



## Coláiste an Chroí Naofa

26 February 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to update you on a number of developments in our school.

### School Tracksuit

I would like to thank all parents who responded to our survey of the school tracksuit. There were 265 respondents. The results were as follows:

- ❖ The school half zip, a generic black polo shirt and a generic black straight leg tracksuit pants. (44.15%)
- ❖ The school half zip, existing black polo shirt with school crest and a generic black straight leg tracksuit pants. (29.06%)
- ❖ The school half zip, existing black polo shirt with school crest and a school black straight leg tracksuit pants. (16.98%)
- ❖ The school half zip, a generic white polo shirt and a generic black straight leg tracksuit pants (9.81%)

From September 2018 the school track suit will be as follows: a school half zip, a generic black polo shirt and a generic black straight leg tracksuit pants. It will be available from McCarthy's Sports shop in Hazlewood shopping centre in Glanmire. Leggings will not be acceptable.

### Physical Education

Our school is one of 80 schools to be chosen to introduce a new Senior Cycle Programme for PE. It is great to be part of this new initiative and I would like to thank our PE teachers Ms O' Callaghan and Ms Gibson for their support and enthusiasm for this new initiative. It is envisaged that this will lead to the introduction of PE as a Leaving Cert subject in September 2019 subject to approval by the Department of Education and Skills

### Children First Act

In December of 2017 the Children First Act was enacted. This Act places statutory obligations on teachers and schools. There is a requirement that all school personnel receive training on the new procedures to ensure that they fulfil their child protection responsibilities. Consequently, the Department of Education and Skills has sanctioned two separate half – day school closures during the 2017/18 school year to allow time for school personnel to engage with the revised procedures and new responsibilities. To facilitate this training, the school will close at 1.05 pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March and on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

### Transition Year Fees

As those of you that have been involved and benefited from Transition year know, we provide a varied, interesting and engaging programme. Unfortunately, this programme comes at a cost and for the last number of years the school has been subsidising the

programme to a considerable degree. As you can appreciate this is a situation that is not sustainable. Consequently, the Board of Management has decided to increase the fees for Transition Year from €350 to €450 euro from September 2018. This is the first increase since 2005. Parents of Transition Years are not asked for the school contribution of €70.

### Transition Year School Tour

The Transition years will visit Amsterdam from Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> March. I would like to thank Ms Power for organising the trip and thank the following teachers for volunteering their time to spend with 72 teenagers!!! Mr. O' Mahony, Mr Barry, Ms O' Sullivan, Ms Carty, Ms O' Leary, Ms Hearn and Ms. Gibson.

### La Semaine Francaise

French week takes place between the 26<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March. A whole range of activities have been organised including a poster competition, table quiz, French films, visit from a French Theatre group and French pronunciation challenge. Un grand merci to the French teachers for organising cette belle semaine!!

### Weather Warning

At the time of print, we await a severe weather front affectionately known as the 'Beast from the East'. I will keep you informed by text of developments as the week progresses. Also any information relating to school closures, late starts etc will also be posted on our website, Facebook page and twitter account. A decision to close a school rests with the Board of Management taking into consideration the full guidance and direction available from the principal response agencies, especially An Garda Síochána. Any decision to close is taken in the interest of child safety, having assessed the local risks and having consulted, as appropriate, with school transport operators.

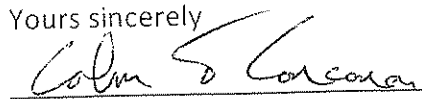
### Mobile Phones

Mobile phones are of benefit in teaching and learning in the class room and their use under the direction of teachers is encouraged. However, they are to be powered off at all other times and their use in the school and school grounds is prohibited. (Breach of this school rule will result in the device being held in the school office until the end of the school day. On the second occasion parents or guardians will need to collect the phone.)

### Dates to remember

- ❖ 2<sup>nd</sup> year parent teacher meeting Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March.
- ❖ 5<sup>th</sup> year parent teacher meeting Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March.
- ❖ Transition Year and 5<sup>th</sup> year options talk Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March.
- ❖ Pre Leaving and Junior Cert results will be issued Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> March.

Yours sincerely



Colm Ó Corcora

Principal