



JOHN SCOTTUS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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March 22, 2024

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?

How do we celebrate our Irish language?

Are you awake?

How does the food we eat affect us and the world around us?

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 get in touch with the office.

Transition Year Ball

The Transition Year Ball will take place on April 19th from 6:30 to 9:30 in the school. The 5th and 6th years have also been invited. Any volunteers to help supervise would be greatly appreciated.

School Photograph

We have scheduled the school photograph of each year group on Friday, April 26. 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.

Fund Raisers

Over the last few months, the students of John Scottus organized two fundraisers for good causes. On March 1, 2024, there was a non-uniform day to raise funds for the Irish Cancer Society, and a total of €145.13 was collected. And on December 22, an amount of €256.95 was raised to support the Dublin Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA). I must congratulate involved.

End of year School Trips

There are several trips organised for the last week of school in May.

Our 1st and 2nd-year students will visit the Carlingford Adventure Centre.

Our Transition- year students will travel to Galway and our 5th-year students will travel to Italy.

I thank all the teachers for their enthusiasm and generosity in organising these fantastic trips for our students.

Well-being Workshop for Teachers

Rutger Kortenhorst is presenting a workshop for teachers from different schools on the Well-being short course we run in the school. The workshop will explore principles from Ayurveda for physical Well-being, yoga sutras for mental Well-being and yoga. The event takes place on Saturday, April 13. If you would like to attend, please contact Mr. Kortenhort at rkortenhorst@johnscottusoldconna.ie.

School Events

Transition Year Musical

Tickets for the musical event organized by the Transition Year students at the renowned Mermaid Theatre in Bray are now available for purchase through their official website at <https://www.mermaidartscentre.ie/whats-on/events/grease-school-edition> .

You can also pay in cash at the box office at the venue from Monday to Saturday between 11 am and 4 pm. This musical extravaganza is an excellent opportunity to show your support and appreciation for the hard work put in by the talented TY students throughout the year. We encourage you to bring your family and friends along to enjoy the show and make it a memorable experience. The show's first night will be held on May 8th, exclusively for students. The second night, on May 9th, is open for the families and friends of the TY students. You can also attend both nights to enjoy the show to the fullest. Class teachers are requested to encourage their students to attend this incredible event.

Speech and Prize Giving – Tuesday, May 16

The Speech and Prize Giving Celebration will occur in the school on Tuesday, May 14.

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 - Update

This year, the Transition Year students are once again participating in the Junk Kouture International competition. Junk Kouture is a fashion competition that challenges young designers to create unique and innovative outfits using recycled materials. This competition encourages participants to think creatively and sustainably by transforming items that would typically be discarded into stylish and environmentally-conscious garments. After creating their designs, the Transition Year students will have an indoor

fashion show in the school, which will take place around the second week after Easter. During the show, one member of each group will wear their costume and walk with music while photographs of the models are taken. Afterward, a jury will vote for the best Junk Kouture design of the school. Results from the official Junk Kouture competition will be released later in the year.

Shona Project

The Shona Project workshop took place in school on Tuesday, March 12th, for 3rd and 2nd-year students. The workshop focussed on the concepts of kindness, inclusivity, social skills and goal-setting.

The feedback from the workshop was very positive. We encourage parents to ask their children how the workshop went and what they learned.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024

Seachtain na Gaeilge is a national 17-day long festival highlighting our national language and culture. Rinne Yusra agus Keith cur i láthair ag an tionól Dé Luain agus rinne Georgina jab iontach ar an bpaidir as Gaeilge in éineacht le hEric. To start our week, our new head girl, head boy, and deputies presented a bilingual assembly, with Georgina demonstrating great pronunciation. To celebrate in JSS, we took to the astro pitch to dance a céilí, with over 100 students participating! Claire Dowling, from the Dowling School of Irish Dancing, led the céilí, starting us all off with the basics and progressing to set dances. Go raibh míle maith agat, a Chlaire!

Additionally, Dé hAoine, d’eagraigh na daltaí ón gCúigiú Bliain Quiz Kahoot do dhaltá na chéad bhliana agus do dhaltá an dara bliain – The new student leadership team organized a house teams Kahoot quiz for first and 2nd years. Bhí a lán spraoi ann. Dé Céadaoin, 4th years helped put together a treasure hunt for 1st year students, The lucky winners figured out the Irish clues, which led them all around the school.

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

Green Schools Flag Review

On Monday, 11th March, we had a renewal visit from the *Assistant Environmental Awareness Officer from DLR County Council*. He met with the members of the Green School Committee and asked them about their favourite parts of the committee, the surveys carried out, what was learned, etc. The students were confident in their answers and demonstrated high enthusiasm. He also carried out a tour of the school and Green Flag work (relevant projects and communication such as the noticeboard). We then submitted our renewal application, which details all the seven steps of achieving a Green Flag over the last two years (e.g., an action plan, action days, committee meeting minutes, and the green-code slogan). We are hopeful that we will successfully achieve the green flag for energy, and if we are, this will be the third green flag for JS!

The final job of the Committee this year is to organise Green Week during the week of the 15th April. Many interesting events will occur at lunchtime as part of the energy

theme. We are looking for a guest speaker that week, so if you are involved in the energy area, we would love to hear from you!

Erasmus Exchange

Six students from 5th Year Business will participate in an Erasmus Exchange with a group of students from Puglia in Italy. The exchange serves the purpose of experiencing the Education System in Italy and immersing themselves in Italian culture. Additionally, they will collaborate on sustainability projects to create awareness of how our school community consumes energy and how to reduce it. They will look at the transport system to and from school and hope to increase carpooling to reduce traffic on our roads. They will travel for one week on April 8th. This is a wonderful opportunity for them, and the cost is co-funded by the European Union.

Ski Trip

The second John Scottus Ski trip took place this year. The students were excited, and after a long flight, they eagerly got fitted with their equipment and went up to the slopes for their first lesson. Over the course of the week, students made huge progress in their skiing ability while also taking in the beauty of the mountains around them. To see some pictures of the trip, please click [here](#).

Extra-Curricular

Scholar's Cup Club

JSS introduced a new club - The Scholar's Cup Club - whose aim is to prepare teams of students to compete successfully at the World Scholar's Cup. The competition promotes interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking, and global awareness. It includes a debate component, which encourages students to engage in thoughtful discussions on various topics. By attending the World Scholar's Cup, students will be well prepared to participate and excel in all of its components. Recently, JSS student Dea won four medals for debating, essay writing, and general knowledge at the Skopje Regional Round of the 2024 WSC.

Computer Coding Club

JSS has launched a new lunchtime club where students can learn coding using Scratch, a popular visual programming language for young learners. After mastering Scratch, students will move on to Python. All JSS students are welcome to join the Computer Coding Club, which meets during lunch hours on Thursdays and Fridays during term time. Competition, and the JSS Coding Club Students are getting ready to enter the 2024 competition in May this year.

The Film Club

A group of students celebrated the end of their February exams by attending a screening of The Simpsons Movie. Around 20 students participated in the event, enjoying some sweets and drinks while watching the film. Everyone left the event with a big smile on their face. We look forward to more Film Club events throughout the school year.

School Newspaper

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.

PE lessons

Over the past few weeks, students have participated in circuit training and Gymnastics classes as part of their PE lessons. The facilities in Bray Emmets and Angels Gymnastics Club 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. Basketball, Gaelic Football, Athletics and Rounders are some of the primary sports we will cover in the Summer term.

1st Year Trip to AwesomeWalls

Thanks to parents' help, we took twenty members of our first-year classes to AwesomeWalls in Finglas this term. Our students participated in the Irish Schools Team Climbing Competition and spent the day indoor rock climbing. For over two hours, the students challenged themselves on five different climbs to see who could reach the top. All students had a great day, and we will find out at the end of March where each of their teams placed when the competition concludes.

Sports Update

Soccer

Minor Girls Quarter Final: John Scottus 2 – 0 Blackrock ETSS

Our Junior Girls' soccer team played against Blackrock Educate Together in the quarter-finals on February 27th. Despite a slow start, the girls defended well and went into halftime with a clean sheet. In the second half, they took the lead with a goal from Annalia and sealed the win with another from Zoe, ending with a final score of 2-0. The team put in a great performance, with strong defence and determined teamwork. The next step is the semi-final.

Minor Girls Semi Final: John Scottus 3 – 6 Mount Carmel

Our Junior Girls' soccer team played their first ever semi-final match against Mount Carmel on March 20th. Despite being scored against three times early on, the girls regrouped and Zoe scored two goals, inspiring the team to rally. Mount Carmel scored a few more goals in the second half, but our girls kept fighting until the end. Though they didn't win, the team should be proud of their efforts and reaching the semi-finals, which is a great accomplishment. Zoe scored a hat trick, but all the girls played well. Thanks to the parents who supported the team and to their coach, Declan Rogers. The team included Zoe, Annalia, Keelin, Kayla, Emma, Isabella, Nora, Miriam, Sophia R, Isabelle, Charlotte, Sophia, Roseanna, Katie, Naoise, and Jennifer.

Hockey

Girls' Hockey:

The minor and junior teams have completed all their league and cups matches with pride and dedication. Our girls have represented the school well and we are proud of their performances. Training will continue until the end of the school year on Wednesdays.

Boys' Hockey:

Our 1st/2nd-year boys' team travelled to New Park Comprehensive in Blackrock for a friendly game. The match was a brilliant display of skill and scoring opportunities on both sides. Conor Wood, our goalie, gave a super performance, resulting in a 0-0 draw.

Frisbee

Girls' Ultimate Frisbee Cup Event, Abbotstown:

We brought three teams to the event: two junior teams and one senior team. All three teams played with great skill, spirit, and effort. Dublin Ultimate organised a 10-minute workshop on periods and sports for all teams. Our senior girls' team secured a place in the All Irelands in Limerick on Friday, April 12th, after playing exceptionally well and coming in 5th out of 15 teams. We are proud of their performance and look forward to attending the All Irelands.

Women's Under 20 Irish Ultimate Frisbee Trials:

We are delighted and proud to announce that two of our students, Iona McCool Murnane and Keelin Doyle, have made it onto the Irish team following the trials held in February. It's an amazing accomplishment, and we are proud of them.

Music

Our Transition Year students have been busy preparing for their upcoming musical by singing, dancing, and rehearsing. In addition, they had their annual music trip to the concert hall this term. During the trip, the students took part in two enjoyable workshops. The first was a rhythm workshop where they formed a percussion group, and the second was a Gamelan Orchestra where they played on instruments that had been gifted to the concert hall from Java. The students played all the gongs and other unique-sounding instruments. An excellent experience for all involved. To see some pictures, please follow the link [here](#).

Summary of Events coming up

Active School Week, Tuesday, May 7

Sports Day – Friday, May 10

Speech and Prize Giving – Tuesday, May 14

6th-year graduation and final day – Friday, May 18

End of year exams – Week of May 20

Class Trips – Week of May 27

Last day of school – Friday, May 31,

Finally, a philosophical thought for the day:

“The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra.” - Jimmy Johnson

Yours warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Declan Kelly". The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and contact information.

Dr Declan Kelly

Principal

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