



# RATOATH COLLEGE

22nd January 2018

## **RE: Parents and Students of 6<sup>th</sup> Year**

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) and Student,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Mr. Martin Horan and have taken over the Moltóir duties of 6<sup>th</sup> year. I will be working closely with Mr. John McCarthy to ensure this smooth transition will not impact on an already demanding year. I look forward to working with both students and parents over the coming months.

We the 6<sup>th</sup> year team would like to take this opportunity to praise and commend the students on what was a very successful first term. The majority of students have settled back into school life after the Christmas break and have adjusted well to the pace of 6<sup>th</sup> year. This term is going to be an exceptionally busy and important one and the 6<sup>th</sup> years must continue to work hard and remain focused on the challenges that lie ahead.

We would like to draw your attention to the following:

### **Study**

Be aware that homework and study are two separate activities this year, homework is the work you do for individual teachers; study is exam preparation. Both should commence as soon as possible after the school day finishes to allow you time before bed to wind down and relax before getting a good night's sleep. Work in a quiet place and switch off distractions like mobile phones! Parents should encourage good study practice and monitor the work being done on a regular basis, but the student should take responsibility for their own school work and study.

### **Career Guidance – CAO**

At this stage all 6<sup>th</sup> years have registered for CAO and met with their Guidance Counsellor. They will be completing their application forms over the coming weeks, can you take some time to peruse your son/daughters CAO application with them. If you have any queries regarding CAO/Colleges etc., please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's assigned Guidance Counsellor.

### **Uniform**

All students must present themselves in full school uniform every day and follow the dress code as outlined in the Dialann. PE uniform (including the hoodie), is only to be worn during PE class. Students are not permitted to wear the hoodie during the rest of the school day. School footwear is black/navy leather shoes (not black/navy leather runners or canvas shoes).

As our most senior students, we expect our 6<sup>th</sup> years to set an example for younger students in the way they present themselves in uniform every day.

### **Mock Exams**

6<sup>th</sup> years will take their Mock examinations beginning Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January and run until Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. It is imperative that we have full attendance for the exam week. 6<sup>th</sup> years may go

home during periods when they are not timetabled for examinations; however, we advise & encourage them to use any spare time wisely to revise. We wish all 6th years the best of luck in their Mock Examinations!

### Attendance

Students who miss school, miss valuable class contact time with their teachers. While illness is unavoidable, unless students need to visit a doctor they should be in school. Taking good care of themselves through a balanced diet, some exercise to keep healthy and a clear head are all excellent ways to stay in good health. When a student has to be absent, a **phone call** should be made to the school on the first day of absence. Please leave a message on my answering machine. A **written explanation** in the Dialann is required when your teenager returns to school following an absence.

### Punctuality

Whilst the attendance for 6th years is very good overall, punctuality has become an issue for a small cohort of students.

- To be properly organised for the day, students should be in school at 8.20am.
- The Bell for Assembly is at **8.35am**. If students arrive after 8.35am they are **LATE**.
- Assembly is imperative to the smooth running of each day; it incorporates announcements/celebration/instructions for each day and ensures class time is not interrupted by intercom announcements.

### Social life

The Leaving Cert begins in 19 weeks. If, in that time, your social life takes priority over preparing for your exams, there will be a negative impact on your Leaving Cert results. While we recommend that you balance study with some free time, socialising every weekend will impact on your results. The parties and nights out will still be there when the Leaving Certificate is over, and you can look forward to socialising without worrying about the impact on your points.

### Pastoral Care

If you need help, if you are under pressure our message is: talk to someone! We are here to support and help you through this journey towards the June exams. Your Caomhnóir, subject teachers, Moltóir, Guidance Counsellors, Principal and Deputy Principal are there to listen and support. Remember we've all been there before!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very healthy, happy and prosperous year ahead. We would also like to thank you for your continued support.

Yours,

*Martin Horan (Moltóir)*

*Joseph Jordan*

*Liam Moreton*

*Vinnie O' Reilly*

*Deborah Dalton*

*Daniel Delany*

*Eimear Kilrane*

*Katie O'Neill*

*Sarah O'Neill*