



Castlerea CS Parents Newsletter 13 March '21

Return to School: Our Sixth year students had a very successful return to school on Mon 1st March and this will be followed by our Fifth Year students on Mon 15th March.



All students are being given KN-95 face masks on their return and have been reminded of the protocols that must be followed in order to maintain the health and safety of our school community. We will continue to regularly provide masks to students.

We have taken the decision not to allow our Senior students leave the school grounds at lunchtime for the next few weeks. This will be reviewed as circumstances evolve. We have been able to provide some snacks to students and our Breakfast Club will be functioning.



Remote Learning: Our programme and schedule of remote learning continues for First, Second, Third and Transition Year students and will remain in place up to Fri 26 April, when school breaks up for Easter. The response to our remote learning from students, parents and teachers has been very positive. While not a substitute for face-to-face classroom learning, our students have engaged very well throughout and have been very positive about our live lessons on Microsoft Teams. Students feel that the live lessons are very successful and allow for greater learning and interaction. They have also indicated to us that the practice of following the timetable and taking the roll for each class has helped them build structure into their day. Well done to all our students on their continued engagement.

Art Competition: Over the coming days we will be circulating details of our student art competition which is being organised by Ms Connaughton. Students will be invited to take part and be in with a chance of winning one of our prizes.



Scholarship: Congratulations to past pupil, Amy Malone who is studying Sport with Business in IT Sligo and is the recipient of a Sports Scholarship this academic year for GAA. Amy is one of a number of our Leaving Cert class of 2020 who received Third Level scholarships during this academic year from universities and institutions such as NUIG, Trinity College, GMIT, Sligo IT and the Pauline & Bunnie Jones scholarships.



Leaving Cert Students: Over the past and coming week Acting Principal, Jarlath Burke has been having one-to-one meetings with all 6th Year students as they prepare for Leaving Cert '21 Examinations and Accredited Grades. Guidance Counsellor, Ann Marie Quinn and Year Head, Eileen Callaghan have also been providing extensive support to students as they explore options and prepare for the term ahead.

Teacher-Parent Feedback Reports: Teacher-Parent Feedback reports will be circulated to all / guardians of First Year and Fifth Year students during this coming week. These reports are being



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circulated in lieu of parent- teacher meetings which have had to be postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Leaving Cert 2021: Preparations for Leaving Cert 2021 are well under way. The Candidate Self Service Portal opened on Wednesday and during the week our 6th year students were given the opportunity to register and select their options with the support of Ms Quinn and Ms Callaghan. Students will have an opportunity to review and amend their options when the Portal reopens in late April.



Parents and students are being updated regularly on arrangements for LC & LCA '21 and information can also be accessed on our website castlereacs.com.

Ms Kenny, Mr Reidy and Mr Burke are currently making arrangements for our examination centres in line with Department of Education and HSE guidelines.

After-School Study: After-School study has resumed and will continue up to the end of the academic year.



Transition Year: Despite school closure we have been able to maintain a comprehensive programme of events, workshops and activities for our Transition Year students. Our TY students will return to school on Mon 12th April and in the meantime have been very busy throughout remote learning.

Poetry Aloud: Best of luck to Abi Flanagan (Transition Year) and Leanne Vaughan (2nd Year) as they currently prepare for the National Final of the Poetry Aloud competition. Under the guidance of their mentors, Ms Gormally and Ms Larkin, Leanne will be competing in the Junior Final and Abi will compete in the Intermediate final.

Poems Aloud!



Junior Cert 2021: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Junior Cycle State examinations will not take place this year. Students will participate in in-school assessments and will receive a report at the academic year. This will be followed by a Junior Cycle Certificate of Completion that will be issued by the State Examinations Commission in the Autumn. Arrangements for our in-school assessments for Junior Cycle students will follow.

Media Appearances: Well done to Leaving Cert student Isabelle Kelly Flanagan on her recent appearances on national media in which she spoke about the school closures and the Leaving Cert exams.

Social Media: Don't forget to follow us on our website (www.castlereacs.com) and on our social media.



Castlerea Community School



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