

January 2019

Happy New Year to all of you!

Wellbeing is the buzz word in society at the moment and is an integral part of teacher and student work in schools. Unfortunately Wexford Town schools have experienced two tragic losses of students in the run up to Christmas. Please be advised that a joint letter from all our second level schools has been posted on our website. I encourage all our parents and guardians to access the letter and have conversations with your sons over the holiday period.

We have 782 students in the school and are still expanding with a yearly intake of 132. A new group of 1st Years are settling in with huge support from the Meitheal Leaders. Thanks to the Parents' Council for their on-going support of the Meitheal Programme. We achieved multiple entrance scholarship awards to Third Level Colleges again this year including Eoin Pinaqui who won an All-Ireland, Naughton Scholarship for Computer Engineering.

Our students should be focused once again on their studies especially our Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate classes. Our Leaving Certificate class are in the process of filling in their CAO forms and I wish them well as they plan their future careers. Congratulations to the 2018 Junior and Leaving Certificate classes who achieved excellent results. This year we again issued Junior Certificate Profile of Achievement awards to all students who completed their Junior Certificates in 2018.

As we face into the second half of the year, I encourage all students to participate in the many activities that are part and parcel of everyday life in school. St Peter's provides a wide range of opportunities. Academic achievement is a priority for all students and in this respect I encourage any student that is finding a subject difficult to talk to their teacher, or either of the Guidance Counsellors. Parents/guardians should not hesitate to contact the school if they have any concerns or if they find that their son is encountering difficulties. The college has a very experienced Pastoral Team which includes the teachers, tutors, Year Heads, Guidance Counsellors, Chaplain, Deputy Principals and Principal.

On the sporting front, our football and hurling teams compete in the top grades and are coached to the highest level by extraordinarily committed teachers. For those not involved in Gaelic Games, activities such as Basketball, Badminton, Handball, Athletics, Golf and Equestrian Events provide students with a wide range of alternatives. For others Cultural Events, Debates, Quizzes, Public Speaking, Choir, Trad Group, Art Competitions and Enterprise Education provide many opportunities.

While academic, sporting and cultural activities are vital, the important qualities that are central to our ethos are developed through our Spiritual and Pastoral Programmes such as SPHE, Religion classes and Liturgical celebrations. There is a great emphasis in St Peter's College on providing a holistic Education that will enable our young men to grow into committed citizens. This is very much part of the hidden curriculum as the interaction between students, teachers and fellow students creates an environment where honesty, integrity and community are fostered.

I encourage all to work together and to look out for those who are burdened with heavier crosses. If we work together we can create a better community and if we have hope and perseverance everything is possible. Wishing all students, teachers, parents/guardians a successful year and assuring you of our continued support and assistance.

Robert O'Callaghan
Principal

VSWare

The school uses a web service called VSWare. One of its functions is to improve communications between you the parents/guardians and the school. This software enables you to log into the website and view your son's records including school reports, record of attendance and punctuality and any issues that may have arisen during the school term. Parents/guardians will only be able to access their own son's profile using the Username and the Password provided by the school. If any parents/guardians have any difficulty accessing their son's Christmas report, please contact the office for assistance.

Attendance

You can view your son's attendance record for 1st term on VSWare – contact the relevant Year Head if there are any queries. Once again, we remind you how important it is that your son registers his attendance each day by swiping in. **If he does not swipe in then he is recorded on the official record as absent.** We also remind you that under the Education and Welfare Act, you must submit a written explanation for each absence. The school will use text messages to communicate important information to parents/guardians regarding meetings, etc. **It is vitally important that the school has a current mobile phone number for at least one parent/guardian.**

Examination Fees

Mock Exams 2019: Dates of 2019 Leaving/Junior Certificate mocks: Monday 4th February – Friday 15th February.

Fees: Junior Cert €150 and Leaving Cert €130. Payment can be made on-line through VSWare by using a Credit Card or Debit Card or by phoning the school and using same or by cheque or cash to the school office.

Fees should be paid before Wednesday 24th January.

Fees for the State Exams - Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate fees will shortly be due to the State Examinations Commission. The 2019 figures are not yet available but should be similar to those of 2018 which were: Junior Cert €109, Leaving Cert €116, Repeat Leaving Cert €301. A pre-printed form will be issued to all exam students in early February. The fees are paid using a Bank Giro Form in early March. Further details will be given to your son later. If your son or his parents/guardians have a valid Medical Card (on Feb 1st 2019), he will be exempt from the fee. However it will be necessary for the school to note the medical card details.

Information Night for Incoming First Years

An Information Night for parents/guardians of all incoming first years will be held provisionally in the school at 7pm on Thursday 17th January. The confirmed date will be communicated to all concerned.

Senior of the House

Jack Hayden is this year's Senior of the House and Ross Banville is Sub-Senior.

Reminders

Students are not allowed to leave the College Grounds during the school day unless they have a Lunch Pass.

- Only LC2 students who have brought in a letter from their parents/guardians to Mr W. White giving permission, confirming insurance cover and listing any passengers that may be carried on school grounds can bring a car onto the College grounds. Only those with N plates can apply. Under no circumstances are students allowed to take cars out of the College Grounds during the school day or to carry students other than those named in their cars.
- Our primary concern is for the health and safety of students

Parents/Guardians are asked to note that the Board of Management cannot accept any responsibility for students who are on school grounds before 8.45am. R O'Callaghan, Secretary, Board of Management.

Evening Supervised Study

The College facility includes a number of spacious independent study rooms providing a comfortable supervised Study environment which is conducive to learning. The College insists on this highly structured study environment for everyone's benefit. Evening Study runs on a weekly basis costing €4 for one session, students can choose to do four sessions (Mon – Thurs) or 5 sessions (Mon – Fri) per week. Application forms are available from the Evening Study Co-ordinator and at the Front Office or can be downloaded from the school website www.stpeterscollege.ie Term 3 will run from Monday 7th January to Friday 15th February. Evening study is suitable for 2nd to 6th year students. To attend study, students are required to complete the application form and submit the term fee before the start of each term.

Gaisce Awards

Congratulations to Peadar Byrne (6th Year) on the fantastic achievement of attaining the Gaisce President's Gold Medal Award which he was presented with on 10th December in Áras an Uachtaráin.

Rotary Leadership

Oisín Tiernan, Martin O'Connor, Jonathon Blake, Ruairi O'Sullivan and Calvin McDonnell entered the competition and Oisín Tiernan was selected to represent the school in the county final where he performed very well.

Positive Mental Health

The promotion of positive mental health continues to flourish in our school with workshops from Aware and Gambling Awareness for our Senior Cycle students and an IT Safety Workshop for our First Years. In November we introduced 'HEADSTRONG' a campaign about breaking down the stigma against mental health issues in secondary schools. All classes in SPC were given a presentation by the Headstrong committee. There will be further campaigns for the rest of the school year to promote 'Break Down the Barrier' and get rid of the stigma that exists about talking about mental health issues. If we stop the stigma, people will start to talk and people will start to listen - that's a huge step towards getting help.

Meitheal

Congratulations to the LC2 Meitheal Team on their highly successful First Year Meitheal Disco on November 8th. Fifteen LC2 students organised and ran the disco as a culmination to their hard work since the beginning of the school year. Since September, they have helped to introduce their First Year classes to St. Peter's College, acting as a 'big brother' and guiding them through the sometimes tough transition from primary school to secondary school. The Meitheal leaders took their First Year classes once a week and carried out fun activities, focussing on friendship. This year's Meitheal team have been outstanding as leaders and role models.

Badminton

Badminton is on every Wednesday at lunchtime with six courts busy for the duration. It is open to all years and all levels. Students are getting a lot of practice in for the South East tournaments for their respective age category in the New Year. New players are always welcome.

Senior Science Quiz

Three teams of LC2 students took part in the regional finals during science week and were placed 2nd, 3rd and 4th. The second place team of Peadar Byrne, John Gilhooly and Michael Carroll went on to compete in the final in Trinity College.

Science Olympiad

Oisín O'Feinneadhá competed in the chemistry Olympiad last term. He was selected based on his excellent Junior Cert results in Science and Maths. He was awarded a gold medal in Chemistry and is currently studying and practicing experiments for the next stage of the competition which takes place in DCU.

Public Speaking and Debating

At junior level, eight students represented the school in the Leinster Schools Competition in UCD. The boys have completed the opening three rounds of competition and will continue after Christmas. The junior students are Luke Turner, Luke Murphy, Charlie Murphy, Ian Lynam, Tristan Odlum, Roland Agrigoroiei, Dillon Cousins and Killian Jackman. In December, 11 junior students travelled to Enniscorthy CBS for a debating day. Congratulations to Jack McNamara who won overall best speaker on the day.

At Senior Level, eight students have represented the school in UCD in the opening round of the Leinster Schools and opening rounds of the Concern Debating competition. The senior team is Alex Denby, Oisín Tiernan, Rhys Mathews, Ruadhri Maxwell, John Gilhooly, Martin Foley, Declan Quinn and Robin Jowett

School Library

Book clubs are thriving in St Peter's. It's great to see so many students reading and discussing books. Some of the books being read are; 'The Bell Jar' by Sylvia Plath and 'The Knife of Never Letting Go' by Patrick Ness. The new arrangement of furniture is a great success. More comfortable soft seating and extra book shelves are a welcome addition. The library is open every day during lunchtime and everyone is welcome to visit. Books are available to take out on loan. Students are also very welcome to play chess at break time. Donations of good books and board games are always welcome!

Book Club

Once a month students read a book, in conjunction with a teacher, then meet up in the school library to discuss their thoughts on it. This year senior students have read JD Salinger's 'The Catcher in the Rye', 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding and 'The Bell Jar' by Sylvia Plath while junior students have read S.E Hinton's 'The Outsiders'. In December the junior book club members went to the Presentation Secondary School where they discussed a chosen novel. The intention of the book club is for students to be exposed to books that they will enjoy, but would be unlikely to read in their own time. The books are purchased using money that has been fund-raised in the school through cake sales and through the generous support of the school. The intention is to create a reading culture, whereby reading for enjoyment becomes an everyday part of school life.

Table Tennis

Second Years are keeping three tables very busy at lunchtimes on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The term ended with a competition before the Christmas holidays.

Golf

The senior golfers were drawn in a group with Enniscorthy CBS and Good Counsel in the inter schools matchplay fourball. Cillian Corkery, Niall Griffin, Aron McKeown and Ryan Cashin made up the team of four. They are now through to the knockout stages of the Leinster inter schools matchplay fourball.

Basketball

The U-19 and U-16 basketball teams had a very successful start to proceedings in the all-Ireland leagues this year, which we moved into after many successful seasons in the local Wexford leagues. The boys put in great effort from September training three times a week both during and after school. Both teams qualified from the group stages after which the Seniors progressed to the regional semi-finals, where they were unfortunately beaten by a very strong Waterpark team. The U-16s were knocked out after a very narrow defeat in the previous round.

Art

Credit Union Art Competition. The senior winner was Isaiah O'Connor, Junior 2nd place went to Freddie Ronan. Isaiah went on to the next level in the competition and was third in Leinster. Our Senior students visited the National Gallery, Hugh Lane Gallery and an exhibition by Mary Swansey in the IMMA.

TY Report

This year's TY students have been a pleasure to work with so far. They have embraced the programme and fully accept that what you get out of this year you have to put into it. Aside from the fantastic trips they have participated in, they are continually learning new skills through their module rotation.

TY Enterprise

We had another very successful Christmas Fair on December 17th where the TY Enterprise classes sold their products to the school community. A selection of these groups also sold their fare at our parent teacher meetings. Presently the students are preparing for selection for the Local Enterprise Awards which will take place in March and, if selected, will go forward to represent St Peter's at a national level. Good luck to all.

Athletics & Cross-Country

The athletics started in Abbottstown for the combined schools' indoor championships. We had 16 students representing across the grades. Special mention to Cian Bates competing well in the long jump and Darragh Murphy ran a very good 200m. Ciaran Murphy and Christy Joss were the only 1st Years representing on the day and ran very well in the 800m and 200m, with Ciaran finishing second in the 800m race.

Football

Senior Football St. Peter's won through to the South Leinster final after wins against Good Counsel College and Knockbeg College. They were knocked out of championship after losses to St. Mel's of Longford and Marist College, Athlone.

Juvenile Football. The Juvenile Footballers had a very successful year, reaching the South Leinster Final for the first time in four years. Along the way, our boys had both comprehensive and hard fought victories over Knockbeg College, Naas CBS and Scoil Mhuire Clane, as well as practice games against Gorey CS, St Kierans and Wexford CBS. Unfortunately the year came to an end losing out to a very strong Good Counsel side in the South Leinster Final. Well done to the entire squad for their commitment, support, comradery and great sport throughout the campaign.

Junior Football Our Junior football team have played two championship games so far. They defeated Knockbeg 3-06 to 0-05. They lost to Good Counsel 2-004 to 0-11. They have also played two practice games and had numerous training sessions and will play a quarter final in January.

First Year Football On a drizzly day in Pairc Gharman on the first Friday of October nearly 60 first year students represented SPC who entered 3 teams in the annual Keevan's Cup Competition. SPC A beat Good Counsel 3-03 to 1-04 in the final after extra time. SPC B overcame Enniscorthy CBS in their final on a score line of 3-00 to 2-00. The Leinster first year football championship will commence once the hurling championship finishes after Christmas.

Green Schools

The Greenschools have spent the last few months researching our new flag: Global Citizenship, Litter and Waste. This is our new theme after achieving our recent Biodiversity flag. Litter and Waste was an earlier flag we received and this is a continuation of that theme, but now in a global context. Our aim over the next 2 years is to resolve our bin situation and being particularly mindful of our waste. Before Christmas 2018, St Peter's pupils will be asked to complete a survey of their use of the bins in school and we are also setting up a new Wormery with Transition years. We will endeavour to make great changes in St Peter's and highlight the importance of reducing waste and recycling and do our bit for the Global crisis of excess waste and environmental degradation.

Handball

The following students represented the College in the 60x30 Colleges Handball Championships. First Year Singles - Jack Murphy; First year Doubles - Colm Kelly and John Sunderland; Under 15 Singles - Killian Whelan; Under 15 Doubles - Conor Murphy and Shane Kelly; Under 17 Singles - Robert Hilliard and Under 17 Doubles - David Doyle and Joe Devereux.

Hurling

Senior Hurling There was mixed results in our league campaign, we were well beaten by Dublin South in the first game but beat Kilkenny CBS in the second match. The Championship began on Wednesday 12th of December against Borris with a win of 3-17 to 1-6. Fundraising is on-going for our training camp over Christmas. a school hurling calendar of past and present teams is now on sale for €10.

Junior Hurling The season for junior hurling was short and sharp. We went down to De La Salle Waterford for a practice game on the 10th September. This was great practice for the start of the championship. We played St. Kieran's in the 1st round in Power Park. It was very tight the whole way through and ended up a draw. The next round was against Good counsel and it was tight for a lot of the game, but they pulled away from us in the end. We bowed out of the championship a week later after being outplayed and outscored by a better Kilkenny CBS team. We finished with a win, however, against Borris in the Shield final.

First Year Hurling The first year hurlers competed in the Wexford schools blitz in November entering three teams. All three teams made it to the final with only one win in the final hurdle. We took a lot of positives from the day heading into the Championship. Drawn in a group of three with St Kierans and Birr, St. Peter's College beat St. Kierans and Birr in the group setting up a home semi-final showdown between the winners of Kilkenny CBS and Birr to be played in January.

School Choir

St Peter's College Chamber Choir has had a busy year so far with performances at Wygram Nursing Home and Ard Aoibhinn. The Choir has added songs from musicals, classical pieces, Irish songs and pop songs to their repertoire. They played an integral role in the PPU Carol Concert on the 20th December, where they performed three songs. We hope to compete at the Kilkenny Music Festival next year

Trad Group

SPC traditional Irish group played at the PPU Christmas Concert performing Christmas classics as well as traditional pieces and slow airs. The group is made up of Oisín O'Finneadha, Mark Finucane, Ian Lynam, TJ Cullen, Cillian Cullen, Conan Phillips, Eoin Doyle, Jodie Sexton and Ben Kinsella.

PPU Christmas Carol Service

The College Choir and Trad Band along with many other local artists performed at the St. Peter's College Past Pupil's Christmas Carol Service on December 20th in Rowe Street Church. George Lawlor was MC on the night. The Carol service was a great success with proceeds going to the charity "It's Good 2 Talk" and Marine Watch.

School Bank

This is the fourth year competing in the AIB Build A Bank challenge. Two years ago the team were runners up in the national finals. This year the team Sean Og Flanagan, Gianni Forte, Mark Hennebry, Mark Finucane, Morogh O'Flaherty and Cillian Boggan hope to go one step further and win the national finals, so we need all your support. We've had a very successful launch event with a TY mini company fair, prizes and speakers from Pieta House and Wexford Marine Watch. "Bright Side Banking" offers 2% interest on student saver accounts, debit card with a current account and mobile and online banking. We open every Wednesday at lunch in the social area. #brightsidebanking.

Fundraising

There was an excellent response to the fundraising '**Guess the Score**' competition on the County Final between Naomh Enna (Gorey) and St Martins. The proceeds of the competition are used for the development of Power Park.

We collected over eight hundred non-perishable items for the **SVP Food Appeal** before Christmas which made up over seventy hampers for local families, and on the day of the holidays we had a **non-uniform day** with the proceeds going to SVP Wexford.

Teachers and students braved the icy water of Curracloe on St Stephens Day for the **annual swim** for Hospice Homecare in Wexford. Thanks to all for your support and well done everyone!

John Paul II Awards

This year, for the first time, nine TY students are undertaking the JPII Award. This award commemorates the life of Pope John Paul II who had great belief in the potential of young people; it encourages teenagers to get involved in the life of their local parish and work within their community to promote active citizenship. We wish all of the boys involved they very best as they continue towards achieving this award!

Swimming

St Peter's College has four students who are members of Wexford Swimming club - they are Conor Brown, Dillon Cousins, Amjad Ibrahim & Stuart Vaughan. The boys train every morning from 6-8am, they participate in Regional Competitions and represent St Peter's College at the Leinster Schools Competition every year.