

Mountmellick Community School

office@mountmellickcs.ie
www.mountmellickcs.ie
Fax: 057 8644136



Mountmellick
Co. Laois
Tel: 057 8624220

"Respect is our strength"

Mountmellick Community School

Newsletter

November 2018

State Examinations

Our 3rd and 6th year students have just finished their Pre-Mocks examinations. It is essential that homework and study patterns are maintained at a high level in the coming weeks up to the Christmas Holidays and over the holiday period in preparation for their Mock Examinations.

3rd Year Mock Examinations on the 28th January and will run for eight school days.

6th Year Mock Examinations will commence on the 7th February and will run for seven school days.

The fees for the Mock Examinations are €40 for Junior Cert students and €140 for Leaving Cert students. This fee can be paid in two instalments, one by 15th December and one by January 12th 2018.



Christmas Examinations

Christmas examinations take place as follows.

Year	Dates
1 st Year	Monday 10 th – Wednesday 12 th December
2 nd Year	Thursday 13 th – Monday 17 th December
5 th Year	Tuesday 18 th – Thursday 20 th December

It is absolutely essential that students prepare well for these examinations. Regular study in the weeks leading up to the examinations is critically important in this regard.

School Study

This is running very well at the moment and well attended. It runs five days per week until 5.50 each evening.



Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

Recent Awards



Congratulations and well done to Jennifer O Toole who was awarded an entrance scholarship to UCD last week. Jennifer completed her Leaving Cert in our school in 2018 and is currently studying Law in UCD. Included in the picture are Professor Mark Rogers, Deputy President UCD and Larry Curtin, School Principal.

M.C.S Celebrating College Awareness Week (19-24th Nov) & Science Week (12-16th Nov)

Monday 19th November 9am-4pm: Transition Year students will visit IT Carlow for a college tour and to participate in a "Mock Courtroom Drama" hosted by the Law Dept. In the afternoon, the TY students are invited to St Patricks College Carlow to find out about the courses available.



Tuesday 20th November: **Class 2 -1A &1B & Class 6-1C & 1D** A group of TY students will work with 1A and 1B and later 1C and 1D on a Photographic project Where will I go to College? 1st Year students will stay in their classrooms for the exercise and TY students will visit to take photographs of the students.

Wednesday 21st November: **9.30 am -10.55** Prof Ita Richardson, UL will give a talk on "Opportunities in Science & Engineering" to all Transition Year and 2nd Year students in the Lunch Hall.

Thursday 22nd November: **9.20 am -10.55** All 5th Years and 3rd Years will attend a talk in the lunch hall on Engineering/Science/Technology Opportunities, with a presentation from the Engineering/Science Depts Athlone IT.

Friday 23rd November 2.40 pm -3.20: All 6th Years will attend a talk in the lunch hall on Undergraduate Course Opportunities at Carlow IT.

Additional activities:

- TY students will share their knowledge of Subject Choice at Senior Cycle with 3rd Years with an emphasis on College /Course Entry requirements
- 2nd and 3rd Year students will undertake Course/College research in SPHE classes
- Incoming 1st Year students undertaking Assessment Tests will complete CAW worksheets
- Handout to 1st Year parents on "How to Plan for their son/daughter going to College"

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

- TY students will be organising a Display on Teacher Classroom Doors of Where we went to college e.g
" Ms. Behan, Graduate of NUIG" + NUIG LOGO
- Exhibition of College Resources/Merchandise
- Photograph Display of MCS CAW activities 2016 and 2017
- Handout to Teachers " School Subjects and Progression to College"

Parent Teacher Meetings

It is essential that Parents / Guardians of each child attend the scheduled Parent Teacher meeting as it affords an opportunity for a one to one meeting with each of his / her teachers.

The schedule is as follows

- 3rd Year: Monday 26th November
- 6th Year: Tuesday 4th December
- 1st Year: Monday 14th January
- 5th Year: Tuesday 22nd January
- 2nd Year: Tuesday 5th February



All meetings run from 4.15 to 6.45 but it is essential that you arrive no later than 5.15 to allow time to meet all teachers.

Staff Training Day

In line with national procedures, all teachers will be engaged in Continuous Professional Development on the 10th of December in relation to the new Junior Cycle. While there will be no class for students on that day, 1st Year students will be doing some of their Christmas Examinations on that day from 9am to 4pm.

HSCL

The following free classes for parents/guardians continue and are open to newcomers:

- Mondays: 9:15 – Hairdressing
11:00 – Zumba
- Wednesdays: 9:30 – Irish
- Thursdays: 9:30 – DIY
11:00 – Cooking
- Basic Maths classes will commence shortly.



Coffee morning will be held on Friday 23rd November 9:30 -10:45, new Mountmellick Community Garda, Derek Flynn, will give a short presentation.

Thursday 29th November and Thursday December 6th at 11:00:
Christmas Cooking Demonstrations.

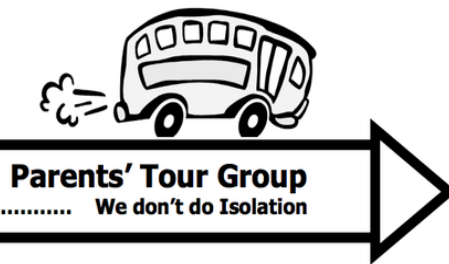
Principal: *Larry Curtin*



Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

Parents'
On
Tour
Helping
Out
Learning
Educating
Sharing

POTHOLES



Limerick is our next destination for our free Parents' Tour on 5th December, with a visit to Bunratty Castle and time for Christmas shopping. Spaces are limited, so book your place ASAP!

If you are interested in any of the above classes, demonstrations or tour, please contact HSCL Coordinator, Helen, on 0870984417

Transition Year

Transition Year's have been very busy this term. As well as their core subject TY students are sampling all Leaving Cert subjects, doing work experience, ECDL and their Mini Company.

Events have included



- *Achill: September 26th - 28th.* This was a Gaeltacht experience along with outdoor pursuits such as surfing and a bog obstacle course. One of the highlights was completing the Gaisce Presidential Awards Adventure challenge which involved hiking along the Wild Atlantic Way.



- *Russian Module:* Transition Year students have enjoyed their Russian language, culture and cooking module with the guidance of Ms Manza.
- *Zeminar 2018:* Transition Years headed to the RDS for the largest Youth Forum in Ireland on Wednesday November 14th. This is a wellbeing event but also provides information careers, travel and volunteer opportunities. Students enjoyed attending workshops and guest speakers on the day included Paul Mannion, Stella O' Malley and Rory's Stories.
- *College Awareness Week:* TY students are encouraged to attend College Open Days and taster courses specifically for TY students. On Monday November 19th the TY group with Ms McCarthy went on a tour of Carlow IT and Carlow College. They also had a Law taster experience from the Law Department in Carlow IT.

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

- *Workshops:* TY students are enjoying a variety of workshops including a drumming, Young St Vincent de Paul, Water safety and the "Beat the Blues" workshop by Aware.

Congratulations to

- Corey Fox who represented the school in the county final of the Rotary Leadership Awards
- Joshua Gill who has gained a weeks placement on the St Patricks Hospital Mental Health TY Programme
- Daniel O' Sullivan who has gained a weeks placement in the Law Society TY Programme
- Eve Tarpey who has gained a weeks placement in the Royal College of Surgeons TY Programme

Mini Company: The TY students are being supported by Laois Enterprise board in the development of their Mini Companies. TY will be at the Christmas Fair in Mountmellick on December 2nd. Please support

Basketball

The U16 & U19 Boys & girls Basketball new gear 2018 was sponsored by *Get Fresh*, our school catering company, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude for their continued support.



Progress to date:

Well done to the U16/U19 girls who had a great campaign this term.

Special congratulations to the U16 squad who came top of the table. Best of luck to these girls who play the quarter final v's Moate this Thursday in MCS at 11.30 am , all support greatly appreciated.

The U16 boys have also topped the table and have done themselves and our school proud.

The U19 boys are playing their final league game this Wednesday at 11am in MCS. We are very hopeful that they too will win their league.

Facebook will keep you posted.

Variety Show

The school's variety show will take place on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th November 2018. All night long, a musical journey through the greatest hours of the 1980s.

Tickets

- Regular: €10



Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

- Under 12, MCS students and over 65's: €6
- Family ticket for 2 adults and 2 children: €25

Available now at the school office and O'Gorman's news agents



Some of the other recent events



1st year Meitheal Fancy Dress Halloween Disco



Start of Year Mass

Meitheal

Meitheal believe it is an integral part of school life to ensure all first years feel welcome to belong to our school community. From the very first day when we organized a welcoming ceremony with Ms. Byrne and a day filled with fun to introduce them to school life. It has been our goal to let the first years know who we are and that we are here to help.

After the success of our Halloween disco in October, Meitheal plan to treat the first years to a wonderful Christmas experience on November 30th. We are taking the first years to Dundrum ice skating with their year head Mr. Hogan, their chaplain Ms. Byrne and a selection of other staff. We are really looking forward to this trip.

The Meitheal Team

Break time arrangements

It is essential that students from different year groups have morning and lunch break in the areas allocated to them and refrain from entering prohibited areas. Only senior cycle students are allowed out of school at lunchtime. In the interest of Health and Safety and other reasons, students are not permitted to assemble in groups on footpaths, roads etc in the vicinity of the school. Please ensure that your son/ daughter is aware of this aspect of school policy.

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

Road Safety / Parking Arrangements

We ask all students to please exercise due caution and to use the pedestrian lights when coming to and from school. Due to Health and Safety and other concerns, can parents / guardians please refrain from driving into the school yard and please drop students outside of the school a safe distance away from the school entrances.



Car parking facilities on the school grounds are for members of staff and visitors to the school only.

Communication with school

Please ensure you contact the school office/ send a note to the school to explain any period of absence immediately before / after the period of absence

Please contact the school office/ send a note to the school if your son/ daughter (Senior Cycle only) is required to leave before the end of any school day.

Please advise the school office of any change that has taken place in relation to address or telephone numbers.

Uniform

After consultation with Parents, students, teachers and partners in Mountmellick Community School changes to the uniform (photos on the right) have been agreed. There will be no change to jumpers and trousers. In line with departmental advice that uniforms should not be unduly expensive all students are to wear grey shirts from September 2019. Other changes are to be rolled out incrementally as follows:



1st Years September 2019: Girls are to wear **plaid skirt** with grey shirt and light blue crested jumper and grey socks. Girls can wear creased trousers. Girls are to wear navy or black shoes. AV8s are allowed.

Boys are to wear grey creased trousers, grey shirt and light blue crested jumper. Boys are to wear all black or navy shoes.

2nd and 3rd Years September 2019: All must wear grey shirts. Students can wear the uniform they purchased for first year but if parents need to buy a new skirt for their daughter they should buy the new plaid skirt as the grey skirt is being phased out.

T.Y and 5TH Years September 2019: Girls are to wear plaid skirt with grey shirt and navy crested jumper and grey socks. Girls can wear creased trousers. Girls are to wear navy or black shoes. AV8s are permitted.

Boys are to wear grey creased trousers, grey shirt and navy jumper. Boys are to wear navy or black shoes.

6th Years September 2019: All 6th years must wear grey shirts. Students can wear the rest of the uniform they purchased for 5th year.

All PE Gear: P.E. students are to wear navy tracksuit bottoms and navy polo shirt. They can be plain or crested. Crested uniforms that were already purchased can be still worn.

Stockists: Shaws Mountmellick / Uniform World Monasterevin / Cox's Mountmellick

Recent Developments

1. We are pleased to report that we have installed a new set of computers in our ICT room. This represents part of our digital strategy as we plan for the future. This was funded by school finances and partially by an ICT grant.
2. We have changed the manner in which school meals are provided in our school . Currently all students who wish to avail of the service have access to tea / scones / cereals / toast /beans fruit at breaktime along with access to wraps / rolls / sandwiches / soup at lunchtime. This service is provided free of charge to our students. Any student who wishes to avail of a hot dinner at lunchtime can access same for a fee of 50 cent per day which is paid directly to the service provider, *Get Fresh*



Christmas Arrangements

In line with nationally agreed procedures the school will close on Friday 21st December for the Christmas Holidays and re-open on Monday 7th January. Our annual Carol Service will take place on the 22nd December.

As this is our final newsletter of 2018 we would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Larry Curtin

Frances Kerry La Rosa

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*

Principal: *Larry Curtin*

Deputy Principal: *Frances Kerry La Rosa*