



13th December 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As Christmas festivities with families and friends get underway I want to take a moment to compliment all our students on how exceptional they have been throughout Term One. Despite the many challenges we faced this term due to Covid all students have adjusted and excelled, especially our First Years who have settled in very well and are growing in confidence. Well done on your smooth transition to a new school.

I am aware of how difficult the last few years have been on all students and I want to reassure you and our students that it will take time to catch up. I ask them to practice patience and perseverance with their studies as it takes time to develop skills and process the information in all subjects. Their efforts over the last few months have proven that they will succeed so please encourage them to keep going and to keep trying their best every day, taking one day at a time.

It is wonderful to see our students had opportunities to come together as year groups in Term One with First Years going on their Good Witches Walk in October raising €2000 for Concern. Second Years spent a day in Dublin Zoo and adopted an elephant. Third years had a great day out at JumpZone, shopping and visiting Croke Park which, for many was a highlight of the trip. Transition Year had a full week of activities where they got the opportunity to cycle in Phoenix Park, play foot golf and challenge each other in GoQuest with lots of Zumba, Craft and the Bodhrán in the mix. Fifth years and Sixth years will have time to bond and catch up on their trips to ice skating and GoQuest respectively in January. In addition, as winners of the Wellbeing Initiative classes 2A4 and 5A5 were awarded with a trip to GoQuest with time in Liffey Valley afterwards. I do hope everyone enjoyed their time away from the classroom and catching up with each other.

In preparation for the new school term I wish to also draw your attention to a few items that will arise in January when we return after the Christmas holidays.

Sixth and Third years will sit the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle Mock exams on February 7th -18th 2022. The exam papers for the Mock exams are provided and corrected by an outside agency and therefore a cost is incurred with running these exams. The overall cost for the Mock exams will be supplemented by the school. Therefore, the supplemented cost to students sitting the Leaving Cert Mock exams is €90 and for Junior Cycle students is €80. Mock fees are due for payment by February 1st 2022 to ensure papers are available by the start of the exams. Payment can be made on VSWare which is accessible through the school website.

CAO applications are now open for Sixth years. Information on the CAO application and advice is available on the school website and through the school app at the following link <http://www2.cao.ie/downloads/documents/CAOparentsguide.pdf>

Bernadette Fitzgerald
Principal



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I would encourage all Sixth year students to gain as much information regarding their specific college courses and career choices before applying. The Sixth Year Guidance Counsellor, Ms Donohue is available to address any questions your child may have regarding their career choices. Ms Donohue can be contacted by email on adonohue@stjosephslucan.com.

For Fifth years, a visit to UCD has been arranged on December 17th 2021 and January 14th 2022 to help them in advance with their college choices.

On the 7th-18th February 2022 Transition Year students will go on Work Experience for two weeks. If your child is currently in Transition Year please encourage them to research and source areas of work for these weeks. I want to commend all TY students on their fantastic start to the year and to thank them for taking on the year with such energy and enthusiasm. Students get out of the year as much as they put into the year.

I am delighted to inform you, after consultation with our Student Council and listening to requests from students that trousers will now become part of the school's uniform. If you wish to purchase these trousers at a cost of €45 you can do so through SAVI Clothing on Schoolwear.ie from January 2022. **SAVI clothing has advised that the trousers will be made as orders come in so it is important that students order the correct size as there will be no refunds/returns on incorrect orders.**

I would like to thank you again for the many efforts that you, your child and families continue to do to protect everyone in our school community and keeping our school Covid free. The collective efforts of everyone has made the school environment a safe and comfortable space for all our students to learn and achieve to the best of their ability.

I wish you and your families a safe and peaceful Christmas and look forward to welcoming you all back in the New Year.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Bernadette Fitzgerald

Principal

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Principal