



BLACKWATER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

HALLOWEEN NEWSLETTER 2023



Dear Parent/Guardian

A thuismitheoirí dhí, I would like to wish everybody a peaceful and enjoyable mid-term break. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to update you regarding some recent happenings and achievements at our school.

Calendar of Events

The calendar of events at BCS is continually updated and is available on the school website and app.

1st yr Mass

A 1st year Mass was celebrated in Ardmore for our 1st year students on Friday 8th of September.

Sympathies

Our sympathies to Mary McBride and Family on the passing of our former colleague Michael McBride.

Our sympathies to Anita Doolan on the passing of her sister Catherine.

Retreats

All our Year Groups will have had the opportunity to attend Retreats before the Christmas Break.

Health & Safety

Thank you to Colm Perrott for all his help as staff representative. We have updated risk assessments and Health & Safety documents for the year ahead. Specific year group fire drills have been planned as well as unscheduled whole school drills during first term. All tutors have been reminded to revise the updated Fire Drill procedures with their class groups in preparation for same in the coming weeks.

Wellbeing Week

The Amber Flag Committee arranged a variety of activities for the Wellbeing Week at BCS.

Student Council

A new Student Council now called Student Voice for the 2023/2024 year has been elected and roles have been defined.

Parents' Council

A new Parents' Council has been elected for the 2023/2024 year.

Plant & Environment

Much work has been done in the summer months and we are delighted to see the progress that has been made in the school. Thanks to Maurice Geary for the planning of the classrooms for the new Academic year.

Teacher Induction

A teacher induction day took place in late August which is a comprehensive programme with all new teachers and trainee teachers who joined BCS for the coming Academic Year.

Staff Related Information

Extra Subject department planning has been provided in the reopening schedule. Thank you to Sarah Jane Mulcahy for updating planning hours for the 2023/2024 year. The staff handbook has been updated by Maria O'Brien with key teaching and learning information been highlighted in one section, other areas such as agreed practice and school calendar were also updated.

Subject Department Planning

All subject departments are assured that membership of their respective associations will continue to be paid for by the school as has always been the case. Planning time as last year continues to be doubled the previous years. Planning booklets are available for all subject convenors.

Student Information

LC & LCA Results

Thanks to all staff for preparing our students for the Leaving Certificate examinations. Well Done to our students on their fantastic results. We thank Edel Murphy and Tutors for the LC's. We also thank the personal care team for the excellent work behind the scenes and to Sean Murphy , Catherine Ahearne and Mentors for the help with our LC students.

Junior Cycle Results

Congratulations to our students on the excellent Junior Cert results received on Wednesday 18th October. We thank Sheena Wilkinson and Tutors for their role with the JC.

Book Rental Scheme

Thanks to Ann-Marie Lineen for coordinating the Book Rental Scheme in advance of the new academic year.



Student PR Book

The student PR Book has been updated and changed following consultation with the Year Heads.

Subject Inspection Feedback

All specific Subject Dept feedback along with programme and WSE are included in the T & L section of the staff handbook. This provides valuable feedback to help inform and facilitate future subject Dept. planning.

BCS Self Evaluation

Sarah Jane Mulcahy has worked with the Principal and Deputy Principal Maria O'Brien re our Annual Review Policy. We have outlined Policy priorities that are due for updating including the Substance use Policy. We have been provided with feedback received from Staff, Students and Parents of BCS. All updated school policies are available on our school website and school app.

Congratulations

Well Done to all our current and past students involved with Ballysaggart in the Waterford LGFA Junior B County Final recently and also to Na Déise ladies on their victory in the Junior A County Final. Congratulations to Michelle Ryan on her involvement with Ballymacarbry Senior Ladies Football teams' success recently.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Thanks to all staff & students who have put in so much time and effort in preparing for Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Badminton, Athletics, Dance, Meditation and Choir during the first term.

Yellow Flag

The Yellow Flag will be launching for the Academic Year 2023/2024. The Yellow Flag programme at BCS promotes the inclusion of all nationalities and cultures. The Committee meet regularly to chat informally and to organise events throughout the school to celebrate.

Yondr Presentation

We recently welcomed Jackie O Regan from Yondr to Blackwater Community School to give a presentation to all students and staff on the use of the Yondr Pouch. Students heard about BCS becoming a phone free school, what screen time really is about and what is missed out on by being digital natives. It was an informative and interesting presentation for all in attendance and reinforced to students the benefits of attending a phone free school.

John Lonergan Talk

Mr John Lonergan (Former Governor of Mountjoy Prison) visited Blackwater Community School on Wednesday 11th October to speak to all year groups. John returned to the school on Thursday 19th October to speak to parents regarding substance abuse and on the Challenges and Rewards of Parenting.



Barcelona School Tour

Before Halloween break our Third Years and Staff travelled to Barcelona for a very enjoyable school tour.

Open Night

Thanks to all staff, students, cairde, choir, student council and parents' council who contributed to organising an extremely valuable and successful Open Night on Thursday October 5th for prospective incoming students of 1st year for the 2024/2025 Academic Year.

Cairde

Our new Cairde have been trained and have engaged in a variety of activities to help our 1st year students in their transition to 2nd level.

Happy Halloween

Mise le Meas

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Príomhóide

