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## Sancta Maria College September News

### Welcome...

to our first newsletter for parents/guardians 2019/2020.

This newsletter will be issued monthly with all the upcoming events and happenings at Sancta Maria College.

Should you have any questions or areas you would like us to cover in this newsletter please just contact [info@sanctamaria.ie](mailto:info@sanctamaria.ie)

### Child Protection

All of us who are involved with working with children and young people must do our utmost to ensure their protection and welfare while in our care.

At Sancta Maria we have established systems in place to help support students at all times.

First year students are assigned a senior student as their **student mentor** to assist with day to day issues, advice and a listening ear if needed. The mentors have received training for this role and avail of ongoing support from the coordinating teacher Ms. Joan Rennick. We wish to thank the many students that volunteer for this role annually and to acknowledge their dedication and commitment to helping our new school members settle in and enjoy life at Sancta Maria College.

All classes have a **class tutor** assigned to them for help with day to day issues.

Each year group has a **Yearhead/Assistant Yearhead** assigned to them. The Year Head on behalf of the school community takes on the role of overseeing the welfare of a year group so that learning, at every level of the person, is supported.

A pastoral care team meet weekly with the priority of promoting the welfare and safety of every child and young person who attends Sancta Maria College.

(Pauline Moran, Finola Foy, Richard Berkeley, Celine Maher, Joan Rennick, Chris Holloway, Bridget Donnelly)

The Principal Ms Pauline Moran acts as the **DLP (Designated Liaison Person)** This person will liaise with statutory agencies responsible for child protection and welfare and will be the resource person to any worker or volunteer who has child protection concerns.

In the absence of the DLP the Deputy Principal Ms Finola Foy acts as **the DDLP (Deputy Designated Liaison Person)**

Sancta Maria College has in place:

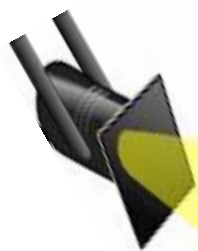
- A Child protection Risk Assessment Statement
- A Child protection Safeguarding Statement

Both are reviewed annually and notice of review together with the statements are circulated to all relevant parties, displayed on our website and issued to our Patron.

Check out our website [sanctamaria.ie](http://sanctamaria.ie) for current statements.

### Dates for your Diary

Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Junior Cycle Training Staff only—school closed
October 8 <sup>th</sup>	Internet Safety and cyber bullying talk for parents 7-9pm
October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Second year Parent Teacher meeting 4.15pm
Mid Term Break	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2019
<b>Study Skills postponed until December 9<sup>th</sup></b>	



## Student wellbeing is present when:

- students realise their abilities
- take care of their physical wellbeing
- can cope with the normal stresses of life
- have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community

The junior cycle years are a critical time in young peoples' lives.

Students are exposed to a range of influences and require support to make positive responsible decisions relating to their health and wellbeing and the wellbeing of others.

This area of wellbeing incorporates learning included in PE, SPHE and CSPE which are now all short courses in Junior Cycle and other areas of learning supported in subjects, workshops and activities

A sample of activities include, study skills talks, internet safety talks, surfing/activity bonding days, 'Beat the Blues' workshops, positive mental health week, musical/choir, a wide range of sporting activities, art projects etc

## How do I contact a teacher, tutor, year head, deputy principal, principal etc?

At Sancta Maria College, we acknowledge the primary role of parents/guardians in the education of their children.

We see the close working relationship with parents/guardians as central to the success of our students, and we encourage regular input and contact through the student journal, parent-teacher meetings and the Parents' Association.

Each student's Class Tutor and Year Head act as a key point of contact for parents/guardians.

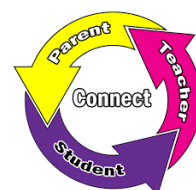
Parents/Guardians are always welcome to visit the school but please make an appointment in advance. Teachers/Tutors/Yearhead/Deputy/Principal may be in class or have prior meetings arranged. To ensure you can meet with the person required an appointment in advance is required. To make an appointment please just contact the school at 098 66342 or [info@sanctamaria.ie](mailto:info@sanctamaria.ie)

## Parents' Association News

A churchgate collection in aid of Sancta Maria College will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are needed for Louisburgh, Lecanvey and Killeen churches. Please let Ciara know if you can spare an hour on Sunday morning.

[parentsassociation@sanctamaria.ie](mailto:parentsassociation@sanctamaria.ie)

Sancta Maria Website is currently being updated - in the meantime, should you require any information please contact [info@sanctamaria.ie](mailto:info@sanctamaria.ie)



## Junior Cycle Language Explained

Just a short explanation of some of the terms you may be hearing from Junior Cycle Students



<p><b>C B A</b></p>	<p>Classroom-Based Assessments in subjects and short courses provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding and skills in ways not possible in a formal examination.</p> <p>Classroom-Based Assessments, facilitated by the classroom teacher, are undertaken by students in a defined time period, within class contact time and to a national timetable.</p> <p>The assessments associated with CBAs will cover a broad range of activities including oral tasks, written work of different types, practical or designing and making tasks, artistic performances, scientific experiments, projects or other suitable tasks depending on the subject in question.</p> <p>When assessing the level of student achievement in a Classroom-Based Assessment against the learning outcomes, teachers and subject departments will use 'on-balance' judgement in relation to the Features of Quality, which are set out in four level descriptors</p> <p>Classroom Based Assessment Descriptors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exceptional</li> <li>• Above Expectations</li> <li>• In Line with Expectations</li> <li>• Yet to Meet Expectations</li> </ul>
<p><b>Assessment Task</b></p>	<p>The Assessment Task is a written task completed by students during class time, and is sent to the State Examinations Commission for marking. The Assessment Task is specified by the NCCA and is related to the learning outcomes of the second Classroom-Based Assessment.</p>
<p><b>Short course</b></p>	<p>Short courses are a new and optional curriculum component in the junior cycle which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• require 100 hours of student engagement</li> <li>• should emphasise students' active learning</li> <li>• are assessed through Classroom-Based Assessment</li> <li>• will be reported upon by the school</li> </ul> <p>Their inclusion will allow a school to broaden the range of learning experiences for students, address their interests and encompass areas of learning not covered by the combination of curricular subjects available in the school.</p>

## New Grading Systems Explained

### Changes in Junior Cycle Grading

You will see less of A, B, C grades etc as new Junior cycle subjects are assessed as the grading system is changing to Distinction/Merit etc. as shown.

The new grading system is being phased in with the introduction of new subjects.

Irish English and Maths will be offered at higher and ordinary level while all other subjects have a common paper.

Junior Cycle	
Percentage	Grade Descriptor
≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)

### Leaving Cert overhaul: out with A, B, C in with 1, 2, 3

The following table shows the new leaving cert grades and the CAO points allocated to each grade.

Higher Grade	Points	Ordinary Grade	Points
H1 90-100%	100	O1 90-100%	56
H2 80<90%	88	O2 80<90%	46
H3 70<80%	77	O3 70<80%	37
H4 60<70%	66	O4 60<70%	28
H5 50<60%	56	O5 50<60%	20
H6 40<50%	46	O6 40<50%	12
H7 30<40%	37	O7 30<40%	0
H8 0<30%	0	O8	0

#### Maths Bonus Points

25 bonus points will be awarded for Higher Level Mathematics for H6 grades and above. For example, if an applicant receives a H6 grade an additional 25 points will be added to the 46 points already awarded for a H6 grade

### What about LCVP

Young people taking the **LCVP** have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills in this subject.

Distinction (80 - 100%) 66 points

Merit (65 - 79%) 46 points

Pass (50 - 64%) 28 points