



PARENTS NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are in the final stage of this academic school year. It has been an interesting and busy year and we hope that each of our students have developed personally, academically and socially. Our first years have completed their summer tests and settled in well to the college, our 2nd and 5th years are in the process of doing exams and are ready to move into state exam mode next year. Our 3rd and 6th years are studying and know that all we expect from them is their very best, and only each individual can achieve that. Our Transition years have graduated after an action packed year of events. We are very proud of all our students here in Lucan CC and we hope that you have a restful, exciting and safe summer. This is our final newsletter this term. Enjoy catching up on some of the news from our college.

A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL DIANE BIRNIE

As we look back at the range of opportunities that have been offered to our students over the year, we thank teachers for arranging tours, subject-themed trips and activities and for the range of sports, arts and other events that are on offer so that your children have had a broad and balanced curriculum to choose from. We value your support as parents/guardians and thank those of you who take the time to provide feedback to the teachers in whose care you have placed your son/daughter. We are delighted that so many of our students have grasped every opportunity to participate in an active school life this year.

Our new **online payment system** has been launched and allows parents to pay their voluntary contribution more conveniently and to access receipts and balances for monies paid throughout the school year. Click 'online payments' on our website www.lucancc.ie. Thanks to those parents who are feeding back any glitches with the system to us for correction. We are gradually entering all cash/cheque payments made to the front office onto the system so everyone will soon be able to see their up-to-date balance and print off a receipt. Please continue to contact the front office if you cannot yet access the system.

Our **school app** is going from strength to strength and we now have over 300 new users. If you have not yet downloaded our app to your smart phone search for Lucan Community College ischool app and you can do so for free. We now have an accurate calendar of school events and upload out parent newsletter for ease of viewing (including this one).

We look forward to the construction of our 5 new rooms over the Summer months. While temporary in structure, the standard of the new kitchen, technology room and three general classrooms will be at a very high standard to allow for the transfer of equipment into the new school extension when it is completed.

The very best of luck to our Junior Cert, Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied students as they sit their examinations in June. Ensure that you try your best, leave no blank and then relax when it is all over. School reports, calendar for 2014/15, booklists and other start-up information will be posted out to all during June.

We had many practical examples of our theme: **Aontas – Unity in Learning** this year including:

- the wonderful and immediate response to Samra's Bosnian appeal
- a group of students who found a lost dog on their way home and ensured its safe return to a local vet

for collection by the relieved owner

- teachers who prepared interesting classes, took time and effort to correct and comment on students work and who made that extra effort to support students who needed it
- students and staff who worked together to support our anti-bullying policy to ensure that all could experience a safe and supportive learning environment
- students who supported their peers by texting homework details, being friendly to all, listening at tough times and passing on concerns to a trusted adult
- our student council who campaigned tirelessly for improved toilet facilities and who were delighted with the funding provided by the DES for refurbishment next year
- the contribution that our Transition Years who engaged in Community Voluntary work made to the many and varied organization in the area.

Each individual makes a difference to the working of our school, and together we form a strong community of learning. Thanks to each and every one of you for playing your part.

On behalf of the staff of Lucan CC may I wish you all a good break from routine over the Summer. We wish health and happiness to those who will not be returning to the college next year and we look forward to seeing our returning students looking well-rested in August.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION:

The Parents Association of Lucan Community College work with the Principal, staff and Board of Management to help build a partnership between the home and the school. We help to promote the interest of the students in the school with the help of all involved.

The P.A. meet the 1st Tuesday of the month at 8pm. Although a small number of parents attend these meetings, the parents of all students in Lucan Community College are members.

Over the last number of years the association have:

- Organized information/social events for new parents to the school
- Arranged talks/topics of interest to parents
- Organized major school events e.g. the Debs.
- Contributed to the newsletter and school website
- Organized fundraising events.

In fact a fashion show is to be held in the Springfield Hotel in Leixlip on October 16th. As you can imagine this event is going to take a lot of hard work. We would be very grateful to hear from you if you would like to get involved in any way at all. Please get in touch with the association, through the school reception.

The funds raised from this event will help equip the much needed prefabs which are being erected over the summer months.

UNIFORM

Our new uniform supplier is The Schoolwear House, (Formerly Clothiers), Unit 7 Castle Crescent, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22. Ph: 01 4641151. Thanks to our Parent Association for the work done on seeking best quality and value in the recent uniform review. The Schoolwear House will visit the school on dates in June and August to allow for fittings and purchase. Details will be on our website, our app and will be posted out in June.

We look forward to seeing all of our students in full uniform from the first day of school next year including plain black leather shoes and school coat. Our thanks to parents and guardians for supporting the focus on uniform throughout this year and for showing such strong support for the uniform in our uniform survey.

FIRST YEAR NEWS -(a note from Year Head & Team)

The year management team accompanied students to **Avon Rí Adventure Centre** on **Friday 9th May** for their end of year trip. The students participated in a range of activities which included kayaking, archery, high wire and obstacles courses. The co-operation of the students was excellent throughout the day and a fun and enjoyable day was had by all.

Rome Trip: A trip to Rome is being organised around Easter time next year 2015. In Rome we will visit: Cistine Chapel and Vatican Museums, St Peter's Basilica, Colosseum, Forum, Pantheon, Trevi Fountain and Spanish Steps. We will finish our trip with a visit to Pompeii and a walk to the top of Vesuvius.

Stratford Trip: Students are asked to express interest in a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon and Alton Towers which will take place on April 30th – 2nd May 2015 for three days and two nights. Please see details distributed to students about this exciting trip. Total cost is €460. There are 40 places available.

The team wish to thank all parents for their continued support especially in the weekly checking and signing of journals which is an invaluable link between school and home. We hope all 1st years have a happy summer and enjoy the well-earned break.

SECOND YEAR NEWS-(a note from Year Head & Team).

End of year Trip: We are looking forward to our trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre on May 23rd - any outstanding monies can be given to the tutors or Mr Grimes.

Summer Exams: All students are busy doing exams and we hope you all do your very best.

A reminder to all students, that on Monday 22nd September a third year talk on study skills will take place in the college to aid you in preparation for your Junior Certificate exams in 2015.

We wish you all a happy and safe summer!

THIRD YEAR NEWS-(a note from Year Head & Team).

The third year tutors and year head wish "Good Luck" to all our Third Year students as they start their Junior Cert. exams in June. Students have been working very hard and have already completed some parts – orals, project work and practical exams. Students must wear full uniform throughout the State Exams. It is important to keep working steadily in these last few weeks. It is equally important for students to take regular short breaks and to get plenty of rest and eat healthily. It is a good idea to remind students to keep TV's, phones, computer games etc. out of their bedrooms in order to help students focus on their studies and get proper rest.

We look forward to welcoming our third year students back into an exciting Transition Year. Class groups, options and booklists will be sent out during the summer months.

Good Luck from all of us here at LucanCC.

FOURTH YEAR/TRANSITION YEAR NEWS-(a note from TY Coordinator, Year Head & Team).

Another Transition year has come to a close and as usual students had opportunities to try out a wide range of new experiences. Thanks to all of our staff for the imaginative and varied programme on offer. We regularly have applicants from other schools for students to join in TY because of the excellent programme on offer. We include a report on a sample of recent activities.



GREASE: What a fantastic production! A show, which was enjoyed by all who attended and may I add with record breaking sales. Tickets were sold out in days and no one was disappointed. Feet were tapping and bodies swayed to the lively music from *Summer Nights* to *Grease Lightning*. Our students were absolutely fantastic! All the hard work, hours of rehearsals, lines learned and dance routines practiced certainly paid off in spectacular

fashion during the three night run. Special mention to Mr. John O'Connor and Mr. John Kenny who ensured the students were so well prepared. Well done to all involved.

History Trip: History students went into Dublin to Collins Barracks and Dublin Castle where they were immersed in history and the bad weather did not dampen the day. Students had a workbook to fill out and the day was included in their end of year history assessment.

Amnesty Trip: A group of Transition Year students were involved in Amnesty this year and went with Ms McCarthy & Ms O'Gara to Amnesty head office to engage in awareness raising activities.

Fundraising: Fundraising for the Irish Heart foundation took place on the 15th & 16th of May and the students raised €540. A big thank you to all the students who gave freely of their time and got involved for such a good cause.

Driving School Trip:

Driving school Trip took place in April with Mr Doyle - a very brave man indeed to take the TY students to the Leinster Driving School for a day's driving experience where students did some theory but then got to drive for two hours. After a few stalling incidences they all got going and had a great time. Two female students, yes girls, were awarded best drivers. Well done to Orla Kenny and Leah Whitefield.



TY Graduation 2014: Interviews took place on May 16th for all our TY students who collated their project work from last term and this term and creatively designed their portfolio boxes. Students presented their portfolio boxes for this event and discussed their work and contribution to Transition year. On their graduation evening last week 20th May, the students were awarded school certificates to reflect their results in the interviews ranging from Pass to Distinction. They also received certification from the Department of Education, a leadership Certificate for completing the *Supergeneration Mastery* in Leadership Skills workshops. Some students were awarded a Tourism Certificate by Fáilte Ireland. The students displayed all their work in the hall on the night of Graduation. A wonderful display of their portfolio boxes, art work, science projects, fabulous wood crafted displays, and terrific board games made in Maths plus lots more. The students themselves spoke and had slideshows to give the audience a taste of what they experienced in the past academic year. The students have left and are now motivated, mature and ready for their journey to Leaving Certificate with new friends to help & support them on their way.

Thanks to all of our parents who attended and supported this wonderful evening. Well done to each and every one of our students for a wonderful year. We wish them every success and a safe and happy summer.

FIFTH YEAR NEWS- (a note from Year Head & Team):

Well done to James Carron and Jenny Bowler who participated in the Gaisce President's Award. They completed their silver Gaisce tasks and will receive their silver medals in December in Trinity College.

You are entering your final year and in September you will be the most senior students in our college. Enjoy your summer and come back refreshed and ready for dedication and hard work. From all the team have a happy and safe summer. Congratulations also to James Carron for being nominated for the Student Volunteer Award with Lucan Lions Club. James was awarded a framed pennant for his volunteer work in the community.

LEAVING CERT. APPLIED (LCA) NEWS: (a note from LCA Coordinator):

What a fantastic evening we had on Wednesday 21st at our Leaving Cert. graduation evening. We were so proud of class Crean. To see what beautiful competent young adults you have become is truly wonderful. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you over the past two years (and some a lot longer). Wishing you all every good wish as you move on from our college and we are sure you will succeed beyond your wildest dreams. Will miss you.

SIXTH YEAR NEWS- (a note from Year Head & Team):

Extracts from Mr Purcell's Graduation 'Thank you' Speech!

(Time on the night did not allow me to be more specific so I just said a big THANK YOU to all!)

A huge **Thank You** to you, our students – we wouldn't be the school that we are in if it were not for our fantastic, mannerly, friendly, hard-working and supportive students that we are lucky to have in our school on an ongoing basis. Many teachers or school managers from many schools are amazed and do not believe the kind of evening events we are happy to run in conjunction with our students and parents – a night like this where we get together in community and have great fun times and even more precious memories. Your excellent, mature and gracious behaviour over the past number of days (which is expected and is the norm in our school but unfortunately is not always the case in others) highlights the qualities and values we hold dear among the staff here and I'm sure among you, our students and parents.

A second **Thank You** to you, the parents and guardians of our wonderful students. Rarely do our paths meet in anything other than a respectful and caring environment and attitude – where your son or daughter is always placed at the centre of all our consideration and care. Long may it last.

A third **Thank You** to our support staff – Joanne and Sharon in the office who give hugely of their time and energies to always be a smiling and caring face of the school – to the Resource staff, the Special Needs Assistants, to Frances Murphy, the Leaving Cert Applied Co-ordinator and co-coordinator of the Special Education Needs in Lucan CC– who is still one of my heroes. Thank you also to Tony Ralph, our caretaker and all our maintenance staff, who always work to keep the school in running order.

A fourth **Thank You** to the other Year Heads and Assistant Principals who have given me so much support and encouragement and a big thank you to Ms Birnie as well – who is a tireless advocate of excellence in education in our college – she is a forthright and authentic believer in the pursuit of the philosophy of education for life and achieving your best no matter what obstacles stand in your way. She only ever wants the best for all in Lucan Community College and it is a pleasure to work so closely with such a protagonist. There are many other exemplary words that I could use to convey the support she has shown me but I will just say 'thank you'.

A fifth **Thank You** to all the wonderful teachers who, you students, have had contact with over the past 5 or 6 years; whether it was in class, in supervised study, in the many extra-curricular activities, on trips or just in the corridors. Even when you thought teachers were giving out to you, I'm sure you realise now, that it was only in yours and others best interests. You students have left good impressions and we, as a staff, always enjoy having a quick chat to catch up on with our past pupils. Thank you, teachers. Also, a thank you to Ms Patricia Knightly, previous Year Head to the majority of this year group and to the previous tutors of this group.

The final **THANK YOU** is, of course, to my tutor team; Mr Eoin MacCraith, Mr Jason Carey, Ms Alma Flynn, Ms Eithne Bean, Ms Lorraine Quirke, Ms Eileen O'Gara and Ms Edel McManus. All dependable and constant, all kind and considerate, all skilled and supportive and above all, students, your tutors believe in you and have stood up for you and had your back. Thank you tutors.

Other 6th year news: One more thank you – to Olivia, Emma and Laura for really getting the show on the road and to Gavin and Sinéad for running the show last Wednesday evening. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

The Leaving Cert! – Remember students to be in before 9am next Wednesday to get yourselves sorted with your LC centres and being in your place to sign on and listen to your centre supervisors instructions in lots of time.

Ms Freeman is the Exam Aide in school and any issues or problems during the exams will firstly go to her. Please remember that there are lots of other exams more than twenty rooms in the building so you must be quiet and have respect for others during this time.

Please do not leave your examinations early – it is an awful waste – stick them out to the end and try your best at every question. Don't forget that if leaving early, you MUST sign out with the 5th year attendant outside your centre.

Absolutely **NO MOBILE PHONES** in the building – not in your pockets, or even bags and your **LOCKERS** will be cleared out also. If you have anything left in your lockers please remove by next Thursday. The school phone can be used in case of any emergency or need.

Best of luck to everyone in the exams and enjoy the summer,

Don't forget that Wednesday August 13th is D-Day. A text will be sent out to notify when results can be picked up from the school but it is usually after 10am.

Thanks to the Home Economics department and team of TY students, for organising and providing tea/coffee and biscuits for our graduation evening on Wednesday last.

MATHS NEWS:

Four of our first year students competed in the finals of the junior maths competition run by the IMTA (Irish Maths Teachers Association) in Castleknock Community College. Our students qualified for the finals. Well done to Aoife Mahon, Lorna Doherty, Emer Kenny and Jessica Odidison.



LITERACY POLICY – POSTCARD CAMPAIGN

Once again as part of our plan to improve student literacy and encourage a love of reading we are launching our summer postcard campaign. Students, parents/guardians, grandparents and teachers/staff members are all invited to write us a postcard from wherever they may be this summer whether at home or abroad whenever they finish reading a book. Tell us where you are, what you read, and what you thought of the book. Only a couple of sentences! Send us one postcard or many. Post it or drop it into the office. Just like last year, we will display the cards received on our literacy tree and have prizes of book vouchers for the most interesting cards received. So drop us a line!



SCRATCH COMPUTER PROGRAMMING:

Congrats to Oisín, Darragh and Thomas from 1st Year who participated in the recent Scratch National Final. The students created their own game, which they demonstrated to the judges at the event which took place in Dublin Castle on May 2nd. Scratch Club takes place in our school every Tuesday at lunchtime under the guidance of Ms. McCarthy/Ms Gaffney. It is a great honour for these students to be selected for such an event, as their game was one of the top 25 from over 950 projects. Well done to all involved!

ARTS WEEK

Next year's Arts Week will take place in October 2014 instead of our usual February. Theme yet to be decided. Get ready for an action-packed fun week when students can learn new skills and get involved in various exciting activities.

GLUAIS

The Gluais team for 2014/15 are as follows: Molly McCabe; Keith Finn; Katie Redmond; Aisling McLaughlin; David Gartlan; Chloe Twamley; Daniel Forde; Katie Oakes; Katie Farrell and Jennifer McMurray. They are getting ready to give our incoming first years a tour of our college this week.

Well done to our current Gluais team who have worked well throughout the year. Shaun Maguire, Dean Coleman, Jack O'Toole, Eoghan Doyle, Kelly Crowe, Yetunde Glenbe, Jane Doran, Aisling Ní Ghrádaigh, Shannon Byrne and Alex Robinson. You called the roll every Thursday morning and had weekly meetings to keep up to date on the various events and activities of our first years and you were in constant contact with tutors. You took great care of our first years and made sure that they all settled in well to secondary school life. You organised a fun afternoon in the hall in October and helped out at the Santa party in December. You are currently organising a fun day for first years on Tuesday 27th May. Each and every one of you are all a credit to yourselves and the school. Thanks for your commitment and dedication.

GERMAN NEWS

Our 23rd German Exchange trip will take place in September with the arrival of 21 German students on Sunday 7th September 2014. They will be looked after by 21 of our enthusiastic third students who are

looking forward to their return trip in February 2015 when they will be in TY. Thanks to our wonderful parents who have come on board this year to participate in this worthwhile exchange programme.

DEUTSCH MOBIL

Many of our first and second year German students enjoyed an afternoon of activities and games, all thanks to the arrival of the Deutsch Mobil. Deutsch Mobil is driven by a group who visit schools and is organised by the German Teacher's Association of Ireland. They help promote the German language through the use of organised games and a range of interactive techniques which they provide for the students. It is quite prestigious that we were selected for this visit. *Deutsch* was spoken during the visit and our students were enthusiastic and willing to participate. Our visitors were very impressed with their engagement and presented each student with gifts at the end. Well done to all involved.



FRENCH NEWS

We look forward to welcoming our French assistant who will be working in our college from October 2014 to May 2015.

CAREER GUIDANCE NEWS:

Student Grants: Students can apply for grants to attend both Higher Education, (Institutes of Technology and Universities), and colleges of Further Education. Apply online at www.susi.ie. The closing date is 1/8/14.

CAO: The Change of Mind facility will remain open until 1/7/14. Students are reminded to check carefully all correspondence from CAO. Students should email CAO if they have any queries regarding their application.

Intel Scholarships-women in science: Any student who would like assistance in completing their application form, please contact Ms O'Hara who will put you in contact with Mr Hayden who will give you advice and guidance. This scholarship offers €2000 per year for the duration of your third level studies and includes a work placement if it is part of your third level course.

MEMORABLE VISIT

A bright May morning saw the visit of a very special lady to the sixth Year Social & Scientific Home Economics class. **Esther Nolan** who is the wonderful age of **102** (this is not a misprint) a Great Grandmother of Amy Mc Dermot graced us with a visit. She was an inspiration to the students telling them about her life and sharing the good and bad memories. The students study the Historical Development of the Family and the Social, Technological and Economic factors that affect the family. The students asked lots of questions and two TY History students came along to ask about historical events that she may have had memories of. It was a wonderful opportunity for the staff and students of the college. The students will always remember the stories that Esther told them and she made history come to life. We could have listened all day. Students were amazed to hear her describe the burning of the Four Courts during the Easter Rising as she sat on her back wall waving a flag, her first day at school and getting slapped by the teacher - they were glad times had changed!! We are so grateful for this opportunity and want to thank the Mc Dermott family for making it possible.



RED CROSS BOSNIAN APPEAL

A big thank you to Samra Kuljancic of 5th year, who organised a fundraiser for the Red Cross Bosnian Appeal. Samra and her family are originally from Bosnia and she was delighted that the students and teachers in Lucan CC made such an effort to help her appeal. She was very proud and delighted to be able to despatch a large amount of goods to those in need in Bosnia. Thanks to all who took the time to drop in goods for distribution.

SPORTS DAY

The weather stayed fine for our 1st and 2nd Year sports day on May 14th. Events included soccer, basketball, dodge ball, puc fada, shot putt, athletics and penalty shoot-out. As always there was great inter-class competition. Class and individual awards will be presented at the end of the year.

BADMINTON

A number of our first year boys and girls participated in a badminton blitz during April and May. Fifty students were involved in this energetic and fun activity. Our winners were Ciaran Behan and Aoife Mahon. Well done for your participation and thank you to Ms Gallagher.

BASKETBALL

A fantastic year of basketball took place this year under the super guidance of Ms Lamont who has worked diligently for the last four years with all our teams. It was the first time ever that Lucan CC finished on top of the league table for all league teams. U-19 girls, U-19 boys and U-16 girls. This saw LCC host all semi-finals on one day. Unfortunately our girls didn't make it to the finals. Our U-19 boys went on to win the East region finals and are now the current all-Ireland bronze medallists. We wish them all the best for the future. Well done.

TEACHERS VS STUDENTS SOCCER

For the second year in a row the teacher's team created quite a shock by beating a very talented 6th year team. After a 0-0 draw the game was decided on penalties with a 6-5 win for the teachers. The annual match is a great way to finish up the year and the game was played in a competitive but very sporting manner. Man of the match was Mr MacCraith and well done to Mr Morrissey who scored the winning goal! Well done.

SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS

Well done to Danielle Murray who has been selected for the Irish U-16 soccer team, to Max Carey who won the West Leinster school U-15 long jump event and to Molly Scuffil-McCabe who has been named in the Irish U-18 Rugby Sevens squad.

Continued success to Declan Kelly who is currently on the Leinster schools golf team and holds an impressive handicap of three.

SCHOOL WALK

Our last term ended with all our students and staff taking part in a walk in the local area. The walk was part of our ongoing efforts to promote healthy and active lifestyles among our students and teachers. It was also very much in keeping with our school motto and theme for the year of "Aontas". Over the six weeks prior to this, our teachers wore pedometers to monitor their level of activity. This in itself raised awareness in our school. The initiative was proposed and organised by our PE teachers (Stephen Brett, Eoin McCraith and Fiona Coghlan). On the day of the walk, Supervalu very kindly sponsored and supplied a large quantity of fruit. Well done to all involved and don't forget to keep active over the Summer months!

CHARITY COLLECTION

Charity collection: Class Roche of 3rd year recently held an all-night sleep over in the college. They raised €800 for Focus Ireland. Their fundraising efforts have continued and they hope to reach the €1000 mark. The students were supervised at the sleep over by their tutor Ms Doyle, Ms McManus and Mr Duffy. Thank you to the Justice and Peace group of St Mary's Lucan for supporting their endeavours by providing seed money for them to start their fundraising efforts. Eoin Hayes spoke to the Lucan congregation recently about the fundraising work and was complimented for his presentation.

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

Evening classes are now winding down and will finish up in May. New classes will begin in September 2014. If you are interested in attending or giving a course, please contact the school. Enquiries to: Jason Carey at 016282077. All welcome.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR NEWS: So much is happening that space does not allow us to report it all. Please look at the school website-www.lucancc.ie to see photos and reports on all events. **Thanks to all the teachers and parents who have given up their time to help out and support our after-school programme.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 22 - Monday 26 May 2nd & 5th year formal summer exams

Tuesday 27th

- 5th year fun morning and walk in afternoon (YH and tutors)
- 1st year Fun afternoon & Gluais (YH & tutors)
- 2nd year trip to Avon Rí all day (YH & tutors)

Wednesday 28th May

- Students finish class at 11.55am to facilitate a staff meeting.

Thursday 29th May

- Normal classes and Mini awards for 1st, 2nd 3rd and 5th years throughout the morning
- Students finish classes at 1.10pm

Friday 30th May

- students in at 9.30am with tutors
- End of Year Ceremony 10.30-12.30 approx

Wednesday 4 June 2014 - Junior and Leaving Cert & LCA exams begin. (Good Luck to all)

While the first staff meeting of 2014/15 will take place on Monday 25th August, students will return on following days. Details of school reopening will be displayed on our website and posted out in June.