

After School Study

There has been a small change made to the system of supervised study this year. Owing to government guidelines on Covid-19, we have had to cap the number of students attending study to 24 students per centre.



As a result of this, priority has been given to the Leaving Cert and Junior Cert students to attend. The Leaving Cert centre has been set up in the Library while the Junior Cert centre is in Room 4. There is also a new payment system in place via the Way to Pay system on the school website.

There will be a review after the Mid-term with the hope of adding additional students to the Junior Cert centre with the option of adding 2nd and 5th years.

As per usual, supervised study is available for students for 2 hours after school, Monday to Thursday inclusive. Students interested in after school study should speak to Mr. M. Trainor. It is our experience that students who avail of the after school study perform well in their exams, both house exams and State exams. Two hours work in after school study will usually take more than two hours to complete at home. After school study costs €12 for four evenings or €4 for one evening.

Mr. M. Trainor in conjunction with the Student Council is responsible for the production of the school newsletters. If any student, teacher or parent has any relevant news items they think may be suitable for future newsletters, please contact Mr. M. Trainor or e-mail mtrainor@droghedacbs.ie.



Contacting the School

Tel: 041-9837232 Fax: 041-9843891
E-mail: info@droghedacbs.ie
Website: www.droghedacbs.ie
If you wish to meet a member of staff, please phone and make an appointment.

School Calendar

2020 — 2021

- October 2020**
26th - 30th: Mid-Term Break
- November 2020**
27th: School Closed
- December 2020**
23rd: Christmas holidays begin
- January 2021**
6th: School reopens after Christmas break
- February 2021**
15th - 19th: Mid-Term Break
- March 2021**
16th: JCT Staff Training Day. No students in School
17th: St. Patrick's Day
26th: Last day of school term before Easter break
- April 2021**
12th: School reopens after Easter break
30th: School Closed
- May 2021**
3rd: May Bank Holiday
- June 2021**
4th: Last day of school term
7th: June Bank Holiday
9th: State Examinations Commence



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Newsletter

St. Joseph's Secondary School



Our School, Our Safety



Know the Symptoms.

Wear a Face Covering.

Wash or Sanitise your hands regularly.

Practise good coughing and sneezing etiquette. **Don't** touch your face.

Open windows and doors for ventilation.

Keep a safe distance away from other people.

Disinfect regularly used surfaces.

Have fewer, shorter and smaller meetings

Check out the latest news on our School's Website
www.droghedacbs.ie



Drogheda Men's Shed to the Rescue

Every school in the country has had to adapt to the new normal, and made extensive changes to the school buildings and system to ensure the safety of all students, staff and families of those who attend the school.

Some schools have come up with invention ways to make social distancing easier, and St. Joseph's CBS enlisted the help of the Drogheda Men's Shed to help out.

'We are blessed in the Joey's to have extensive school grounds that we were able to adapt and develop over the summer in order to create designated external spaces for each of our year groups,' explains Deputy Principal Ms. Kelly.



'Principal Mr. Paul Savage got in contact with the Men's Shed to explore the possibility of them supplying us with 50 picnic benches. They were amazing and no job was too big. Over the space of two weeks we were supplied with 70 robust and durable benches that I have no doubt will be in place for many years to come'.

Like almost every school in the country, we were also in a situation where we had to replace our double desks with singles and with huge demand, supply of these desks nationally was limited.

'Once again, the Men's Shed came up with a solution'. 'They are currently in the process of converting up to a hundred double desks into singles in order for us to be able to lay out our classrooms in a safe and socially distanced way'.



New School App

We are delighted to announce that St. Joseph's are now using the new VS Ware app to communicate with parents/guardians. It can be downloaded from the Apple or Android store on your phone. Parents/guardians can now use the app to send absence notes and view your son's timetable and term reports. All messages and documents from the school will now come via the app. The log in is the same as when you used it in the past to view your son's term reports. Queries about the app can be emailed to info@droghedacbs.ie.



TY Beach Trip

On the 5th of October, the TYs went on a trip to the beach. We had hoped to go the Wednesday beforehand, but the weather conditions prevented us from doing so. We had permission to wear our own clothes as our uniforms would have been destroyed by the sand.



We were split into two groups; one group went to Clogherhead and the other group went to Termonfeckin. This helped with social distancing as there were less people on each bus. We also had to wear our masks on the bus.

The Clogherhead group started walking towards Termonfeckin and the Termonfeckin group started walking towards Clogherhead so we would meet in the middle. As we walked, we were reminded to keep distance where possible. When we re-grouped, we had our lunch and then had a race on the beach. We took a photograph of ourselves spelling out "TY 2020" with a drone.



We had a kick around with some footballs for a while and then kept going to our end destination. By



the time we got to the buses everyone was wrecked. It was good to get out and about not only for some exercise but for the benefit of our mental health and everyone had a great day.

Congratulations to the Leaving Cert Class of 2020

Although the school year of 2019-2020 didn't end as we all expected, we must acknowledge the outstanding achievements of what can only be said were an exceptional group of talented young men who completed their secondary education with us here in St. Joseph's in May. To mark the occasion of their progression from secondary education to the next stage of their academic journey, the school celebrated a graduation mass in their honour in the Our Lady of Lourdes Church on the 3rd of June hosted by Fr. Barry Matthews, on what would have been the starting date for their state examinations.

Amongst these young men, it is worth noting some of their academic achievements in the Leaving Cert results which were issued on the 7th of September. Conor McKenna received over 600 points in his results while 14 other students received 500 points or more in their Leaving Cert results including Eoghan Ryan, Niall McGinnity, Stan Goodwin, Matthew Leech, Conor Walsh, Mark Vonn Soller, Frank McClean, Seán Moore, Seán Abarico, Hugh McClean, Niall Moore, Emran Moustafa, George O'Carroll and Liam Mattila. In addition to this 23 students received 400 points or more in their results. All the teachers and staff in the school wish you all the very best in the future endeavours and look forward to greeting you on your return as school Alumnus at a later date.

First Year Literacy and Library Class

First year students are now several weeks into their Library reading class. They are enjoying reading a wide selection of books with favourite writers emerging including David Walliams, Derek Landy and Alex Ryder. Harry Potter continues to be a popular choice and The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is also a student favourite.



First year students will have a DEAR afternoon before mid-term (Drop everything and read) and during this afternoon they will be encouraged to relax and enjoy reading.

They also took part in a creative writing competition recently and we enjoyed reading their entries on what it was like to live in Ireland during the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918. They had the opportunity of writing a diary extract and perform their written piece in front of their classmates.



With all of us spending more time at home this year it is a good opportunity to pick up a book and enjoy reading again.

Cycling Champion!



Congratulations to our 2nd year student Conor Murphy, who became the U13 National Road Race Cycling Champion. The race took place in Waterford on Sunday 16th August. Well done Conor and perhaps we have the makings of a new Sam Bennett, Nicholas Roche or a Seán Kelly in our midst.

New Subject Options for Leaving Cert Students in the Joey's

2018 brought about the successful introduction of Politics & Society and Music as Leaving Cert subjects for the first time in St. Joseph's to complement the ever growing demand for an academic and practical subject range available to our students in the school. Politics in particular has become a very popular subject amongst our 5th and 6th year students under the careful tutelage of Ms. Hackett.

2020 has seen the introduction of Physical Education as an exam subject for the first time after a successful pilot scheme which was implemented country wide, alongside the provision of Applied Maths as an additional exam subject to our students. This brings the total number of option subjects available to our Leaving Cert students to twenty two! With two classes of exam P.E already timetabled for the current 5th years, we have no doubt that another success story is on the horizon.

A Message from Our Principal

Welcome to our first Newsletter of the 2020/2021 school year. We have returned to a very different school life this year. I hope that you and your sons have managed the return to school and all of the change that it has presented with relative ease.

This edition of our newsletter captures some of the changes we have experienced since 12th March 2020. We have done a lot of work to the school to make it safe for our return. We are very lucky with our facilities to be able to keep students in pods with the rest of their year group. Each year group has access to a separate computer room and toilet block within their pod. This helps to keep students separate from other year groups while at school.

We have introduced a split break time and lunch time so that students have plenty of space during these busy times in our school day. You will get a sense of the considerable changes and supports that we have put in place as you read through this edition of our newsletter.

Our website has a lot of additional information on Covid-19 guidelines. I would encourage you to visit it when you get an opportunity www.droghedacbs.ie. We recently uploaded a virtual tour of the school on our website for our new first years and this week we will add a virtual open night to the website to help prospective parents get a sense of the services and facilities we offer to our students.

Thanks to our students for their support in helping us to implement the government guidelines around safety protocols at this time. Please remind your son of the importance of maintaining social distance, wearing a cloth face covering at all times on school premises, sanitising hands and observing good coughing and sneezing etiquette.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my colleagues, deputy principals, teachers, special needs assistants, ancillary staff and the Board of Management for their continued work and support, for all of their efforts during lockdown and for their work to help with the reopening of our school in August.

Thanks to you, the parents and guardians, for your continued patience and understanding at this very difficult time for us all. I wish you and your loved ones good health over the coming weeks and months. If at any stage I can be of assistance or support to you or your son please do not hesitate to contact me.

Le gach dea ghuí.

Paul Savage,

Principal.



ASD Horticulture

The 1st and 2nd year ASD students are undertaking classes in Horticulture this year. They have spent the past two months working on an area in the corner of the staff car park, which was originally designed as a bee hotel by students Ross Walsh and Darragh McHugh in 2018, when they were part of Ms. Clinton's TY Science class. Unfortunately for Ross and Darragh, the school year finished before they could complete their work and in the subsequent year, the area was taken over by weeds, briars and grass again. This year, the ASD students began by removing all the weeds, briars and grass, digging and filling the soil into the area, adding four bags of organic compost and three bags of multipurpose compost, placing a weed block membrane on the ground and finally covering it with almost two tonnes of bark mulch. Over the coming months, the students will work with Mr. O'Brien to create trellis and with Ms. Murray to create a bottle cap mural for the area. For now, with the winter drawing close, the students in the Horticulture class will turn their attention to the glasshouse and soil experiments. Thanks to all involved, especially Horticulturist/Caretaker Niall Leonard for all his advice.



St Joseph's Multi-Sensory Room

This September St Joseph's opened a fully equipped multi-sensory room adjacent to our two ASD classes. A sensory room is a space designed to help an individual with sensory issues to regulate their reactions to external stimuli. The contents and design of our sensory room is tailored to the individual needs of our students because each student with sensory issues will have different requirements when it comes to learning to cope with the world around them. The reaction of the lads has been very positive. They find the room is a safe and calm space for them to cope with the challenges of a busy school environment. Special thanks goes to Ms Kelly who coordinated the design of the room over the summer.



First Year Thoughts

First couple of days very nerve wrecking but after a while I found out that it's a class school and the teachers are class!

My new school is very big in comparison to my primary school. I'm glad I can choose my subjects. Meeting new people was lots for fun. The exams are a lot harder. I am enjoying myself in secondary school.

At first I was worried about making the big move to secondary school. We missed out on so much time at the end of 6th class that I was unsure about making the transition successfully. We are now nearly two months into school work and I feel very comfortable in my new surroundings. I'm starting to enjoy my classes, making new friends and learning new subjects!

My life in St Joseph's was a hard start. I was not bringing in the right books and getting worried that I would get into trouble. Soon after all of this, I started to pack my school bag the night before and I was doing everything right. Now I'm having a good time in St Joseph's.

My First few days of Secondary School were not so bad. The work wasn't too difficult, but as it went on it got a little tougher for example classwork, getting to class, remembering what books I needed and homework. But after two to three weeks you get the hang of it and it's not so bad.

School, Covid and Me

My Primary School was a bit of a blur. What would happen in Secondary? I was a bit unsure. I only remember the last month of sixth class And even that went extremely fast. I remember the look on my teacher's face. I'm usually good, but today a disgrace. My face burns red, I try to act humble. It was the first time in a long time, that I've been in trouble.

I remember the last day before quarantine. When a pandemic was made from Covid-19. I thought it would be less than necessary. How was I to know it would go into secondary?