



1st October, 2020

RE: Beginning of Leaving Certificate

Dear Parent(s)/Guardians,

We hope you had an enjoyable summer and are ready for the new academic year. We have a few areas that we would like to bring to your attention as your son/daughter embarks on their senior cycle at Ratoath College.

Dialann

The Dialann is as important in Senior cycle as it was at Junior cycle and as you are aware we use the Dialann as the main form of communication between school and home. Teachers will regularly write notes informing you of areas where your son/daughter is excelling or areas where they need improvement, also of any important notices or behavioural concerns. It is imperative that you check the Dialann on a daily basis to monitor and keep abreast of your son/daughter's progress in 5th year. Please **sign notes in the comment section on a daily basis** to let us know you have received and read the same.

Work Ethic

We are very pleased and proud of the Leaving Certificate results achieved by the students in Ratoath College to date. On reflection and having spoken with many of our past pupils it is clear that their outstanding success is down to the fact that they were committed to their work from the start of 5th year and received great support from home and from the staff of the school.

We have great expectations for the current 5th years, they have always been hard working and committed to their studies, full of potential and are a fantastic group to deal with. We would ask that you continue to encourage your son/daughter as you have done in the past, instil in them the importance of setting goals and focusing from day one in 5th year, organising a timetable which includes time for curricular and extra-curricular work.

Careers

5th year is a really important year for your son/daughter to start doing preparatory work on what career they would like to follow after they have completed their Leaving Cert. Every 5th year has access to a Guidance Counsellor with whom they will meet formally throughout the year, but they can also make an appointment to discuss career/course options at any time. Whilst we do not expect every student to know exactly what career they wish to follow at this moment, it is important that you encourage your son/daughter to embark on as much research into careers over the coming weeks to enable them to decide upon a few areas that seem of interest to them. They can then explore these areas with their Guidance Counsellor.

Please Turn Over

Attendance and Punctuality

We would first like to congratulate the majority of the students who have excellent attendance records to date; this is commendable and a credit to them and to you. It is imperative that every effort is made for students to attend on a regular basis. **If your son/daughter is sick please contact the school and leave a message on my extension before 8.25am.** Please keep us informed of any planned absences and may we remind you that a written explanation in the Dialann is required when your child returns to school following an absence. Where possible holidays and medical/dental appointments should be made for outside school hours. **All available data and research show a direct correlation between positive attendance and academic success.** Registration is recorded during assembly and any student who does not present will be marked absent on the official register. Students should arrive to school on time and access the building via the 5th year entrance at the back of the building near the gym.

Covid-19 procedures

We would like to remind parents that the wearing of face masks is mandatory for students and staff and students must follow social distancing guidelines. Hand sanitisers are available outside every door and bathroom and students must sanitise their hands regularly. Lockers are not available, but students will have assigned storage in their base classroom for materials. Students must always wear their lanyard for identification purposes during the school day. Students are not permitted outside of the 5th year area at any time. Students must access the building through the designated entrance.

Mobile phones

We would like to remind students that mobile phones must be turned off when in the building. Students should only have them out if directed to do so by the class teacher. If students are unwell they can inform the class teacher, supervisor on duty and/or Caomhnoir or Moltoir and not make contact with home themselves.

Uniform

Students are very well presented in their uniform and we would like to remind parents that shoes must be black leather and the PE uniform must be the official PE uniform of the school. This can be bought from Blondelles <https://www.blondelles.ie/> or School Uniforms direct <https://www.schooluniformsdirect.ie/secondary/ratoath-college>

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our 5th year students all the best for the year ahead as they embark on senior cycle and the Leaving Certificate. We would also like to thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the 5th Year team.

Yours sincerely,

The 5th year Team,

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