



24th October 2023

Bulletin 2

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we head towards the end of this half term, we would like to use this opportunity to thank you for all your support so far.

We have had a huge number of successes, both for individual students and groups of students, over the past nine weeks. Please follow us on X (formerly known as Twitter), Instagram and Facebook for daily updates and to celebrate these successes with us.

A big congratulation to our Junior Certificate Class of 2023! They received their results last Wednesday and we are very proud of their achievements; proof that hard work certainly pays off. Thank you to their teachers, SNA's and parents/guardians who have supported them this far.

Please see important reminders and updates below:

Attendance

Every class counts!

Good attendance is vitally important for your son/daughter's success in school. We would like to see students in for every class, every day (sickness aside). Please try to arrange holidays/ appointments (non-urgent) outside of school times.

Mobile phones

We would like to reiterate the positive impact that the mobile phone ban is having on teaching and learning in school, most students are really enjoying the break from phones during the school day.

However, some students are finding managing their phones outside of school hours tricky and are struggling with social media and switching off at night time etc. We do a lot of education around the safe use of phones as part of our curriculum, and we will continue to do this for all students. If your son/ daughter is finding phone use an issue, please see advice below from Webwise that may help students and parents.

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/explained-managing-the-risks-of-mobile-phones/>



Free Parent Talks

There are a number of free parent talks coming up – these are online, please register below.

- “Secondary School Students - Coding and Computer Science Explained” Wednesday 1st November @ 5:30 pm
- “Parent - Coding For Your Children – We Explain All!!” Wednesday 1st November @ 6:15 pm
- “Parent - Computing/Coding and Cyber-Safety for your child” Thursday 2nd November @ 6:30 pm
- “Parent - Computing/Coding and Cyber-Safety for your child” Saturday 4th November @ 11:00 am

Register at: www.kidscoderclub.ie/events

Fees

Thanks to all who have paid their student service fee, insurance, and journal fees. This amounts to a total of €73 for the year. If you haven't already paid these fees, you can do so on the school's website (easypayments).

Dress up day

Students are encouraged to dress up this Friday 27th and bring €2 for Children's Health Ireland.

3rd and 6th year students

Exam year students (3rd and 6th Years) will have revision work to complete over midterm break. We would appreciate if you could ensure that your son/daughter complete this work.

Enrolment for 2024/25

Enrolment for next year closed on 24th October. We have had an unprecedented demand for places for next year and we start sending out offers on the 16th November 2023.

Uniform

Thanks for your help with ensuring the uniform policy is being adhered to. The weather will be getting colder after the mid-term and so students will need a school jacket or a plain black/navy jacket. Please do not allow your child to wear hoodies to school as they are not permitted.



Mid term break

The school will close on Friday at 1.10pm and will open on Monday 6th November at 8.50am.

Wishing all our students a lovely break!

Kind regards,

Ms Tracey Edwards

Principal



Keep Your Child On Track in School: Pay Attention to Attendance

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 1st Year, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of secondary school.
- By 3rd Year, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 2nd Year test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Make school attendance a priority

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day.
- Help your children maintain daily routines, such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Try not to schedule dental and non-urgent related medical appointments during the school day.
- Keep your student healthy, and if you are concerned about Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your children must stay home because they are sick, make sure they have asked teachers for resources and materials to make up for the missed learning time in the classroom (They can use Microsoft Teams).

Help your teen stay engaged

- Find out if your children feel engaged by their classes, and feel safe from bullies and other threats.
- Make sure your teens are not missing class because of challenges with behavioral issues or school discipline policies. If any of these are problems, contact the school and work with them to find a solution.
- Monitor your teen's academic progress and seek help from teachers or tutors when necessary. Make sure teachers know how to contact you.
- Stay on top of your child's social contacts. Peer pressure can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Encourage your child to join meaningful activities, including sports and clubs in school.
- Notice and support your students if they are showing signs of anxiety.

Communicate with the school

- Know the school's attendance policy – incentives and penalties.
- Check on your child's attendance to be sure absences are not adding up.
- Seek help from school staff, other parents, or community agencies if you need support.

