

St. Mary's Academy CBS Newsletter

November 2009

Open Night

Thanks to all students, parents and teachers who contributed to the success of our annual Open Night. Enrolment for 2009/10 is oversubscribed and successful applicants will be notified shortly. Brothers of current or past pupils will be automatically selected.

Alcohol & Drugs Awareness

Former Tipperary hurler John Leahy, will address a meeting organized by the Parent Council on the Subject of Young People and Substance Abuse on Wed. 9th Dec. at 7.30 p.m. All parents are invited to attend what will be an interesting and informative evening. The meeting, including a Question – and – Answer session will finish at 8.30 p.m.

JP Mc Manus Scholarship

Congratulations to Enda Holohan, Leaving Cert class of 2009, who has been awarded a JP McManus scholarship of almost €7000 per year for the duration of his studies. Enda is studying medicine at Trinity College Dublin and this fantastic achievement will certainly be of great benefit to him. Again, it proves that hard work and dedication will bring success.

Texting Service

Enclosed please find a data sheet that we require you to fill out and return to us. We are trialling a texting service for parents to enhance communications.

Eportal

Eportal is a web based service that will allow you to log into a website to view your son's academic progress and his attendance. Usernames and passwords are available from the school as we have been advised not to post them to you. This is to prevent unauthorised access to your son's data.

Breakfast & Lunch Clubs

A professional catering company has been hired to run the Breakfast & Lunch club. The breakfast service is available from 8 am each morning and the lunch service will begin on Thursday 19th Nov. Hot lunches will be available every day as well as hot rolls, ham/salad/cheese rolls and other health food items. The service will be run on a commercial basis so there will be a charge. Hot Lunches - €4.00, Hot Rolls - €3.00, Soup - €2.50. Because of this new service it is our intention to keep all incoming First Years in the 2010/2011 school year in school over lunchtime. Students already in the school will be kept in with parental approval.

Swine Flu

Thankfully, we have no reports of swine flu among the school community although some have contracted other forms of flu virus. It's important not to become complacent and we continue to emphasise the need to stick with the strategies outlined earlier and posted around the school.

Study Skills

Mr. Michael Bond, former school principal and All-Ireland Hurling winning trainer provided a Study Skills seminar over the course of two days to our Sixth Year students and also spoke to parents at an evening meeting. The feedback from the seminars has been very positive and Mr Bond will return to work with the Sixth Years after their mock exams. He will also provide a similar service for Third year students on Tuesday 24th Nov. The career Guidance teachers in the school will organise Study Skills sessions for the other year groups. There will be a charge of €8 per pupil.

Staff Meeting and Parent Teacher Meeting – Changes in Calendar

As reported earlier, the 2nd Year Parent Teacher meeting scheduled for 17th Nov and the staff meeting of 9th Nov have both been moved to Friday 20th November. The staff meeting will take place from 9 – 11 am and the PTM from 11 – 1pm. Tea and scones will be provided by the catering company upstairs in the gym while the PTM will take place on the main floor of the gym. Please note from calendar that there is no school on Mon 23rd November. Due to industrial action the school will be closed on Tuesday 24th November.

New Babies

Congratulations to Ms. Hennessy and her husband Michael on the recent birth of a baby girl, Hilary and to Mr. Nolan and his wife Brid on the birth of their son, Pádraig.

Debating

The debating team of Sam Riggs, James Platt, Stephen O'Brien and Gareth Murphy lost the opening round of the Concern Debate to Kilkenny CBS on a 2-1 majority decision. Team coaches Michelle Dunne and Suzanne Wall were very pleased with the team's performance and are looking forward to the next round.

German Exchange

A group of students under the guidance of Mr. O'Brien and Mr. Roberts has just returned from Germany where they participated in an exchange project with a school there. The German students will make the return trip at Easter.

Sound Engineering

A past pupil, Brian Sheil, is running a sound engineering course for our students on Saturday mornings. This is a practical, hands-on, course that will equip students with the skills in production and managing performance. The course is coordinated by Ms. Phelan, our Music teacher.

Meet the President

Art teacher, Mr. Bohanna, and students Sam Riggs and Glen Alcock met President McAleese at the new Arts Centre, Visual, on 17th November. Mr. Bohanna coordinated a group of young people from Carlow in the preparation of display panels hanging in the grounds of Visual and both Glen and Sam were part of the group.

Gaelic Football

Our senior footballers were beaten in the opening round of the senior championship by Portlaoise CBS. They now face Portarlington in the qualifiers. The team was prepared by Mr. Browne and Mr. Kinsella.

Basketball

The U-16 team has won two out of four games and hope to qualify for the finals. The U-19 team has won two out of three games and are equally hopeful. The teams are prepared by Caitriona Cronin, Aileen Tennant and Shane Storey.

Careers Exhibition

A Careers Exhibition for 5th and 6th Year students took place in the Dolmen Hotel on Tuesday 17th November. All senior students attended the information will assist them in making sensible and effective career choices. There will be a €5 charge to cover transport to and from the hotel. Students with cars may not bring a car to the hotel, in the interests of safety.