

St. Mary's Academy CBS Newsletter

September 2009

State Examinations – Results

Congratulations to our students who performed so well in June, in both the Leaving Certificate and the Junior Certificate. We were delighted with the results they achieved and particularly pleased that their results were well above national averages.

State Examinations – Projects

Many subjects, at Junior and Senior Cycles, have project work and other examination components that must be submitted in March and April. These components can be worth up to 40% of the final mark. The deadlines for the subjects are published below and we would like your help to ensure submission of work by these dates.

Exam	Subject	Nature of Work	Deadline
Junior Cert	Science	Prescribed experiments and a booklet	April 2010
	RE	Individual or class project presented in Journal format.	October 2009
	CSPE	Action Report	May 7 th 2010
	MTW	Making a model from wood	April 2010
Leaving Cert	Construction	Project: A model and written report	February 2010
	DCG	Computer generated drawings	February 2010
	Geography	Field work – an investigation and written report	End February 2010
	History	Research and written report (Done in 5 th Year)	January 2010
	LCVP	Portfolio	April 2010

Board of Management

The current board finishes its work at the end of September and we are grateful to all members of the board for their work on behalf of the school. Parent representatives, Mary Clare Byrne and Eamonn Brophy, have been very active as parent representatives on the board and we now require two parent reps for the new board. Enclosed please find a nomination paper and you are asked to nominate two parents, provided you have asked their permission in advance. You may also nominate yourself. There are about six meetings per year and it is a very responsible, but fulfilling, role. Please consider going forward for the role if you feel you have the skills and interest required.

Swine Flu

We are making every effort to minimise the spread of swine flu in St. Mary's Academy and your children are being very cooperative. Hand wipes and tissues are available in every classroom and around the school. The student washroom facilities have been improved and there are posters around the school reminding people to wash hands after sneezing and using the toilet. Students have been asked not to share pencils, pens and mobile phones – articles that are likely to have been close to the mouth. Please ensure the school has up-to-date contact numbers for you.

Start of Year School Mass

The mass will take place this Friday at 12pm and will be celebrated by our chaplain, Fr. Pdraig Shelley. This is the first formal school occasion where all our students and staff will be together.

Traffic on Station Road

The primary schools on Station Road have earlier opening times this year resulting in severe traffic congestion just before 9 am. Please encourage your children to use the zebra-crossing outside the school gate in a safe and sensible way – checking that motorists have seen them before stepping onto the crossing and helping to keep traffic moving by crossing in clusters rather than singly. It may be necessary to leave home earlier to arrive in school on time.

Staff Changes

We welcome Ms. Niamh Martin to the staff. She replaces Ms. Evelyn Allan who is on maternity leave. Congratulations to Ms. Allan and family on the birth of her son last week. We also welcome a past pupil, Jason Reamsbottom, to the school.

Defibrillators

The school now has three defibrillators – one in the school, one in the gym and a mobile unit to be taken to matches and other outdoor activities – and over half the staff has been trained to use them. We would like to thank the Student Council for raising some of the funds required.

Train Station

A few students congregate at the train station in the mornings before school, at an already busy time. Students should not enter the station unless doing business there. **Student cooperation in this matter is expected and appreciated.**

Athletics/ Squash/ Sailing

The remarkable achievements of 2nd Year student, Marcus Lawler, during the summer deserve special mention. He became the All-Ireland Schools & Colleges 200m champion at u-15 level and broke a 33-year old record in the process in a time of 22.80 seconds. He surpassed this in the Tailteann Games in a time of 22.70 seconds, a personal best. He was selected for the Schools International team to compete in Antrim and captained the team at the Celtic games in Wales.

The Hennessy brothers, Cathal and Shaun, and Seamus Harmon represented Ireland in the Nordic Junior Open championships in Malmo recently and finished in top positions in a competition involving over 20 countries.

Finn Lynch continues to star in sailing, finishing second in the World in the Topper World Championship. He also won the Leinster and Ulster open competitions and finished second in Leinster and Munster. Well done to all.

Timetable/ Updated Calendar

We are glad to report that students have adapted easily and quickly to our new timetable. While it takes longer to establish rhythms and patterns of the school year, it allows us to offer broader choices to students.

We enclose an updated calendar showing the red and blue weeks. There was an error in the previous version. **Please discard the old one to avoid confusion.**

Lost Property

Students continue to mislay a lot of property. Jackets, PE gear, pencil cases and books continue to be abandoned by students whose minds are distracted. **A few minutes spent on identifying property** (for example, writing name and mobile no. on labels or on inside of runners) **can make it easy to return property to its owner when handed in.**