



"In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer."
Albert Camus

Subject Options: Our Guidance Counsellor, Ms Quinn, has met and spoken with our First Year students regarding subject options. Your son/daughter has been given an information handout and subject options form to bring home. The form must be completed and returned by this Thursday, 12th Nov.



IT Support Classes: In order to support our First Year students as they become more IT proficient, we have scheduled IT Support classes to assist students in areas such as Microsoft 365 & Teams, MS Word, Powerpoint, internet safety etc. The classes will have small numbers in order to facilitate intensive learning.

Lunchtime Activities: Lunchtime activities for such as basketball, soccer and table tennis are currently taking place for First year students. The activities take place daily and are organised by our Prefects, along with Ms Reilly and Mr Callaghan.



Scholarships Success for LC '20 Students: A number of students from our Leaving Cert class of 2020 have received university scholarships in recent weeks. These scholarships are awarded for high achievement in the leaving cert. So far in this academic year CCS students have received over €10,000 in scholarships with more to come. The common thread amongst these students is that the seeds of their academic success were sown from First Year onwards. Through a combination of excellent teaching, ability and hard work these students achieved a high academic standard throughout their junior and senior years, getting excellent results in both the Junior Cert and Leaving Cert. They were also involved in various extra-curricular activities and events. We urge all our First Year students to emulate such success.

First Year Breakfast Mornings: This week we will be hosting a number of Breakfast Mornings for our First Year students in our Canteen/Assembly area. Students will be able to enjoy a healthy breakfast (with some treats thrown in for good measure!) and will get the chance to relax & mingle with their classmates and teachers outside the classroom environment. Thanks to Ms Reilly and some of our TY students for organising.

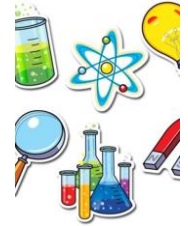


Homework Club

Homework Club: As per Friday's email, our First Year Homework Club is currently getting up & running. The Club runs from Monday to Thursday every week from 4.15 p.m. – 5.15 p.m. and gives our First Year students the opportunity to do homework and study in a supervised environment with help at hand. Ms Reilly will be taking names during the week and interested students will be given a form to bring home for completion.



Science Week: This week is Science week and our Science department here at CCS will be hosting a number of events throughout the week. At CCS we place emphasis on STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Maths) and we are proud to be the only school in the catchment area to offer the full range of STEM subjects. STEM provides students with a pathway to the careers of the future.



November Assessments: November assessments will take place for all students during next week (Mon 16th – Fri 20th Nov). First Year students will only sit assessments in their core subjects (Irish, English, Maths, History, Geography, Religion) as they will only be selecting their options subjects during this week. Teachers will have spoken with students about what to expect in the exams and will be informed what topics/material they should revise. It is important that students prepare for these assessments and spread their revision throughout the week. The Tutors & Wellbeing teachers will be giving some guidance around study methods.

First Year Parents Questionnaire: We were very pleased with the response to our recent First Year Parents Feedback Questionnaire. The results indicate that our First Year students have settled in well at Castlerea CS and feel safe and happy. The results also indicate that parents are happy so far with our Covid 19 protocols and practices and our communication with parents. With your assistance we will be conducting further questionnaires. We will also be seeking feedback from our students. We feel such feedback inform our practice and enables us to deliver for our students and parents.



Ready4Covid: Our Covid-19 mantra for students is Ready4Covid, the number 4 signifying the four most important ways of reducing the spread of the virus: (1) Hand sanitising; (2) Face mask wearing; (3) Social distancing; (4) Good coughing etiquette.

We are very proud of the way in which our students have taken to the Covid protocols and guidelines with little or no complaint. They really are an example to us all, however it is still important to remind one another of the importance of the four basic steps mentioned above. Please remind your son/daughter of the importance of social distancing, both indoors and outdoors, along with hand sanitising, social distancing and proper coughing etiquette.

We have asked all students to bring a spare face mask in a ziplock bag to school, along with their own personal sanitiser, wipes and tissues.

Covid-19 Awareness Course: In the coming weeks we will be hosting a Covid-19 Awareness Course for all First Year students. This will be a cross-curricular course, with subject modules such as Science, Maths, History, Home Economics and SPHE. The course will comprise a number of interactive workshops and all students who complete the workshops will receive a certificate. We aim to make this both informative and enjoyable for all students.

