



19.12.19

## RE: Christmas Break, 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We trust this letter finds you well and that you are looking forward to the Christmas break. We are writing to you today to bring you up to date with a number of important developments for the school.

### **New Building**

We are delighted to be able to let you know that we have had the new contractor on site and expect work to complete the new building to begin in earnest on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January. The basis of our planning is that we will be moving into the new building and removing the prefabs before the beginning of the new school year in August 2020. Given how long we have been waiting and the many delays we have faced, we are not quite counting our chickens just yet and are preparing ourselves for every contingency, but we are extremely hopeful that the end is finally in sight.

We would like to acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to you, to the various members of the Boards of Management since the new building project began in 2012, to our previous Principals Ms. Ní Bhróithe and Ms. Prendergast, to our colleagues at LMETB head office, to our local representatives and to everyone who has supported us in seeking to finally have a school building worthy of our wonderful students.

### **Enrolment**

August 2020 will also be auspicious for Ratoath College as we prepare to welcome the largest ever cohort of first year students into the school. We are delighted that so many in the Ratoath, Curragha and Rathbeggan communities have chosen to entrust the education of their children to Ratoath College and we look forward to their arrival. For those of you with children preparing to join us in 2020, information on important deadlines over the coming months will issue soon after the Christmas break.

### **Digital Review Group**

As you will be aware, an independent digital review group has been working hard over the last few months, meeting with students, staff and parents, conducting surveys and visiting other schools. They have informed us that they hope to be ready to deliver their final report to the Board of Management in mid-January 2020. Once this is complete and the group have reported to the Board, we will be able to share the group's findings and recommendations with you. We look forward to the group completing their work, and we will let you know what changes their report will mean for how we use digital technology in the school as soon as possible.

### **Board of Management**

Following the conclusion of the previous Board's term of office, the school's new Board of Management held its first meeting at the school on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. The new Board appointed Cllr. Nick Killian as its Chairperson. We wish to offer our sincere thanks to all the members of the Board of Management for volunteering their time and talents to aid the effective management and development of our school and we wish the Board well for its tenure. More information on the Board of Management can be found on the school website.

### **Meadowbank Fire**

As you may be aware, a number of families belonging to our school community were severely affected by the fire in Meadowbank a number of weeks ago. Losing one's home at any time, let alone so close to Christmas, is an extremely harrowing ordeal, but we are proud of the wonderful response of our school community in reaching out to support the affected families at such a difficult time for them. Funds to support the affected families continue to be raised through our Christmas Jumper day as well as from the proceeds of this year's Talent Show. The staff decided to forego the annual Secret Santa amongst themselves and instead to donate the money that would have been spent on it to support the affected families. We are both grateful to and proud of all members of our school community, including our uniform supplier SchoolUniformsDirect.ie who donated complete replacement uniforms for the students affected, for the kindness, generosity and support they have shown to the families affected by the fire and we will continue to support them in the challenging weeks and months ahead.

*Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí*



### School Management

Following Ms. Prendergast’s retirement in September, LMETB undertook a recruitment process to appoint a successor. Following that process, Mr. Meehan has now been appointed as the new permanent Principal of the school. Subsequent to Mr. Meehan’s appointment and following a separate recruitment process, Mr. Colm Connolly, Ms. Donna Kelly and Mr. John M<sup>c</sup> Carthy have been appointed as permanent Deputy Principals of the school. We are pleased to finally have a full senior leadership team in place in the school once again and look forward to a new and exciting period in the development of our school and community.

3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year parents should note that Ms. Kelly and Mr. Connolly will continue to teach their classes in these year groups. Mr Connolly will also remain as Moltóir to 6<sup>th</sup> year while Mr. Andrew Mooney will begin working alongside Ms. Kelly in the New Year as the new 1<sup>st</sup> year Moltóir.

We look forward to Ms. Prendergast returning to the school in the New Year, where staff, students and parents will have the opportunity to recognise her enormous contribution to our school in her 12 years as Deputy Principal and Principal.

### Some Important Dates for Term 2

<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	First Year Trip to Young Scientist
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January, 16.15-18.45</b>	TY/5 <sup>th</sup> Year Parent Teacher Student Meetings
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> January, 19.30</b>	Parents’ Association Talk – Online Safety with James Blackwell of DeGeekIT
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Senior Cycle Options Form Closing Date Forms will be issued in the first week after Christmas
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 16.15-18.45</b>	First Year Parent Teacher Student Meetings
<b>Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 19.30</b>	Parents’ Association Talk – Teenage Mental Wellbeing with Deirdre McCormack of Simply Healing
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Friday February 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Mock Exams for Third and Sixth Years
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, 16.15-18.45</b>	Second Year Parent Teacher Student Meetings
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup>– Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Mid-Term Break
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 16.15-18.45</b>	Third Year Parent Teacher Student Meetings
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	School Closed
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April</b>	China, France & Italy Trips Depart
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April</b>	Easter Break

### Parents’ Association Newsletter

We are most grateful to the members of the Parents’ Association committee who have produced a Newsletter. The newsletter is part of a number of initiatives intended to improve communications with parents. Each newsletter will contain updates on what is happening in Ratoath College, including updates for your diary and news of the work of the Parents Association during the term.

[Click Here to View the Parents' Association Newsletter](#)

A reminder that school finishes at the slightly earlier time of 12.30 (approx.) on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff of Ratoath College, we wish you and your family a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Seamus Meehan  
Principal

Colm Connolly  
Deputy Principal

Donna Kelly  
Deputy Principal

John M<sup>c</sup> Carthy  
Deputy Principal

*Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí*