



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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March 30, 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We have arrived at the end of the Spring term, and I would like to take this opportunity to share a few notices with you.

Philosophy Themes

Whole school assemblies have continued for the past month on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. In addition to regular updates on school events, we have explored various questions, such as:

- Do you ask questions?
- What is the secret to happiness?
- How do we celebrate our Irish language?
- How can we take care of our environment?
- What stops us from being kind to others?

It was great to see the last three assemblies delivered by students during Seachtaine na Gaeilge, Green Schools week and Wellbeing week.

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

February Assessment

The February and Mock assessment results are available on the student administration system VS Ware. If you have trouble accessing the results, please contact the office.

Child Safeguarding Statement

The annual review of the Child Safeguarding statement took place recently. For your information, you can find a copy at the link [Child Safeguarding Statement](#).

Lexia PowerUp Literacy Program

1st-year students have now settled into weekly use of the personalised Lexia Literacy Programme, and the students seem to be enjoying it and making progress. There are three strands: Word Study, Grammar and Comprehension. Every week, students complete some time on each strand. The Lexia programme adapts the lessons for students who find a particular skill difficult and others who need extension activities. To help support your students' literacy, we advise them to spend some time working on Lexia at home whenever they can.

Transition Year Update

The Transition years have been settling back into school after their trip to Iceland before the February midterm. To see some pictures from Iceland, please click [here](#).

Since then, they have been sampling different Leaving Certificates subjects to help them decide which subjects they may choose for next year. The Friday cultural trips continued with trips to St Michans's Church, Rusborough House and the Hellfire Club. The Friday Cultural trips have now ended, and with the hope of warmer weather, more outdoor adventure activities will start. The Transition Year students are also just finishing their second work experience placement this week.

School Photograph

We have scheduled the school photograph of each year group on Thursday, May 12. Please ensure your child has all the required school uniform for the day. For the photo, all students should be wearing the navy v-neck jumper, which is our formal uniform that will be used for photographs and formal events. Please note that the same dress code applies to the Speech and Prize Giving event.

School Events

House Team Activity Day

Our student leadership team organised a fantastic activity afternoon for all our students on the last day of the term. It was a great event that revitalised the House system. The House structure divides students into six house groups, with students from 1st to 6th year in each group. Students participated in board games, musical chairs, charades, mine field and a kahoot quiz. I must congratulate the leadership team on such a fantastic event.

Speech and Prize Giving – Tuesday, May 16

The Speech and Prize Giving Celebration will occur in the school on Tuesday, May 16. This is an important event where the school community comes together and celebrates student achievements in the past year. Last year, we held the event outside the front of the building and we will repeat the same format again this year. The event will start at 4.30 pm and finish at approximately 6.00 pm, and hopefully, it will be warm on the day. In very adverse conditions, we will postpone the event to the following Thursday. Hopefully, the rain will stay away. Please save the date in your diary

Junk Kouture

The Junk Kouture competition offers our TYs students a creative way to engage in sustainable fashion. This year, our TY students look at the global issue of fast fashion and sustainability within the fashion world. They investigated how our everyday choices when purchasing our clothes have global implications. The Transition Year students made a wearable fashion costume during the project using only recycled materials. On March 21, John Scottus held an in-house competition. Congratulations must be given to everyone involved, and in particular, the organiser, Ms Sweeney. To view some pictures of the event, please click [here](#).

We must also congratulate Sadhbh Fitzmaurice, Shona Haughey and Patrick Kenny on qualifying for the national Junk Kouture regional Irish finals 2023 with their design 'Spring has sprung to Madhatters tea party'.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge an 13-16 Márta. Seachtain na Gaeilge is a national festival highlighting our national language and culture, which we celebrated in John Scottus.

Given the recent success of Irish language films, students were treated to viewing of *An Cailín Ciúin* and *Róise agus Frank*. 3rd year students enjoyed a trip to The Mermaid Theatre in Bray, while 1st and 4th watched the movies in class, and 2nd Year students viewed both in our weekly Irish language movie club, Club Yu Ming.

Chuir Daisy Tyner and Anahita Aryan tús leis an tseachtain leis an tionól a rinne siad. Daisy Tyner and Anahita Aryan presented the first bilingual assembly of the week, posing the question of who was willing to put Gaeilge on their radar for the week.

Ar an Máirt, ghlac daltaí an Dara Bliain an príomhról sa tionól. On Tuesday it was the turn of the 2nd year students to present a bilingual assembly, with Orla Tyrell, Aisling Gillen and Alex Buckley presenting a video review of movies watched in Club Yu Ming. Go raibh maith agaibh to Katie Ashmore, Keelin Doyle, Ben Ashmore, Afshin Aryan and Corin O'Leary who spoke about their favourite Irish movies.

Chabhraigh daltaí na hIdirbhliana le Tóraíocht Taisce a eagrú ar an Máirt. 4th years were a wonderful help in organising an Irish language treasure hunt for the enjoyment of all 1st year classes. After some rain showers, and a lot of puzzle-solving, Felix Hodge-Doherty, working with Naoise Fitzmaurice finally cracked the code and won themselves some Easter goodies! Leah Pallas and Sophia Kahn, Edward Cormack and Arthur Peregrine came in 2nd and 3rd places, respectively.

Mr Brady surprised many of the Junior students on Thursday morning with his bilingual presentation in the assembly. He gave food for thought on the origin of many Irish words, none of which were Maths related!

Chun críoch a chur le Seachtain na Gaeilge, bhí Lá Glas againn. On Thursday, we took to the Astro-pitch to dance a céilí, with everyone decked out in green clothes. From the Dowling School of Irish Dancing, Claire Dowling led the céilí, which all students and teachers enjoyed.

Mar a deir an seanfhocal "Beatha teanga í a labhairt". To see some pictures from the week, please click [here](#).

Green Schools Week 2023

The Green School committee meet every fortnight, and its members range from 1st year to 6th year. They are working on the theme of energy, aiming to reduce energy consumption in John Scottus and increase awareness of how energy is linked to climate change. In previous years, our school has already achieved two flags for our work on litter and waste and water conservation. We had a busy Green Week with presentations at assembly, a lunchtime table quiz, an environmental documentary screening, a poster competition and a scavenger hunt - all related to our theme of energy.

Romeo and Juliet

After spending many months studying Shakespeare's tragic drama Romeo and Juliet in the classroom, the 3rd year students, along with Ms Fisher and Ms Maguire Timmins had the fantastic opportunity of going to see an abridged production directed by Geoff O'Keefe in the Mill Theatre, Dundrum, on Wednesday, March 8. It was beautifully staged and presented by a group of actors who engaged us thoroughly and brought a thrilling narrative to life that seemed as relevant today as it was to the first audience over 400 years ago. An excellent way to spend a morning!

Erasmus Exchange Students in Norway

5th Year Business students participated in an Erasmus exchange with Fyllingsdalen vgs. Secondary School in Bergen, Norway. They attended school in Bergen from the 11th -17th of March. They completed a study on Fast Fashion and Sustainability with Norwegian students who hosted them. They visited historical sights, went on a fjord Cruise and experienced many aspects of Norwegian culture. A memorable experience for all involved. We now welcome the return visit of Norwegian students to our school after Easter. To see some pictures of Norway, please click [here](#).

Model Council of Europe

On March 21, four fifth-year students and Ms Shanahan represented the school at the Model Council of the European Union Debate in City Hall. The European Commission Representation organises this debate in Ireland, and it is a simulation of a meeting of the Council of the European Union. The theme of the discussion was energy.

Schools discussed the proposal 'Should the EU increase the renewable energy target to 45% by 2030?'. John Scottus was representing the Netherlands and could liaise with members of the Dutch embassy and meet them on the day. It was an incredible experience debating and collaborating with students from across the country, a highly memorable day for everyone involved.

Ski Trip

The ski trip during mid-term was by all accounts a great success. To see some pictures of the trip, please click [here](#).

Extra-Curricular

School Newsletter

The school newspaper is coming together. The school has fantastic writers; some are dedicated and thorough in their research, others have a great story to tell, and some are good philosophers. We look forward to its publication in early May.

Senior Boys Soccer

Our Senior Boys travelled to Holy Child Sallynoggin this month. A young team of 6th to 2nd-year students competed in a nail-biting encounter. Goals from Euan Gallagher, James Dunne and Emre Ucar put JSS in a strong position. However, despite a strong performance and several saves from JSS goalkeeper Jamie Wilson, the sides were level with five minutes remaining. Up stepped Gabriel Mullins with a late goal to give our boys a 4-3 win. Our boy's Soccer team continue to train every Wednesday after school.

Junior Girls Soccer

Our girls continued their league campaign against LFI College et Lycee in UCD. Lycee scored early in the first half with a well-taken goal. Our girls rallied, and the rest of the half was a very tight affair with good chances from both sides. Zoe Van Den Bergh produced a lovely finish when she raced through on goal, but unfortunately, the referee ruled it offside. The second half remained a tricky and tight affair. Two late goals for Lycee saw them run out as winners.

On March 21, the JS girls welcomed Loreto Dalkey to play a Junior girl's match. After a strong start, the girls started to run out of steam, and Dalkey began to get on top halfway through the first half. The girls found themselves 4-1 down at halftime. A well-finished Zoe Van Den Bergh goal kept John Scottus in the game. The girls' much improved second half saw JSS take control for most of the second half. A hat-trick from Milly Fisher meant that the game finished up a very tight affair, with Loreto Dalkey just coming out as 5-4 winners on the day.

Our Junior girl's Soccer team continues to train after school on Wednesdays and at lunchtime on Mondays.

Junior Boys Basketball:

Well done to the Junior boy's basketball team, who had an amazing win over Blessington Community school in UCD on Friday, February 24, with a winning scoreline of 23-7. Great team performance by all the boys, some great rebounds and two fantastic 3-pointers from Corín and Josh.

On Tuesday, March 7, the boy's basketball team defeated Clonkeen college in the league playoffs. After a slow start, the boys upped their game and worked hard for each other. Our defence won the day with Oisin, Emanuel and Odhran making important interceptions. It was a very close game, and with about 20 seconds left on the clock, it was all square before Josh made a crucial steal, finishing with a layup and winning basket for us. Well done to Yude, our top scorer on 18 points, and to Sean and Oisin, who scored from the free throw line. Overall, a great team performance by everyone.

Junior Boys Basketball Quarter Final

After a successful group stage with three wins and a win in the playoffs, the boys travelled to UCD on Monday, March 13, to play Sandymount Educate Together in the quarter-final. The team got off to a great start with an 8-point lead after the first quarter. In the second quarter, Sandymount came back into it, and for the remainder of the game, it was a very close encounter. Unfortunately, the boys were pipped in the game's final minute and lost by 2 points.

The team missed some chances to win the game; understandably, the boys were very disappointed. However, they should be very proud of themselves for reaching this stage. Well done to the team for all the great performances and commitment over the year. We look forward to going one step better next year.

Junior Basketball training continues every Thursday at lunchtime.

Athletics

On Tuesday, March 14, John Scottus 1st and 2nd years, joined 5 other schools for the Wicklow invitational 1-mile challenge at Shoreline Athletics track in Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

We were delighted with all the students' performances on the track, as conditions were tough with strong winds.

1st year - Oisín Donelan, 2nd place and Conor Woods, 3rd place

2nd year - Iona McCool Murnane 3rd place

There was also a shot put/throwing event and medals went to:

1st year - Charlotte Stafford

2nd year - Joshua Mullins, Iona McCool Murnane, Oisín Conlon

Our Athletics Club continues every Thursday after school and is exceptionally well organised by one of our Transition Year students.

Junior and Senior Girls Frisbee All Irelands

On Thursday, March 3, our Junior and Senior Girl's teams travelled to the National Indoor Arena in Abbottstown. Our Junior 1 team came second in their group and qualified for the quarter-finals. At this stage, we, unfortunately, came up against the eventual winners and lost. The team next won one of their last two games. Cameron Farrelly made a catch to bring the game to sudden death, and Cormac Walsh caught the winner in overtime, which meant the JSS boys came 7th on the day.

The JSS Senior girls started the day impressively, topping their group with two comprehensive wins. Similarly, our boys' team again received a tough draw against the eventual winners and bowed out at the quarter-finals stage. The girls rallied, however, and won their last two games of the day, the final match against a Scottish school who flew over for the event to secure a very impressive 5th place.

Our Frisbee teams continue to train on Tuesdays (Juniors) and Thursdays (Seniors) at lunchtime.

PE lessons

Students have participated in Hockey and Circuit training over the last few weeks. The facilities in Bray Emmets have proved a welcome shelter during windy and wet conditions. The improved weather will allow us to return to the grass for some of our lessons after Easter. Gaelic Football, Athletics and Rounders are the primary sports we will cover in the Summer term.

Music

We have had a few wonderful performances from our students this term! Our 3rd-year music students performed at the TY fashion show, and two of our talented 6th year students performed a duet at the assembly to celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge. Lunchtime music groups running for the term are the 2nd- and 3rd-year bands. The bands look forward to performing some originals and covers at the music week in May! The 2nd-year CBA is underway and the students are busy designing, rehearsing and preparing for

a 'Music of the ages' concert. After-school piano lessons and lunch time guitar lessons will continue to the end of term.

Summary of Events coming up

Active School Week, Tuesday, May 2

Sports Day – Friday, May 5

Speech and Prize Giving – Tuesday, May 16

6th-year graduation and final day – Friday, May 19

End of year exams – Week of May 22

Class Trips – Week of May 29

Last day of school – Friday, June 2,

Finally, a philosophical thought for the day:

“The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a man’s determination”. -
Tommy Lasorda

Yours warmly,



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Principal

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