



PARENTS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2017

EDITED BY COLETTE CLARKE

Greetings from Lucan Community College! At this stage we are all settled in to life in college for a new school year. We are approaching our first mid-term break and are currently preparing for **mid-term assessments**. We ask every student to work to the best of their ability and to use these weeks to get into study mode.

All we want for our students in LCC is for each person to do their best in a **happy and respectful** environment. Always remember to talk and listen to each other and to be kind. As you know all schools remained closed on the 16th and 17th October due to the Ophelia storm. We hope that every member of our school community remained safe.

It has certainly been a busy first term for all of us. So, we would like you to sit back and enjoy reading this term's newsletter. Of course so much is happening in our college that we also invite you to take a regular look at our school website at www.lucancc.ie to see more detail. We hope you enjoy the read.



A NOTE FROM OUR PRINCIPAL (Ms. Birnie)

Welcome back to a new school year in Lucan Community College. Our theme for this year is **legacy** and we have been reflecting on everything the school has accomplished over the last thirty years and looking forward to visioning everything that the community will be achieving in the years ahead. Each student was invited to achieve personal success this year by building on everything they have accomplished in their recent past. We invite all our students to be active agents in their own learning, to be full participants in school life, both curricular and extra-curricular, to ensure a balanced, healthy lifestyle and to ensure that when June 2018 arrives they can look back on this year knowing that they have taken a positive step forward in their educational journey. As a parent/guardian, what legacy are you leaving for your child's education – participation in relevant meetings, supporting them as they complete homework, attending parent association events and fundraising activities, setting aside time to talk about their experiences in school and elsewhere. Good luck building your legacy for the year ahead!

The Junior Cycle Programme continues to be rolled out for Junior students with 1st years studying the new curriculum specifications in English, Science, Business, French/German, Irish and Visual Art. Wellbeing is also an integral part of the curriculum encompassing SPHE, CSPE, guidance, PE and aspects of healthy eating covered in Home Economics and Science. Our students will cover different themes throughout the year and we will link these themes to various whole school events. We encourage you as parents to engage with your son/daughter on wellbeing topics and discuss with them how they are practicing the indicators of wellbeing by being active, responsible, connected, resilient, respected and aware members of the school community. No doubt John Lonergan's talk will have some words of wisdom to offer.

Our extra-curricular programme is up and running and we have a wide range of activities for students to take part in thanks to the generosity of teachers with their time and commitment. As a parent/guardian, your generous contribution to the voluntary contribution fund covers the cost of so many additional things that we offer your son/daughter over and above the basic educational experience. We also need to charge for some of the additional trips that are being run to complement your son/daughter's educational experience. Please check

your online payment account regularly to see what is owed. Payments for 3rd and 6th year mock exams will be set up online shortly and can be paid by instalments. Your support is much appreciated.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Our special Parents' Association Meeting with **John Lonergan**, the former Prisoner Governor of Mountjoy for 24 years and current author and motivational speaker, as their guest speaker, on 16th October had to be cancelled due to the Ophelia storm as our college was closed. We are delighted to announce that our next PA meeting will take place on 7th November at 7.30pm and will feature John Lonergan.

All parents are invited to attend and we are sure there will be massive demand for this exciting event. John Lonergan will be speaking about parenting after recently publishing a book on the topic. His philosophy of parenting guides the narrative of his book: **Parenting: Raising Your Child in Ireland Today**. He will also speak about his life, his job as Prisoner Governor in the country's toughest prison as well as the challenges of parenting in modern Ireland.

If you have not yet attended a Parents' Association event, please make this your first meeting as it is not one to be missed. As always, all parents are warmly welcomed to this Parents' Association event and we hope to see you there on the night. There will also be a collection on this evening for Barnardos and any donations on the night would be appreciated.



We look forward to seeing you at our annual Bingo Night on Thursday 7th December in The Lord Lucan Pub at 7.30pm until late! Lots of fun and prizes to be won. All are welcome.

ENROLMENT 2019

Applications are now being accepted for 1st Year 2019 from students in 5th class primary school. Application forms were distributed to the prioritized primary schools listed in our enrolment policy and are also available from the school office. Closing date for applications is **4.30pm on Friday 27th October 2017** and late applications are given the lowest priority. Applicants will receive a letter within two months of the closing date to communicate whether or not they are being offered a place or are on the waiting list. An open evening was held last year to which all 4th and 5th class pupils were invited. Further information is available on our website.

EXTENSION PLANS

The detailed planning stage of the school extension and refurbishment process is ongoing and the design team is working to move towards the tendering process. We look forward to the work continuing over the next 2-3 years and thank everyone who has been supporting this process. Exciting times ahead!

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

Congratulations to all our First Year students who have settled in so well since the start of term. Many have become involved in a wide range of extra-curricular activities which is fantastic. If your son/daughter is not involved please encourage him/her to get involved.

Our **Gluais team** have helped very much with the settling in process. They do registration once a week and are making sure, along with tutors, that each of our First Years are adjusting to second level education. Thanks to our Gluais team for organising a successful quiz in September.



We ask parents to continue looking at your son's/daughter's journal each night and to sign the journal each week. We are now following the Homework and Study Policy as outlined in the School Journal (and referred to in the First Year Information Night on Tuesday 10th October). Thanks for attending this important evening. Please encourage your child to do their best each day at their homework.

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

Welcome Back - Let's get going!

It was great to see all our students back after the summer, fit, well and ready to get stuck into the new academic year. Second year is particularly important as it builds on the settling in and preparatory work that was the central focus of first year. In second year we focus more closely on the requirements of the exam.

Homework Policy: Effective and efficient work in relation to homework and study is essential to exam success. As you know we have a structured homework policy. We would ask parents to familiarise themselves with the details of the programme and to support their son or daughter in this central aspect of their school life. Details of the policy can be found on the school website, and a summary is given in the school journal.

The Journal: We would emphasise that parents checking notes in the journal on a weekly basis is central to the success of the homework policy, and to what happens in the school. It is the main medium, through which we can have inter communication between school and home.

Second Year Tour: This promises to be a fantastic experience for all involved. We have informed all those involved that the deadline for full payment of the cost of the tour is early January. We would urge parents to pay the regular instalments to the tour company, rather than leaving it until the period around Christmas when we all have extra demands upon our finances. At this point there is a €250 cancellation fee, and this increases as time passes.

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

Our students are well settled and generally working hard towards their Junior Cert exams next summer. Students have been issued with sample study plans by their tutors to help prepare for the November assessments which are happening immediately after the mid-term break, in advance of the third year Parent Teacher Meeting in December. There has been a good uptake in supervised study after school too and in extra-curricular activities

The school wishes to warmly congratulate one of our 3rd year students, Laura Brophy, from class Beckett, who represented Ireland over the summer break in **Precision Gymnastics**. Laura was one of 12 gymnasts from Clondalkin Gymnastics Club selected to represent Team Ireland at the GFA World Championships in July.

Laura flew with the team to Norway where she participated in Precision Gymnastics at the World Championships. The team excelled at this highest of levels and managed to win team silver medal at the prestigious World Championships. This outstanding silver medal places Laura's gymnastic team as the highest Irish ranking team ever at the GFA World Championships.

Well done on this wonderful achievement and we wish her continued success in gymnastics in the coming years.



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

Congratulations to our 164 students who completed their Junior Certificate examinations with us this year. The results were outstanding across the board and student, parents and teachers are justifiably proud.

Particular mention goes to top achiever Samuel Doyle with 8As and a distinction in the new Junior Cycle English examination. Alex Hanley, Lucy Reade, Delfin Malaj, Sophie Scanlon, Laura Lakes, Sheik Bah, David Akinwale, Emmet Bellew, Aaron McGrath, Stanko Lazerevic, Gabrielle Kolesnikovaite, Sean Egan and Aisling Kavanagh who were among our top achievers achieving at least 5As.

Well done to all of our teachers, support staff and parents who helped encourage and support students along the way. Welcome to our new students who have just joined the school to participate in our renowned TY programme. **Seize every opportunity you are offered – in line with our TY theme of ‘Seize the day’!** There is a broad and varied range of activities for students to experience in TY and we are delighted to see so many of them take such an active role this year. If TY students have not got fully involved as yet, please encourage them to do so.

Teachers have reported great enthusiasm and positivity among the group and we highly commend all those who are so willingly getting involved, taking part and doing their best. There will be an **interview** at the end of the year in which students will be invited to share their experiences through presentation of a portfolio. This interview will count towards their end of year grade.

Voluntary Community Work (not to be confused with Work Experience!) forms should be completed and returned to Mr Brett by now. There is also a Voluntary Community Work Record Card, which is to be signed by their supervisor every week.

Voluntary Community Work counts for 5% until Christmas and another 5% until end of May, that’s 10% of overall grade. A special thanks to the teachers who have agreed to liaise with students who are carrying out their voluntary work in the school after hours. Students are reminded to bring back college Work Experience forms to Ms Williams. At the moment there are still a large number of students who have to return forms, this must be done immediately. Students should not be attending work experience unless the relevant forms have been submitted to the college.

We remind parents and students about registration times in transition year. **Registration** takes place at 8.55am on Monday and Thursday and at 9am on a Tuesday in tutorial class. We ask all students to be on time for registration as punctuality and attendance will be a factor in graduating from transition year in May.

On September 7th, fourteen of our TY Students travelled to Dublin airport with their German teacher, Ms Clarke and their TY Co-ordinator Ms Williams, to welcome their German Exchange partners and their two teachers, Frau Rosi Böhne and Herr Christian Strecker. An action packed programme was organised for our **26th German Exchange programme**. Trips to Causey farm, Howth, Dublin city centre, Bunratty Castle were enjoyed by all. Thanks to our wonderful parents for hosting and taking such great care of our German teenagers. They learned how to play Gaelic football and hurling. They baked Irish scones and sang Irish songs along with a few Irish steps. The Exchange was a fabulous experience for all involved. Tears were shed as we said *Auf Wiedersehen* on Friday 15th September. But we look forward to our return trip in February 2018 to Münchberg. Thanks to our German Department and Team for making this Exchange possible. Thanks to all our staff for their continuous support and involvement and for making our German friends feel at home.

As usual our fourth years were busy involved in various activities this term. Their first trip was a two day trip to **Delphi** which was an adventure of a lifetime. 150 students left the college early on Monday 2nd October. On arrival, the students were immediately assigned groups and began their varied and colourful activities.



Bog swimming, archery, abseiling, high ropes and bush craft were just a sample of the many activities students could experience and enjoy.

After a restful night's sleep, for most, the activities began again early on Tuesday with surfing, peer jumping, rock-climbing, team challenges again as examples of the adventures on offer. After another day full of activity and adventure, and with tired limbs and smiling faces, the buses departed from Delphi brimming with tired but joyful students. Arriving back long after nightfall the tired students and teachers wearily headed home for a well-deserved sleep. A big thanks to TY coordinator, Ms Williams, for organizing the trip, the TY tutors (Ms Bean, Mr Carey, Ms Healy, Ms Flynn, Ms Joy) and Mr Purcell & Mr Brett for supervising the trip. After this successful trip, we continue to be extremely proud of this group of students. We commend them for their enthusiasm, respect and positive attitudes and we relish seeing what they will accomplish in this very exciting and busy year ahead.

66 Transition Year **volunteers** donned their cleaning gear and picked up their brushes, mops and leaf blowers on October 10th to really give the school a much needed lift. The students spent a whole day **cleaning** every nook and cranny of the college building.



The initiative was conceived by Mr Duffy, who is also heavily involved in our Green Schools programme in the college. As we wait for the addition of our new extension, and a much-needed refurbishment of our current building, staff and students both felt the existing building could do with some extra TLC to match the care that occurs in every classroom. The need for this extra care is front of our minds as a school community as we approach our 30th anniversary. We want to sincerely thank all of the student volunteers and teachers involved with this wonderful 'giving back' initiative.

As a community we are so proud that so many of our transition year students wanted to improve the place where all members of our school community come to learn.

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

Well done to 5th years on a very good start to the term. After the wonderful participation in the TY programme, students are back to slightly less adventurous terrain and the Leaving Cert is beckoning. The tutor team is hearing very **good reports**, in general, from subject teachers, with **students focused** and committed to their work.

Class Keller have started their Work Experience, a really important component of the LCA programme. Students are required to attend every Wednesday and get their report cards signed by their employer. Congratulations also on their recent Junior Cert results.

Students are coping well with the change to the 5th year registration this year - 8.55-9.00 Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 9.00 in subject rooms on Monday and Thursday. Students are reminded to please be ready and organised for class every day and be in correct uniform. Parental support in this is very much appreciated.

The 5th year **DATS test** will take place on 15th November. Students will be finished by 2pm at the latest and may go home afterwards. 5th year Mid-term assessments will begin on Monday 23rd October in class time and

students are encouraged to prepare well for these. Two hours is recommended per night to include homework and revision.

Congratulations to Kingsley Okakpu, Olivia Walsh, Matthew Obayuwana and Jessica Richardson who took part in a production of “*Back to The Eighties*” in Clondalkin recently.

Our school theme for the year is “**Legacy**”. 5th years are continuing to leave a positive impression and are making a contribution that will have a lasting impact in Lucan Community College.

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

All students have settled back into school and are working well. A big thank you to all Parents/Guardians for your support and commitment in ensuring all students were organised for the start of term.

Homework/Study: Reminder – 6th Year students should be spending a minimum of three hours on their homework. Homework includes written work, oral work, study and revision.

Parent/Student Information Evening: Takes place on Tuesday 24th October at 7.30pm in the Gym. Hope to see you all there.

LANGUAGE, LITERACY AND NUMERACY COMMITTEE 2017-2018

The Language, Literacy and Numeracy Committee, (which is made up of lead teachers and Transition Year students) is involved in organising a number of activities for the promotion of literacy and numeracy in our school. As you will have noticed -- the Literacy Committee have been running a campaign since September to create awareness of some commonly misspelled words. They will continue to do this until mid-term and again in the last term. So far words like **it's**, **archaeology**, **a lot**, **definitely**, **business** and **accommodate** have been addressed. They will run a quotes campaign after mid-term. Many other activities will take place during the year as the committee work diligently putting their ideas together.

Reading Week will take place starting on Monday 13th November.

World Book Day will take place in March. Everybody’s favourite – Drop Everything And Read (DEAR) time which will be arranged during the day.

Maths week runs this week with a puzzle competition every day for students to enter.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Uniform, in general, is reported by tutors to be very good but a few students are reminded about wearing the appropriate socks and shoes. Socks for boys should be grey and must not be either ankle or invisible socks. Shoes must be black leather (or fake leather), with black soles and black laces and no visible logos. **Canvas runners** and material running shoes are **not permitted** and there are images available via the school website advising parents on acceptable footwear. Remember that school coats only should be worn to school – non-school coats will be confiscated. Students show respect for the college by wearing the full school uniform and by behaving respectfully while wearing the uniform.

ICT NEWS

Teachers this term have volunteered to be part of smaller professional learning communities with a focus on enhancing student engagement in learning. Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) is one such group and students will be exposed to additional creative learning strategies using technology. Staff will also be engaging in extra ICT professional development starting next term. Lucan CC has borrowed a class set of iPads for use in classrooms until December to facilitate this.

An ICT grant was used to improve school infrastructure and to fully upgrade computers in our computer rooms E5 and J1.

All students/parents/guardians should now have access to the student management system VSware. Log in details were distributed to first year parents at the recent information evening. Parents can access their son/daughter's attendance and reports online. All students have access to 365 which includes email, word, excel and many other features and can save documents in the cloud for easier access.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Our very active Student Council meet every fortnight on a Thursday during big break. The nominations for this year are complete with Darragh Gorman as chairperson (from class McAuley) and co-vice chairpersons, Ana Milicevic and David Wright (both from TY). Well done. There is, as usual, an exciting year ahead. This year our students are continuing with discussions regarding the uniform which began last year. Students are also working on the student constitution which is exciting. Thanks to Edel McManus and Tara Doyle for their continued support with our students at these meetings.

ARTS WEEK (Helene Suttle & Team)

Arts week will take place in the school from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th of October. There will be various events organised throughout that week, including the following:

Individual year group activities:

- 1st year workshop day - Monday 23rd of October (all day - no classes for 1st years on this day)
- 2nd year workshop day - Tuesday 24th of October (all day - no classes for 2nd years on this day)
- 5th year workshop day - Thursday 26th of October (all day - no classes for 5th years on this day)

Whole school activities:

- DJ at lunchtime every day
- Collaborative art project

Dress-up day - Friday 27th of October - the theme for this year is **LEGENDS**, to tie in with the *LEGACY* theme for the 30th anniversary of the school. We hope this theme will give students a wide scope to choose a character from history or fiction to dress up as.

A €10 charge to cover Arts week activities has been set up for online payments. We ask parents to arrange to pay this immediately.

GUIDANCE NEWS

DATs Testing will take place on 15th November for our fifth year students (excluding class Keller). They will sit aptitude tests from 9am until approximately 2pm. On completion of the tests, students will go home.

The wellbeing committee decided that it would be helpful to have a poster in each classroom that represents wellbeing. A frame and poster was handed out in September and is located in each room. It is important for us to look after our mental and physical health and it is also a good visual reminder to students that wellbeing is important.

GERMAN EXCHANGE NEWS:

Our annual German Exchange took place this year on 7th September with the arrival of 14 German students with their two teachers Rosi Böhne and Christian Strecker from Gymnasium Münchberg. Classes and trips were organised by our teachers making their ten day stay a very enjoyable and busy experience. Parents took great care of their new addition to the family as did Ms Williams and Ms Clarke who hosted the German teachers and will accompany our students back to Germany in February for part two of our 26th Exchange. It is a wonderful experience for all involved and our students look forward to experiencing the culture, food and speaking the German language. We are always warmly welcomed. Thanks to parents, staff and students for making our Exchange one of the highlights of Transition year.



Gymnasium Münchberg

MODERN LANGUAGES NEWS

On 14th November the French Theatre for Schools will be visiting us as usual. The company will perform a junior play from 9.00-10.20 and a senior play from 11.10-11.50. Students get the opportunity to prepare and read about the plays beforehand.

The first year French classes will attend 'Fanny's journey' on 16th November along with their French teachers and year head. Please arrange to pay the fee for this trip using our online payment system.

The first year German classes will attend the 'Wild Soccer Bunch' film on 22nd November with their German teachers and their Year head. Please arrange to pay the fee for this trip using our online payment system.

On 30th November, the TY French classes will attend 'Ma vie est une Courgette' in the IFI with their French teachers and on 21st February the two TY Spanish groups will be attending a film in the Draiocht Theatre in Blanchardstown. These trips are covered by the TY fee. Please ensure that you have fully paid online. Students will not be able to partake in trips if this payment has not been made.

FIRE DRILL

Thanks to all staff and students for their full participation in the fire drill. We had fully evacuated the building of almost 900 people in less than 5 minutes. If the fire alarm sounds during a break time (little break, lunch, change of class) students and teachers should go the line for the previous class that they attended. Thanks to everyone for your cooperation and to Mr Carey and caretaker Tony Ralph for ensuring everything ran smoothly.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR NEWS

Lucan Community College has a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Students can avail of karate, boys and girls rugby, boys and girls Gaelic football, hurling and camogie, badminton, traditional music, tin whistle, golf, Green Schools, badminton, computer coding/scratch club, table tennis and a brand new Film Club. We also offer a Café français, German debating, Irish debating, Seomra na Gaelige, games club, choir, orchestra, basketball and hockey. In fact we have too many to mention as the list of extra-curricular options now almost totals 50 separate activities. All free and available, to all our school community.

In an effort to make what we offer more accessible we are also providing a link both on our home page of the school website. Students and parents can use the link to find out what day and what teacher is in charge of specific activities.

We sincerely thank all our teachers who continue to give up their time to engage students outside of the school curriculum. As a school we place the highest value on the crucial role that extra-curricular activities play in developing our students as young people and appreciate the efforts by teachers that go into providing such a broad and varied programme. If students are not currently involved we urge you as parents to encourage them, as participation in any part of such a varied programme can richly add to student's personal development. Such benefits to students include self-confidence, academic performance, energy levels, communication skills and social skills.

Thanks to Ms. Joy who has been busy liaising with staff regarding all our wonderful extra-curricular activities which are available to our students. There is something for each and every one of our students. Please look at the school website-www.lucancc.ie to see the list of activities/events.

Thanks to all the teachers and parents and coaches who give up their time to help out and support our after-school programme.

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 16th - Friday 27th October - TY Work Experience 1 (TY Tenderfoot students 16th to 20th October)

Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October – 5th year mid-term assessments (in class time)

Friday 27th October 4.30pm - Closing date for 1st year applications for 2019/20

Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November mid-term holidays

Monday 6th - Friday 10th November - 3rd and 6th year assessments (in class time)

Thursday 16th November - 5th year Parent/Teacher meeting 4.15pm - 6.45pm. Classes finish at 3.45pm

Mon 20th & Tues 21st November - TY 'Develop Me' workshops

Monday 27th November - 6th year Parent/Teacher meeting 4.15pm - 6.45pm. Classes finish at 3.45pm

Wednesday 29th Nov - Wed 13th December – 1st year assessments (in class time)

Friday 8th December - School closed.

Mon 11th, Thurs 14th & Fri 15th December - TY Tenderfoot writers seminars

Monday 11th December – School closed to students for Junior Cert cluster day – not on calendar

Tuesday 12th December - 3rd year Parent/Teacher meeting 4.15pm - 6.45pm. Classes finish at 3.45pm

Monday 18th - Thursday 21st December - 2nd and 5th year formal Christmas exams

Friday 22nd December - Final day of school including Christmas service. Students attend from 9am - 12pm

Monday 25th December 2017 - Friday 5th January 2018 - Christmas holidays

Monday 8th January 2017 - School re-opens - full day.



 Have a happy and safe Halloween.

