



RATOATH COLLEGE

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27.11.17

RE: Parents of Sixth Year students

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to the Sixth Year Parent-Teacher-Student meetings, the last one of these meetings for our Sixth Years in Ratoath College. We trust you will find this evening a constructive and worthwhile experience. The last number of weeks have been extremely busy for your sons/daughters, in particular with the completion of their mini-mock exams, including oral assessments and work ongoing on Leaving Cert project and coursework.

We want to take this opportunity to bring a few important things to your attention as we enter the final phase of the Leaving Certificate year for your son/daughter:

Attendance & Punctuality

The link between attendance and academic success has been well established. We expect full attendance from all Leaving Cert students. Similarly, we expect students to be on time for assembly at 08.35 each day and for each class throughout the day. No disruption to learning by students arriving late to class is acceptable.

Revision & Study

Mock exams begin in 10 weeks' time, on 29th January. With many subjects continuing to move forward with new material, it's vital that all Sixth Year students have a clear plan for their revision and study of topics already completed. Students have received support in creating these plans, in particular with the Study Skills seminar they attended this year. If you or your son/daughter are concerned or unsure about how to create and follow a study plan, they should speak to their Caomhnóir as a matter of urgency.

Exam Stress and Anxiety

The Leaving Cert year is a stressful and anxious time for many of our students. While recognising the importance of hard work and consistent study, it is nonetheless important to be aware of the potential for this to get out of hand and for unnecessary, unhelpful and damaging stress and anxiety to take hold. We advise that you remain vigilant for the signs for increased stress and anxiety in your son/daughter – such as loss of appetite or insomnia or unusual changes in behaviour – and to contact us if you have any concerns in this respect.

Projects / Coursework

During this next period of the Leaving Cert year work on projects and coursework for which Leaving Cert marks are available in a range of subjects will come to a conclusion. Deadlines for the submission of these projects and coursework are set by the SEC. It is therefore vital that this work is completed in a timely fashion, to the deadlines given to students by their class teachers.

PTO

Reviewing Mini-Mock Exams/Student Progress

Over the coming weeks, Caomhnóirí will be working with students on their academic tracking booklets. These booklets are designed to allow students to clearly and efficiently record their results and then to use these to set achievable targets in priority subjects.

If you have any concerns or queries in relation to particular subjects, we encourage you to make the maximum use of today's meetings to ask questions of your son's/daughter's teachers. It's important for them to be of most use that today's meetings are a dialogue between all three parties.

Given the focus of today's meetings on subject specific matters and the limited amount of time available, if there are any other non-subject related matters you wish to discuss in relation to your son/daughter please arrange to make a separate appointment.

CAO / post-Leaving Cert

The school's Guidance team, Mr Ball and Ms Brennan, have been and continue to meet with all Leaving Cert students in relation to their post-Leaving Cert options. By now, all Leaving Cert students should be registered with the CAO. You can find more information the CAO and post-Leaving Cert options in the Guidance and Counselling section of the school website.

Students recently received the results of the CAT4 tests they sat towards the end of Fifth Year. These tests are designed to give them some ideas about the kinds of courses and careers they may have an aptitude for.

Sixth Year Moltóir

I am pleased to be able to inform you that Mr Martin Horan has been appointed as the new Sixth Year Moltóir. Mr Horan will take up his new role in the near future. Mr Horan and Mr M^cCarthy, along with the Sixth Year Caomhnóirí, will be working closely together for the remainder of the year to support our Sixth Years through the last months of their final year in secondary school.

Yours faithfully,

*John M^cCarthy,
Deborah Dalton,
Daniel Delany,*

The Sixth Year Team

*Martin Horan,
Joey Jordan,
Eimear Kilrane,*

*Liam Moreton,
Sarah O'Neill,
Katie O'Neill.*
