



Coláiste Bríde
Presentation Secondary School
Newsletter, September 2012

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A chairde,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2012-13 academic year. I trust everyone is settled back into routine and that homework and study is being encouraged at home. I remind parents who were given E-Portal access to your daughters' records that you can check this and contact us and for all other parents you shall shortly be contacted re E-Portal access too.

This year we have already had bonding days, visiting speakers for both students and parents etc. so the calendar is filling up with activities. All 1st year students must do one extra-curricular activity—see list on the reverse side of the Newsletter for details. Night study is up and running as well as the homework clubs. These are great opportunities so please avail of it.

This year we are going to offer after school internet access for students who do not have access at home to do their work on-line. Our school, as one of the selected pilot schools for the new Junior Cycle (see www.ncca.ie) is introducing e-portfolios and Edmodo which has a mobile phone app as an on-line learning environment for students and teachers to use. Coláiste Bríde is also leading the way in video conferencing by linking with Presentation Warrenmount for higher level Maths in 5th year with Ms Broderick and supported by the Digital Hub.

I congratulate the students, parents and staff on excellent Leaving and Junior Certificate results; we continue to advise girls to opt for as many higher level subjects as possible. We are delighted to offer Agricultural Science as a Leaving Certificate subject in conjunction with Moyle Park College, this subject links with LCVP options as well as subjects many of our girls already study.

I encourage parents to get involved, to give feedback as we always look to improve communication, facilities and your daughters education. Come, join the Parents' Council and/or attend meetings for parents.

Wishing you a great year ahead,

Welcome to all of our new First Year Students!

Parents' Council

Invitation to all Parents

All parents are invited to attend the

Parents' Council AGM on

October 2nd, 2012 at 7.30pm

*There will also be a presentation to Parents regarding
Internet Safety and Cyber bullying*

RE-ENROLMENT 2012-13

Many thanks to all those who have paid re-enrolment for 2011/12.

Students who have yet to re-enrol for this year may submit payment to the office.

Please keep in mind that only students who have paid re-enrolment will be covered by the schools 24 hour personal accident insurance for the school year.

Students not enrolled before Oct 1st will not be included on the policy.

Anything Can Be Accomplished

It's never easy to be a student.
Every day brings more assignments until it seems
that the hard work will never end.
I know I'd rather watch TV or listen to music
many times when I sit down to study,
but please, Lord, help me to realize
that knowledge, like your love, can never be lost.
Help me never to underestimate myself as a student
because anything can be accomplished
with your guidance and love.
Let me be helpful and understanding
toward my fellow students,
and not judge them but radiate the same love
you show us through your lasting mercy.
Amen.



Bill Starr

Paired Reading Programme

The Paired Reading Programme for 1st year students has already begun. Well done to all of the senior students and 1st year students taking part. The programme is run at lunchtime and runs for 6 week periods.



The Rainbows Programme will begin again at the end of September. Rainbows is a peer support programme to assist children and adolescents who are grieving a death, separation or other painful transition in the family. If you would like your daughter to take part in the Rainbows Programme please contact Sr Anne Nevin or Ms Brid Patten through the school reception at (01) 459 1158.



EXTRA CURRICULAR

ACTIVITIES BEGIN

All first years are encouraged to take up at least ONE extra-curricular activity. It is a great way of learning a new skill and making lots of new friends—especially meeting other first years that are not in your class. At the end of the year each first year must write a report on the activity that she chose, what was good about it and what could be improved! See the reverse side of the newsletter for a list of all activities available.

Welcome to all of our new First Years!

Here are some of your thoughts about your first days in Coláiste Bríde

The first few days in Coláiste Bríde were scary but after my second week I was used to it—Amy

I was scared because people said that you get lots of homework in 1st year but it actually wasn't that bad!
Gabriela

The night before my first day in Coláiste Bríde was probably the worst night of my life! I was so nervous I couldn't sleep. Now, after a few weeks I love my new school! Emma

I was worried that I wouldn't be able to find my classes but it's easier than I thought! Miruna

My first day was a bit scary at first but then I met my tutor and my class. I have loads of new friends now. I have learnt so much already. I love all the new activities.—Eimear

My experience so far is AMAZING! All of the teachers are so nice and the subjects are so cool. I have made so many new friends and they are all great! I love the school! Anonymous

My first day of school was very nerve racking. I thought that everyone was staring at me, but I am OK now—Gemma



Message from the Deputy Principal



Welcome back everyone! I hope that you are all well settled in by now. Just a reminder regarding some of our rules, sticking to these rules will make life easier for all of us:

Students leaving the school premises: If your daughter needs to leave the school for any reason, please remember to write a dated note in her journal **and** confirm the note by a phone-call to the school office.

Illness: If a student is ill during school time she must go to her tutor who will arrange for a phone call to be made to a parent / guardian to arrange for the student to go home.

Mobile Phones: Students may not use their mobile phone for any reason. If a mobile phone is seen, whether in use or not, it will be confiscated.

Entry to the school car park: Parents/Guardians are reminded that there is no entry into the school car park between 8.30am and 4.30pm, except in the case of an emergency. Please also keep the school entrance clear of cars.

Dropping or collecting students: Parents may NOT use the Primary School car park at any time.

Meeting the Principal, Deputy Principal or Teacher: Any parent wishing to meet with the Principal, Deputy Principal or teacher MUST have an appointment.

Working together, we can have a very successful year!

Mr McEntegart



Dates for your Diary



September 25th	CAO Information Night for parents of 5th & 6th yr students
October 2nd a	Parents' Council AGM— including talk on Cyber bullying & Internet Safety
October 11th	School Closed—Staff Training

The Touch-Type Read and Spell (TTRS) computer course is now available for students. The programme is ideally suited for students who wish to improve their reading and spelling skills while learning how to type. The cost of the programme is €25 for the school year. This is a significant savings for parents as the programme usually cost €25 per hour in other education centres in Ireland. Further details about the course are available at www.ttrs.co.uk and from Ms. Slattery.

Guidance & Counselling News

Higher Options Thursday 20 Sept 2012

Approximately one hundred Sixth Year students from Coláiste Bríde travelled to the Higher Options Conference in the RDS. Talks included topics such as the options on offer in Irish and UK third level education, the CAO and UCAS admissions systems, alternative routes to third level through Further Education (Post Leaving Certificate Colleges –‘PLCs’), how to choose a career and how to cope with college life. This is one of the most important events of sixth year because it motivates students to study for their Leaving Certificate with the intention of getting the course of their dreams.



Second Year Parents' Talk

Dr Brendan Byrne gave a presentation to Second Year Parents on Tuesday, 20 September in Coláiste Bríde. It was an informative presentation for parents around their daughters' teenage years, what to expect and how to cope and support them through second level. A practical guide for parents called *Sharing Experiences and Suggestions Around Alcohol & Substance Abuse* was distributed to parents on the night.

CAO Parents Information Talk Tuesday, 25 September at 7:30

Representatives from the Admissions Offices of the National University of Ireland (NUIM) and the Institute of Technology, Tallaght will give a presentation on the application process for Third level (CAO) for parents of Sixth Year students. This is a very practical forum to help parents understand the CAO system and applications Post Leaving Certificate FETAC Colleges of Further Education. These talks are designed to help parents support their daughters in Second Level.

We look forward to seeing you.