

Christmas Newsletter 2011

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Enclosed please find a copy of your daughter's Christmas Report. These results allow you and your daughter to appraise the progress she has made over the last term and to put in place the necessary strategies for future improvement where appropriate. If you have any concerns arising from your daughters report, please contact the school to make an appointment with your daughters Tutor or Year Head.

After School Study

The school will provide After School Study for 3rd and 6th years from 3.45pm – 5.45pm every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday commencing the 9th January 2012. Students will pay €30 to cover costs and places will be limited. This is an excellent opportunity for students and we ask you to strongly encourage your daughter to attend. Students should understand that doing homework well is essential to success in their examinations and should be fully completed every single evening.

State Exams

Some Leaving Certificate subjects have a practical component (e.g. Geography Field Trip write up and a History Project). These projects should be prepared to the highest possible standard by each student under the guidance and direction of their teacher. A very good project can make an enormous difference to the final mark achieved in that subject.

Sixth Years have approximately six months left in St. Mary's Holy Faith. We know that as their parents you want them to achieve the best possible Leaving Certificate. All the teachers here in school share this hope and believe that every student deserves the opportunity to reach her potential. Therefore, unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated this term. Parents should be aware that any student who disrupts the teaching and learning will not be allowed to remain in that class and may be sent home for the remainder of that school day.

The Mock exam fees for 3rd and 6th years of €60 to cover the cost of running these exams will be due after Christmas and Tutors will be collecting this money. Receipts will be issued for all monies received. Students may pay €10 weekly up until the Mock exams are completed in an effort reduce the burden on families.

It is important to remember that the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate State Exam fee will also be due in February. Forms will be issued by the Department of Education in the New Year and must be brought to the bank for payment. The exact fee for the State Exams have yet to be decided by the Department but last year fees of €110 were required. Families who are in possession of an up to date medical card are exempt from this fee but must produce the card to the school to avail of this exemption.

The school reopens on Monday 9th January and the Mid-term begins on Monday February 13th.

T.Y. News

- The musical "Legally Blonde" is in the rehearsal stage and progressing very well.
- The students have linked up with the "Older Women's Network" and will perform a flashmob on December 8th.

- Early in November, each class group accompanied by their English Teacher to Kairos, to make their short film.
- Some T.Y. students participated in a public speaking event, winning an award for the best chairperson, as part of their Drama course with Ms. Noone.
- Many students have successfully auditioned for St. Paul's school musical and have secured many of the lead roles.
- Students visited the National Gallery of Art on 28th November.
- A great day was had by all, at the Fresh Film Festival workshop on the 29th November.
- Mini-companies formed by Callan and Tyndall are running successfully. Students knitted scarfs and sold them also Christmas cards were printed and sold.
- Students further developed their dancing skills with the "Streets Ahead Dance School".
- The T.Y. prepared beautiful and tasty treats for their European Food Day, along with help and guidance from Ms. Crowley and Ms. Scott.
- A very successful end of term, team building exercise was enjoyed by all.
- As usual, the T.Y. students were a credit to themselves and St. Mary's, at all the above events.

Guidance Activities This Term

- All 6th year students have attended a 40 minute careers interview with the Guidance Counsellor and these are on-going until January 2012.
- Representatives from DCU, NCI, have already spoken to 6th year students this term and UCD, TCD and DIT are invited in to career classes in January along with representatives from PLC colleges.
- Study skills modules have been completed in October/November including goal-setting for Christmas Tests, and reviewing study plan etc.
- The CAO deadline is February 1, but we are encouraging students to have it completed by January 20th to avail of the reduced fee of €30. See www.cao.ie.
- All 5th Years attended DCU Open Day in November.
- Ten of our 5th year students were involved in "Discover DCU" activity on 14th December.
- 1st year class group had Science Workshop conducted by DCU students in school during science week which our students thoroughly enjoyed.
- Many students avail of our counselling service.
- Bodywhys will be conducting workshops with our senior students next term.
- All the feedback from University personnel suggests that specialisms in Biomedical Sciences, Information Technology and Business with Languages are definite areas where opportunities will arise and skills will be required.
- 5th year students have completed their Differential Aptitude Tests and the results of these tests will guide students in considering future career choices. Feedback for 5th years will take place during February /March. Each student will be given an appointment time and parents are welcome to attend if they wish.

Musical

Preparation for our musical which is a version of "Legally Blonde" is well underway and the show begins on Monday January 23rd for four evenings. Tickets will be available through the school after Christmas at a cost of €7 per adult and €5 per child.

Fundraising

We commend the generous spirit and enthusiasm of our students who are involved in many fundraising activities for the benefit of others. Amongst these during the first term were:

- Jack and Jill Foundation.
- Lauralynn Foundation
- Aware
- LCVP Fashion Day –Ross Nugent Foundation.

Website

A new school website has been developed and can be accessed on www.holyfaith.ie and we are looking forward to provide news, information, and group photos of the girls from time to time.

Student Leadership

We salute all our senior students for the invaluable contribution they make to the school as prefects and also pupils in all year groups who take on responsibility as student council representatives.

The student council meets regularly on Wednesday mornings with Ms. Noone and are very active in our school in promoting student welfare.

Merit Awards

In January following the results of the Christmas tests and other progress reports, many students will receive merit certificates at the beginning of the New Year assemblies. These awards will be made in recognition of the commitment of individual girls and the manner in which they embrace the schools core values of Respect for Self, Respect for Others and Respect for the Environment.

Parents' Association

The Parents' Association meet on the first Tuesday of every month and they ran a very successful Quiz night at the end of November and raised €1,500 for the school. We thank them for their continued support.

Sporting Success

Up to Date with Holy Faith

We invite you to read "Up-To-Date with Holy Faith" which is a magazine produced in the school by Ms. Dreeling, Ms. Ryan and students which captures a snapshot of activities that occurred in the school this term.

Carol Service

A Carol Service was held in St. Brigid's Church on Tuesday December 20th. All students attended with their teachers. It was a joyful experience where we all entered into the true spirit of Christmas. I would like to congratulate the choir members, readers and all teachers who prepared the girls so well for this ceremony.

On behalf of the Board of Management and Staff I extend our best wishes to all families. I hope Christmas will be a happy and joyful period for all.

Beannachtaí na Nollag daoibh go léir.

Key Dates for New Term

School reopens on Monday January 9th 2012.

Awards Assemblies week beginning January 16th.

Musical – begins Monday January 23rd.

1st Year Parent/Teacher Meeting January 18th 4.15pm – 6.45pm.

Mock Exams begin Monday 20th February.

5th Year Parent/Teacher Meeting 8th February 4.15pm – 6.45pm.

Monday 13th February Mid-term Break begins to Friday 17th February.

2nd Year Parent/Teacher Meeting 6th March 4.15pm – 6.45pm.

January 17th Careers Evening for 5th and 6th year parents: the following colleges will be in attendance: DIT, UCD, TCD, DCU, ITB, NUIM, NCI to name but a few.

Transition Year Work Experience