



## CASTLEKNOCK COLLEGE

### Weekly Bulletin from the Headmaster, Mr Oliver Murphy, to the parents of St Vincent's Castleknock College Friday 30 August 2013

#### Academic News

- Congratulations to the class of 2013 who, for the most part, were very happy with the offers they received from the CAO this week. We wish them all the best in Third Level. The highlights of these results are printed below. They make impressive reading.
- I would like to congratulate all of our students for their positive approach to their work this week. I would also like to thank them for the effort they have made on their appearance, especially the 1<sup>st</sup> years. Keep it up!
- As part of the national literacy drive, Castleknock College has embarked on a three-pronged campaign to improve the literacy of our students: 1. There are six common errors (E1 to E6) which no student should make. Every student will know about these and we'll all try to avoid them. 2. In language classes, students are to use the target language and try to speak **full sentences**. 3. We have a new 'Read for Ambo' project. For every book read during LAPC, 50c will be donated to our sister college in Ambo. If a student reads 20 books in the year, that will pay for a teacher for a week in the school in Ambo. Let's get reading
- I am asking families to Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) for half an hour every week. At some moment in the week, turn off the TV, computers and mobiles and everyone in the house drops everything and reads. After a while it'll be something to look forward to.

#### Club News

- Congratulations to Eoghan Murphy and James McCormack who played for Leinster U19 squad in their 14-all draw against Italy.
- Congratulations to Seán O'Heir and Darragh Scanlon who played twice for Leinster U18 against Languedoc in France – winning both matches.
- Good luck to Jack O'Neill in his Leinster U20 match v Leicester Academy next Thursday.

#### Vincetian News

- We would like to congratulate James McHugh on his retirement. James has been a very valued member of staff at the college for a great number of years. We thank him for his hard work and dedication to the college and wish him all the very best for the future.
- Registration for this years Gaisce for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> years will start this week. All interested students should speak to Mr O'Loughlin or Ms Tiernan.

#### Sports News

- The **Rugby Blitz** will be on tomorrow (Saturday 31 August) from 10-1. It's for students in 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> classes or who have just started secondary school. No charge. Tog out for rugby – with your gum shield. It's tackle rugby, not tag, but in safe 10-a-side matches. We look forward to seeing you all here.
- There are a number of sports starting on Tuesday afternoon:
  - Indoor cricket in the gym (bring runners)
  - Table tennis with our professional coach Tibor Pofok (no gear needed)
  - Tennis – make sure you bring white shoes and a racquet, if you have one
  - Cross country running (in any running gear)
- Congratulations to Harry Purcell who won gold at the Celtic Games in Wales in the 800m with a games record time of 1:52.72. Fantastic win!
- Congratulations to Liam Hawkes who represented Ireland in the coxless fours rowing Home Internationals. The Irish team came 2nd. Well done!

#### Parent News

- **Important information:** The college has recently completed an upgrade of the school website. The site is now live and can be viewed at [www.castleknockcollege.ie](http://www.castleknockcollege.ie) There are a number of new features on the website which may be of benefit to our parents:
  1. Firstly you can now sync your smart phone with the school calendar on the website meaning that all important college dates and fixtures will be available automatically stored and updated on your device. You can choose to sync the entire calendar or just calendar for the year your son is currently enrolled in. Paste the following link into the browser of your phone or computer and follow the instructions at the bottom of the page <http://www.castleknockcollege.ie/calendar.html>
  2. Secondly you will notice on the home page, on the right hand side that there is a live twitter feed (above Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin). Each morning the school's daily announcements will be tweeted and can be viewed by parents also! Just click on "View Twitter Feed" for the full list. If you have a twitter account you can also follow us @castleknockcoll. <https://twitter.com/castleknockcoll>
  3. Lastly please make sure that you subscribe to the Headmaster's Bulletin by entering your e-mail address into the box located under the "Headmaster's Weekly Bulletin" on the home page.
- We would also kindly ask parents to not use the community entrance when dropping off and picking up their son from school. All traffic must enter and exit the building via the main school gates.
- A number of boys have also been seen chewing chewing gum on the premises please advise your son that chewing gum is not permitted on the school grounds at any time.
- We would ask that any sports permission slips that have not yet been returned please return them as soon as possible.
- We have been advised that the all gum shield impressions will be taken on Monday. Mr Geraghty will be in reception at lunchtime on Monday. Forms are still available from reception for any student wishing to avail of this.

- Any sports gear that has already been ordered will be handed out to the students next week.
- The booking forms for the 1<sup>st</sup> year's mother's lunch will be sent out in the post next week.
- Any student who has yet to bring in their spare locker key and the €10 deposit please make sure you have them on Monday.
- We would also like to remind parents that white sports socks are not permitted to be worn with the school uniform. All socks must be either dark grey or black.
- Body toning will continue on Thursday evenings from 7 – 8pm and Yoga will start on Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of September from 7 – 8pm.

## **Highlights of the results for Leaving Cert 2013**

**at**

### **St Vincent's Castleknock College**

- 88% of our Music students got either A or B at Higher Level – more than double the national average
- Three quarters of the Applied Maths class got an A
- 86% of our Art students got an honour (60% nationally)
- 76% of the Physics students got A or B at Higher Level (50% nationally)
- In Religious Education, 92% got an honour compared with 62% nationally
- 78% of our DCG students got Honours (61% nationally)
- 86% of our History students got honours (52% nationally)
- In English, 77% got an honour, compared with 50% nationally
- In Project Maths, 37% of all our students got Honours (compared with 22% nationally)
- 23% of our higher level French students got an A compared with 14% nationally
- 73% of our Chemistry students got A or B at Higher Level (49% nationally)
- In German, Business and Accounting, we were well above the national average for getting honours
- All of our Economics students took the higher level paper and half got A or B
- In Geography, all of our students took the Higher Level paper and not one failed
- No student failed English or Project Maths (and only one failed Irish), leaving the door open to most third level courses

**Congratulations to the Class of 2013 and to their teachers**