

BCS Christmas 2017 Newsletter

blackwatercs.com

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Happy New
Year
2018



Dear Parent/Guardian

A thuismitheoiri dhil,

I would like to wish everybody a Happy New Year. This newsletter affords me the opportunity to update you regarding some of the recent happenings and achievements at our school. As is very obvious, we have been extremely busy in the run up to Christmas. We look forward to the remainder of the school year. Please remember to make contact whenever you feel necessary to follow up on your son's / daughter's progress at our school.

Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig

Mise le meas,

Donnchadh Uas O'Rinn

Priomhoide.

Sympathy

Sincere Sympathy to the Costello Family and to the Heneghan Family on recent bereavements.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Lismore Camogie team on winning the Munster final.

Plant & Environment

A new computer room has been established downstairs in the monastery building.

An additional Career Guidance office for Ms Marianne Ryan has been created in the monastery building.

A workroom for teachers has been created in the monastery.

The new extension is still at the stage where pre-tendering documents are being prepared.

Choir Our choir practices weekly and are preparing for upcoming Choral opportunities after Christmas. Already they have performed this year at our Awards Night and school related ceremonies

BCS Self Evaluation

The Year Heads, Aps, Special Duties teachers, Trustees, Board of Management, Parents' Council, Students' Council, Sub Committees and all staff have been involved in some form of Self Evaluation. This feedback has fed the School Improvement Plan for the 2017/18 academic year.

Numeracy

The Numeracy committee have continued working on their agreed plan for the year.

Literacy

Our 'Lyrics on the Lap' initiative has continued with great success.

BCS Programmes

TY

Our TY students were very busy with BCS Strictly Come Dancing which took place on 8th Dec. TY students were engaged in a recent work experience opportunity. They also have had a variety of outings including the pilgrimage to Ardmore and Car Safety Programme. Many are busy preparing for the Junk Kouture competition and for their ECDL exams, Artifice and Mini Companies.

LCA

Our LCA students have their Work Experience every Friday. They are benefiting from their recently created Computer Room downstairs in the Monastery.

LCVP

Our LCVP students are preparing for their portfolio and interview work after Christmas

School Development Planning-Policy Review, Teaching & Learning.

The School Development Planning team have been working in ensuring that policies are under review and that subject departments are implementing findings from previous inspection reports

Much work has been done in planning in a variety of areas at BCS with the respective sub-committees of – H & S, Website/PR, Literacy, Numeracy, TY, SSE, Junior Cycle and Teaching & Learning.

Each Subject Department have been availing of the Croke Park hours for Subject Planning meetings. Furthermore, the 40 minutes of professional time provided to each teacher allows for a combination of individual weekly

planning, further Subject Dept. meetings and with respect to English, Science and Business SLAR Assessment meeting time. In all the 40 minutes professional time amounts to 22 hours planning time in the year.

Priority areas such as enhancing Academic Attainment, Attendance Strategy, School Policy Development, enhancement of Student Voice, afternoon Attendance Monitoring, review of school cleaning, Green Schools, emphasis on homework, continued emphasis on Mental Health, Plant & Environment and Communication have also been worked on since September.

The School Improvement Plan for 2017/2018 has been completed. Our BCS 2020 vision document still operates. Work has taken place on reviewing our uniform protocols.

The Guidance Plan has been updated for staff approval, consultation with Students' Council, Parents' Council, Trustees and BOM

Our Audit document of Policy documents at BCS has been updated & Adopted.

DES Inspections.

We had a Geography Subject Inspection which received very positive feedback. We also had an inspection visit re: School Self Evaluation. Our practices received an excellent response.

Staff Training Day.

We had a staff Training day on Friday, December 15th. This day was broken into 3 parts.

- A Staff meeting and 6 teachers shared elements of their teaching expertise to the whole staff.
- A NEPS Presentation by Teresa Thornton regarding Critical Incident Plans.
- A detailed presentation re The New Junior Cycle by Sarah Jane Mulcahy.



French Exchange Programme



Our Partner School Lycée St. Martin

This school is a semi-private school of approx 1500 students located in the heart of Rennes city in Brittany. We have been exchanging students with this school for 7 years and we are very pleased with the level of professionalism and care accorded to our students. The coordinator in Lycée St. Martin is Monsieur Thierry Février and he has been involved in exchanges for 16 yrs.

Structure of Programme

This exchange is very successful because of the structured format designed to meet the needs of the Irish students and the French students while they are here. The emphasis is very much based on the linguistic dimension. Our students will go to school every day from 8.00am until 5.00pm. They will attend normal classes tailored to them specifically in their own classroom. There will be cultural classes and demonstrations in French such as “crêpe making” or learning basic Chinese which is a popular subject in Lycée St. Martin. The extra curricular activities include ice skating, a tour of Rennes and a cultural trip to St. Malo and Mont St. Michel.

German Exchange Programme



Our Partner School Kurfürst-Friedrich Gymnasium

This school is what is known as the ‘academic’ school in Germany. It is located in the centre of Heidelberg. This is our third year exchanging students with this school and has been a great success for both schools. The coordinator of the programme in Heidelberg is Marianne Eichinger.

Structure of the Programme

The structure of the programme is aimed at meeting the needs of the Irish and German students. While in Germany Irish students will attend classes with their partner and will also have language classes with their accompanying teacher. They are required to keep a diary of their stay in Germany. The extra curricular activities include a trip to Strasbourg, a tour around Heidelberg and various activities they will undertake with their host families.

Health & Safety

Frequent H & S meetings take place between the Principal and the Safety rep. Mr Colm Perrott.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

The 6th year P/T meeting took place on Mon 13th Nov while the 3rd year P/T meeting took place on Thurs 30th Nov. Both meetings were well attended and proved to be extremely positive.

Open Night

We had a very successful Open Night which took place between 6 – 9 pm on October 2nd 2017.

School Phone App

All staff and a high proportion of parents and students are availing of our School Phone App and the regular updates in information provided by same. Please encourage all members of the school community to use this.

School Parking

To avoid congestion in the morning & evening times and to enable the buses to move more freely it is advised that parents park further from the school and that students park at the community centre which has been kindly made available to us by Lismore GAA. Please refrain from parking on bus lanes and on double yellow lines.

Parents’ Council

Our Parents’ Council are planning for new activities going into the new school year and have financed recent works in the school including shelving and extra storage in the metalwork room and stores and our school sculpture. **Please support our Valentine’s ‘Ball in the Hall’ which takes place on Saturday 10th February.**



Student Council

Our Students’ Council meet weekly on a Tuesday at lunchtime to discuss ongoing issues.

Christmas Examinations

Mrs Sile Heneghan has been preparing the schedule for the Christmas examinations.

School Exchanges

Our annual French & German exchanges have been organised once again this academic year to both Rennes and Heidelberg respectively. Our receiving parents at BCS are completing Statutory Declaration forms as host families. Letters of assurance have been sought from our two foreign schools.

Carol Ceremony and Nativity Play

A Carol ceremony and Nativity Play have been organised for all Junior Students



Mentoring Night

A mentoring evening was organised to help prepare students and parents for the transition to 3rd level. Talks were on accommodation, finance, diet, exercise and pitfalls facing 1st year students.

ACCS Business

The ACCS Inservice for Principals and Deputy Principals took place on 29th Nov & 1st Dec in Cavan. The event was chaired by the Principal of BCS. The focus of this year's Inservice was "Changing Dynamics" and the keynote speaker was Joe Schmidt.

ISTA

Our Senior Students came 5th and 7th respectively in the recent Irish Science Teachers Association Quiz.

Cairde

Our student Cairde have been extremely helpful with the current 1st year students and support them with fun activities and routinely in the morning at their social and locker areas. The 1st year Nativity play took place on 12th Dec.

Games

Our Senior Hurling team defeated Kilmallock but went out at the group stages of the Harty cup.

Our u16 1/2 Hurling team were defeated in the Munster final against Tulla of Clare having defeated North Mon, Glenmore and Rice College on the way.

Our senior Ladies Football and Junior Ladies team have both qualified for the knock out stages of their respective competitions.

Our Junior and Senior Camogie Teams continue training for their respective competitions.

Our U14, U16 and U19 Boys & Girls Badminton teams have qualified for the Munster Championships in UL in January. They were extremely successful in the recent Waterford Co. Championships held at BCS.

Our cross country athletics teams continue to train weekly at BCS.

Our Senior Soccer and U17 teams respectively have been competing in the Senior Munster League Competition over the past 2 months.

Junk Kouture

Our students have been working September and throughout the Halloween break on costume entries for the Junk Kouture competition.

School Uniform.

From January 8th 2018, in accordance with BCS uniform policy all pupils are expected to wear full school uniform at all times, including school trips.

School uniform consists of Grey pants/skirt, Grey shirt, school tie, black jumper and black shoes.

P.E. Uniform is only to be worn on P.E. Day or on school outings. This consists of plain navy shell tracksuit pants, white polo and blue school hoody.

We are asking all Parents/Guardians to please ensure your Son/Daughter complies with this policy as failure to do so will be in breach of school rules and sanctions will be imposed.

Christmas & New Year Study

There is free Study provided for our study students between Wednesday 27th— Friday 29th Dec and Tuesday 2nd—Thursday 5th January 18. Any student who doesn't normally attend will pay €10 for the week. It will be between 9-1pm.

Term 2 of after school study commences on Monday 23rd January. Reminder text will be sent out in early January and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis with payment **only after the text has been issued.**

Saturday Study

We will provide Study for our students on Saturdays in the New Year commencing on Saturday 13th of January between 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. At a cost of €5.00 per student.

Pre Exams

Our Pre examinations will take place in commence on February 5th. Cost of same is €110 to be paid in full by Friday 13th January. *Please note that this charge is not covered by medical card.*



Parents please note:

Class time is of utmost importance and we would appreciate if at all possible that students would bring all their belongings with them each day to avoid unnecessary disruption to class. **If a parent needs to drop something off or collect a child, (make sure PR book is signed beforehand) please ensure that you know what class/teacher your child has at that particular time as intercom system will only be used for morning & afternoon announcements.**

Also, please note that if a student is late for Tutor meeting at 8.55am when roll is taken, they must ensure that they inform their Tutor they are present as they will otherwise be marked absent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your help & support during the year.

*Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh uilig!
WESOLYCH SWIAT I SZCZESLIWEGO NOWEGO
ROKU*

Su sventom kaledom it naujais metais.

*Frahe Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr.
Bonne Année*

*Donnchadh Uas Ó Rinn (Príomh Oide)
Denis Ring (Principal)*

School Calendar 2018

JANUARY	
Monday 8th January	School Re-Opens
FEBRUARY	
12th-16th (incl)	February Mid Term
MARCH	
Easter Holidays	Friday 23rd March
APRIL	
School Reopens	Monday 9th April
JUNE	
Summer Holidays	Friday 1st June

Upcoming Calendar of Events 2018

TY Year P/T Meeting	Tuesday 16th January
5th Year P/T Meeting	Monday 22nd January
2nd Year P/T Meeting	Thursday 1st February
1st Year P/T Meeting	Tuesday 13th March

