



28<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you and your family are well and that your child has settled into class after the Christmas holidays. In this letter I wish to outline some information and details on events in the coming weeks.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that we expect that the Construction Phase of the school extension will begin before May 2022. This is an exciting time for our school after a long wait. We will update you on the progress as it proceeds. Thank you to all parents for the efforts made over the last number of years to raise awareness of the need for an extension.

On **February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022**, our **Parents' Association** will launch our **WELLWALK Fundraising Initiative for 'Joey's Outdoor Classroom'**. The launch will be an online event for students with *Mr David Cryan*, past participant on *Operation Transformation*, speaking on the day. I am very grateful to our Parents' Association for organising this fundraiser and acknowledge the wonderful work they do to improve the facilities of the school. It is greatly appreciated by all our school community. The sponsored "**Wellwalk**" will then take place on **March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2022**. All students will go on a sponsored walk in the locality under the supervision of teachers. Further details will follow.

Each student will bring home a sponsorship card and we are kindly asking parents to please support this fundraiser event if you are in a position to do so. Sponsorship secured through the card can be paid by cash or by making a donation through our GoFundMe page. All of the funds raised will go directly to pay for the cost of 'Joey's Outdoor Classroom and the improvement of the outdoor space for all students. **The Parents' Association has set up the following GofundMe Page.**

<https://gofund.me/ba72c006>

This will enable anyone who wishes to support fundraising for the Outdoor Classroom to do so through the link. Please let others know about the link if you are happy to.

### **School Calendar**

Please note the following in the School Calendar:

- **March 7<sup>th</sup> 2022:** We have been notified that Staff Training for the Junior Cycle will go ahead in March. Therefore, the school will be closed on **March 7<sup>th</sup>** to facilitate subject teacher training with the JCT for the Junior Cycle programme.



- **March 18<sup>th</sup> & May 3<sup>rd</sup>:** In light of the announcement of the additional bank holiday made by the government last week, the school will be closed on **March 18<sup>th</sup>** to accommodate this new bank holiday and **May 3<sup>rd</sup>** is a rescheduled date for school closure on the school calendar.

## **Additional points of information**

### **Health & Safety**

**Following the government announcement, schools will continue to operate in accordance with their COVID-19 plans, with all current protective measures in place, until 28 February 2022.** Please continue to encourage your child to wear a mask and follow all safety procedures as they go about their daily routine. We wish to commend our students on their exemplary adherence to all protective measures in school to date.

### **Return of Students' Lockers**

We will be reintroducing students' lockers on a phased basis in the coming weeks. Given the number of lockers, it will take time to have them all in place again. Therefore, we ask students to be patient while they are being phased back in and hopefully it won't take too long.

### **Uniform Policy**

We are proud of our uniform and ask parents to support the school in upholding the uniform and dress code.

In light of the cold at this time of the year, and the necessity of keeping windows open for ventilation, there have been some necessary changes to the uniform in the short term.

Students may wear the school jacket, gloves, scarf, hat and leggings and/or tights underneath the kilt in school and they are encouraged to put layers on under their uniform. In addition, school fleeces may be ordered online from Savi Clothing.

However, please remind your daughter that students may wear the PE uniform on their PE day only. Black or brown shoes only may be worn – Runners are not part of the regular school uniform and may be worn only on PE days. **Finally, a reminder that students may not dye their hair in unnatural colours.** Thank you for your ongoing support in maintaining the uniform code, as we try to navigate our school & our students through these uncertain times.



## **Attendance**

In recent years the pandemic has impacted negatively on students' attendance for various reasons. We know that academic success in the Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate exams is closely related to student's attendance. In addition, regular and good attendance at school helps

students to make friends, have a structure in their day, develop social, personal and emotional skills and boost students' confidence. While we understand that students will be unavoidably absent due to illness or Covid 19, it is important that any other absences are avoided to the greatest extent possible.

The school day begins at **8:37am** with class commencing at **8:45am** for all students. **If your child is absent or late for any reason you are asked to email the tutor by 8:25am at the latest on the morning of the absence.** The class tutor will record this absence and receipt of email on VSWARE at 8:37am each morning.

Attendance is then checked on VSWARE and **a text message will be sent to parents/guardians if a student is absent.** Parents/guardians can view their child's attendance on VSWARE at any time of the day using their VSWARE log in details.

## **3rd & 6th Year Mock Exams**

In the absence of any official information regarding the format of the **Leaving Certificate/Junior Certificate 2022**, the Mock examinations for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years will continue as scheduled from Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> 2022. ( Please see timetables on website) We are mindful of the impact of the exam uncertainty on our 6th & 3rd Year students' wellbeing. We advise any student who is feeling very stressed to make an appointment with the **Guidance Counsellor, Ms Donohue.**

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. A reminder that Mock Examination fees are due for payment by February 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



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Tel: 01 628 1160 Fax: 01 628 0403 Website: [www.stjosephslucan.com](http://www.stjosephslucan.com)  
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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>

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](mailto:adonohue@stjosephslucan.com).

### **TY Work Experience**

**Work Experience** will take place as scheduled for all Transition Year students from 7th - 18th February 2022. A separate letter will be sent out to parents of Transition Year students with information on TY activities.

### **School Musical**

We had hoped to organise our **Annual School Musical** this year, but unfortunately the continued Covid protective measures in schools mean we will not be able to do so. We are disappointed, but hope to have one next year.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to updating you further on the new building and events as we move through the year.

Hopefully all restrictions will be lifted in schools soon, and we can help our students to regain a more usual experience of school life.

Yours Sincerely,

Ms Bernadette Fitzgerald

Principal

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Bernadette Fitzgerald  
Principal