

Kishoge Community College

Principal's Report to Parents

8th December 2016

ANTI-BULLYING REPORT

All students have been made aware of the anti-bullying policy and what to do if they are being bullied or if they know of anyone being bullied.

There is good awareness among students of what steps the school will take when told that bullying is taking place.

All students have completed a brief survey on bullying in the school.

Three cases of bullying were identified in the course of the term and all were dealt with in accordance with the *Anti-bullying Policy*.

ASSESSMENT

Reports for Sept and October were posted at beginning of November.

MOCK EXAMS

Junior Cert Mock Exams run from Feb 9th- Feb 17th.

As it's the first time that the school has had mock exams the question arises as to whether or not to send scripts out for correction.

If money were not an issue the recommendation would be to send them out: the benefit to the students is that this allows teachers to continue uninterrupted with high quality preparation, teaching and assessment. Having the exams marked externally is an extra support to student learning.

If teachers have to mark up to 75 full papers the time that this takes (20-25 hours) will be time that the teacher cannot devote to planning, assessment etc.

The cost of external marking will vary from student to student but will be about €90.

TRANSITION YEAR 2017

Subject Dept plans by Dec 12th.

Draft programme outline by Feb.

Parents will be consulted in January.

PARENT – TEACHER – STUDENT MEETINGS

First and Third PTS meetings were held over 3 nights.

OPEN NIGHT

The school's Open Night took place on Weds 16th November. All staff, most students and members of the Parents' Council did a great job promoting the school. The Second and Third Years acted as student ambassadors showing groups of between 10-20 visitors around the school. The First Years acted as demonstrators in the 20 rooms that were open. The atmosphere on the night was very positive and parents and prospective students for 2017 and 2018 were very impressed with the building and facilities, with the staff and with the students.

750 people were counted through the door.

Open Night was followed by well-attended information evening for parents.

IPAD INITIATIVE

Dates for roll-out of iPads to incoming First Years: April 3rd – store opens, May 12th - store closes & June 22nd - Deployment Day.

Wriggle Ltd have informed the school that wef next school year they will be unable to support byods for incoming First Years. All parents of incoming First Year students have been informed.

SCHOOL CONCERT

School concert takes place next Wednesday 14th December at 7pm. Tickets on sale online and from Ruth Malone.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Parents and students can choose from the following trips:

- Weekend in Delphi, Co Mayo
- Weekend in Bundoran, Co Donegal
- Day trip to Adventure Centre, Co Wicklow
- Day hike, Co Wicklow

INTERNET SAFETY DAY

To mark Internet Safety Day on 7th Feb we are planning on bringing Zeeko Ltd to make presentations to all students during the school day, teachers after school and parents in the evening.

Zeeko's workshops cover topics such as cyber bullying, inappropriate content to include sexting and internet pornography, digital footprint and its consequences, excessive internet use, online relationships and friendships, and the internet and the law.

*"We also conduct a **FREE trend report (pupils internet behaviour questionnaire)** for your school. It is an anonymous report. The full report is made available for you to use with the parents association and the Board of Management.*

*We spoke to over 18,000 pupils in Ireland last year and our Trend Report on internet behaviour featured in **The Irish Times**.*

We are based in NovaUCD, working closely with Prof Lizbeth Goodman from the School of Education to further develop our solutions. We are Enterprise Ireland backed. We published the "Zeeko Internet Safety Guide" this year."

ETHOS COMMITTEE

Second parent required to sit on the committee.

ENROLMENT 2018

The number of applications for places in First Year 2018 exceeded the number of places available. In accordance with the *Admissions Policy* a lottery will take place at 2pm on Weds 14th Dec to establish a numbered waiting list.

One parent required to assist with the running of the lottery.

MATHS DEPT

The first round of the 30th Irish Mathematics Olympiad was held in the school and two students, Dylan Dolan and Prabhjeet Bissora are going to go and take part in the Mathematics Enrichment classes held in local Universities.

BUSINESS

The Second Year Business class are running a school bank in conjunction with Bank of Ireland. Students can lodge money into their accounts every Friday at lunchtime.

Thanks to Fiona K

ETHICAL ED DEPT

The Educate Together conference was on the weekend of the 19th November. Fiona Kane brought 3 students along to the Student Council Training session and StudentMeet. Both Ciara McMackin and Michael Manners attended the conference for the Friday and Saturday and found it to be overall very worthwhile. Michael Manners has taken on the role of the treasurer on the temporary executive of the Educate Together teacher professional network.

SCIENCE DEPT

Science Week was a very successful week in which all students engaged in various activities such as chemistry chaos demonstrations, rocket launching, setting hands on fire, poster

competitions, SEM (scanning electron microscope) picture competition, developing SciFest projects, watching daily screenings of David Attenborough 'planet earth' during lunchtime as well as creating a science week wall display.

GREENSCHOOLS

The Green Schools committee have submitted their application for the litter and waste flag. The committee has started working on ideas for the 'green fashion show' in March. The committee are currently designing an infographic for the Christmas season to give recycling tips to students, staff and their families in order to tackle the huge amount of waste generated over the Christmas period.

DRAMA CLUB

The drama club have been working hard in preparation for an on screen and live performance at the Winter show. They have divided into teams: Acting, Writing, Production and Filming. The scriptwriters have produced an outstanding script and scenes have been filmed, with a live show also in rehearsal. The filming team are working hard on editing the film portion of the performance, while actors and stage management are preparing the final production.

Thanks to Ciara McM

BOARD GAMES CLUB

Board-games club has started up on Tuesday and Thursday's at lunch time to facilitate a quieter space for students to play board games together, such as chess, connect 4, checkers, frustration, UNO etc. We had a small number in attendance on Tuesday and we hope that more students will attend over the coming weeks.

Thanks to Ciara R and Fiona O'D

LANGUAGES CLUB

Languages club (French and Spanish) is up and running. It's every Monday from 4-5pm. This gives students the opportunity to come and strengthen their communicative language skills in a quiet space.

Thanks to Áine and Fiona O'D

PE DEPT

Running Club:

Running club continues every Wednesday. Students head out for a 5k run around the surrounding area of the school.

(John and Rosie)

Basketball Club:

The 3rd Year boys basketball team made it to the final of the plate competition. Coming up against Ardgillen Community College in an exciting final in Oblate Hall, Inchicore. The boys played very well and fought hard but unfortunately Ardgillen were too strong and the boys lost by 5 baskets. Great progress made since last year.

1st and 2nd year boys and girls basketball starts this week. Starting 5 weeks earlier than last year to give the students a good start before their league campaign kicks off at the end of January.

(Áine and Rosie)

Football Club:

The first year football team started off their league campaign in November. It was their first match together and they showed great team spirit but unfortunately, they failed to beat their opponent.

The second year team have now played two matches. They came up against a tough opposition in their cup campaign and failed to progress. They have, however, had an excellent win in the league beating the opposition 4-3.

The girls have a very strong team this year, with a number of talented first years joining the team. The girls are playing in the U15 league and have played 2 games so far. Unfortunately, they are yet to get a win but have shown great determination and played very well together. .

(Aaron, Enda, Garvan, Michael M, Rosie)

Volleyball Club:

Volleyball club continues every Monday after school. Both teams have a competition coming up before the Christmas break

(Ciara B and Rachel)

Badminton Club:

Badminton club continues to be one of the most popular clubs currently running in Kishoge, with over 30 students attending each week.

(Ciara R and Maeve)

Dance:

Dance runs every Monday evening after school. Dance club is a mix of Zumba and hip hop. The students are going to perform at the school Christmas concert ta December.

(Kate)

Fitness Club:

Fitness club is fast becoming one of the more popular clubs running every week. We have almost 20 students attending before school, every Monday.

(Rosie)

Rowing Ireland:

The Rowing Ireland initiative is now up and running. We have been given 5 rowing machine and 4 highly qualified coaches who come in every week. . All seven first year classes are involved in the programme and are going to receive 6weeks of training on the indoor rowing machines, during their PE classes. It is also hoped that the students will also get an opportunity to go rowing in Islandbridge in spring time.

This is a very exciting programme to be part off and an excellent opportunity for the students. A 3rd Year student in Kishoge, Josh Gleeson has just become Junior Leinster Rowing Champion. Josh became involved in rowing after his experience of the programme in first year.