and teachers for helping out.

We will be enrolling two 1<sup>st</sup> year classes again in August 2023. The window for applications for enrollment into the 1<sup>st</sup> year of August 2023 is between October 3 and October 21. Our admissions policy gives preference to siblings and children coming from the John Scottus Primary schools. If you are interested in enrolling a sibling, please submit an application form by October 21, as we expect the number of applications to exceed the number of places available.

### **Cyber safety program**

On Sept 9, all 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years attended cyber safety workshops. The workshop was run by Cyber Safe Kids (for information about Cyber Safe Kids, please see [CyberSafeKids](#)). During the seminar, Cyber Safe Kids facilitated a workshop examining topics such as cyberbullying, creating a positive digital footprint, sexting and pornography, targeted advertising and scams, image and managing digital wellbeing and applying critical

thinking skills to online information. We hope your child found the workshop to be of benefit.

### ***Study Skills Workshop***

A study skills workshop will take place for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-year students on Monday, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>. The workshop was very beneficial in the past, and we hope it will help students learn the required skills to succeed academically.

## **Academic**

### ***Leaving Certificate Results 2022***

Well done to our graduating class of 2022 on their excellent results. 50% of students achieved 430 points or higher. I must mention one student, who received a terrific 613 points.

In addition, in over 40% of higher-level results, students achieved a H1 (over 90% ) or H2 (over 80 %). These are impressive results, and we congratulate the tremendous work of our students in the challenging circumstances of the past two years.

Most students were offered Level 8 degree courses, with the remaining going on to further education courses. The destinations are varied, with students moving on to study Art and Design, Science, Engineering, Veterinary, Health Sciences and Humanities.

### ***Student Council***

A student council has been elected with representatives from each class. Each class group has been asked to nominate three representatives from the students that wish to be on the student council. One student is elected by popular vote, one is chosen randomly from students who want to be on the council, and the class tutor selects one. We look forward to many constructive meetings with the student council over the coming year.

### ***Assessment and Reporting***

In mid-October, you will receive a report on your child's engagement in studies since the start of the year. More information on how to access these reports will follow in due course.

### ***1<sup>st</sup>-year assessments***

All 1<sup>st</sup> years completed CAT4 aptitude testing and NGRT reading tests in the recent weeks. These are used as a baseline to monitor academic progress over the next few years. The results will be sent to parents shortly.

### ***6<sup>th</sup> year Higher Options***

Our 6<sup>th</sup> year visited the Higher Options on Thursday, Sept 22. This is an excellent event for our 6<sup>th</sup>-year students to explore what careers and college courses they wish to pursue.

### ***Monday, September 26/Tuesday, Oct 11 - School Closed.***

You may have a question about why the school closed on September 27. The school opens for the mandatory 166 days. The school year started on Monday, August 29 and

will finish on Friday, June 2. There is one day to allocate as a holiday, and we decided to break up the first half term, nine weeks long, with a long weekend.

Please note that the school is closed on Tuesday, Oct 11, to facilitate Junior Cycle Professional Development for all teachers. Each year the school is allocated two days for teacher professional development, the first of the two days given to the school. The second takes place on Tuesday, November 15.

## **Extra-Curricular**

### ***Founders Day***

Our Founders Day celebrated the founding values of the school on Thursday, September 29. The event was initiated and led by our 6<sup>th</sup> year leadership team. It was an excellent occasion for building school spirit and provided great opportunities for discovering more about each other. We must commend all 6<sup>th</sup> year students and supporting teachers for such a well-organised and inspiring event. To see some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

### ***JSS Junior Girls Hockey Team***

The JSS Junior girls hockey team had their first match of the year this week. Our team, comprised of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years, travelled to the foothills of the Dublin mountains to play Rosemount School. The players showed incredible endurance, skill and teamwork throughout the game. The final score was a 3-1 win for JSS. There was lots of singing and good spirits on the bus journey home. Well done to all involved. To see a picture of the team, please click [here](#).

### ***After School Activities***

On Wednesday, after-school sports, namely soccer and hockey, occur from 1.15 to 2.15 pm.

On Thursday, an athletics club takes place from 3.40 pm to 4.40 pm.

The after-school supervised study occurs on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. On Wednesday, it takes place from 1.30 to 4.00 pm. Parents can make payments for supervised study using the school website.

### ***Club Fair***

Our Clubs Fair will take place next week. During the fair, students can sign up for the various clubs and extra-curricular activities on offer. The clubs on offer this year include Green Schools, Gardening, Chess and Board games, Art Club, Singing, Instrumental Group, Hockey, Soccer, Sailing, Hiking, Ultimate Frisbee, Irish Club, Gardening, and many other clubs. These clubs will take place during lunch and after school. It was great to see such interest from students in the various clubs.

### ***Ireland-Armenia Soccer Game***

Ten students, along with Mr Bourke and Mr Malevic, attended the Ireland-Armenia game on Tuesday, Sept 27. They were lucky to see an exciting game that resulted in Ireland's 3-2 win. We look forward to the JSS soccer team participating in many games this year.

### ***Transition Year Trip Lough Dan***

Our Transition Year students started the year with a three-day hike to Lough Dan. By all accounts, it was a great experience and a fantastic team-building experience.

### ***Transition Year Bake Sale***

Our TY students organised a bake sale on Thursday, Sept 15, to raise funds for the "Make a wish" charity. Well done to all involved for raising over €200.

### **Philosophical thought for the day**

"I know that I am intelligent because I know that I know nothing" – Socrates.

### **Summary of Events coming up**

Study Skills workshop for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years: Monday, Oct 3

School Closed for Whole School Planning: Tuesday, Oct 11

Numeracy Week: October 17 to October 21

Midterm Break: Monday, October 31 to Friday, Nov 4

Yours warmly,



Dr Declan Kelly

Principal

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