

20th October 2021

Dear parents, guardians and carers,

We hope that this letter finds you well. We are writing to you as we reach half-term and time for a well needed rest for all of our students. This has been a busy half-term and we been so impressed with how your children have engaged with their learning, embraced school life, connected and built friendships, all the while adhering to challenging but essential Covid-19 protocols that have helped to keep our school community safe.

Schoolwise Platform

- All homework both hard and digital copies will be assigned under the assignment tab in Schoolwise (this pops up at the side of your child's home page).
- Your child's teacher will identify whether they would like work to be submitted via a hard/digital copy in the description box for students.
- Please discuss this with your child and let your child's subject teacher know via email there is any difficulty accessing schoolwise or assigned work.

Student Council

Last week we held our student council election for all years. Our new student council members are as follows:

- 1st Year - Bailey Manning, Florence Howe, Patrick Micu, May Flood Lawless, Caoilte O'Brien Gleeson, Laoise Gill
- 2nd Year - Alfie O'Clery, Itay Caspi, Riley Denham & Christopher Blake Campbell

The Student Council help their first meeting on Wednesday 20th October. One of the areas which our Student Council will explore this year is our Dress Code Policy and arising from student feedback, the council will work on a proposed re-wording of some sections of this policy to go to our parent body, Senior Leadership Team and Board of Management for consideration.

Assessment Timetable and Topics

Our Winter Assessments commence on Monday 8th November. Please find enclosed assessment timetable and topics to aid your child's preparation and revision. These assessments are low stakes and are essentially formal class tests which provide us with a valuable opportunity to recognise and reward your child's hard work since the start of term while identifying some concrete areas where improvements can be made. We would greatly appreciate your support with the following:

- Please read through the timetable and assessment subject information with your child, so they are fully aware of the assessments that are scheduled for them each day.

- To ensure the smooth running of the assessments, all students must be in their designated seat in their base classroom before the start of each assessment except for Second Year option subject and Maths assessments.
- Students should bring resources with them to study for their next assessment or a book to read should they finish early.
- Supervised study periods are included in the timetable based on feedback from students and parents last year. Students should make every effort to use this time wisely.
- You will receive a notification via our school app once the reports are available to view online.

Subject teachers will provide feedback to students on all assessments using WWW (what went well) and EBI (even better if) criteria. Later in Term 1, our assessment team will lead review and reflection sessions with all of our students to encourage and enable high quality reflection and realistic goal setting. If you or your child have any questions about these assessments, please ask your child to speak to their subject teacher or class tutor.

Lost Property

Could you please ensure that your child's key belongings are all labelled. We have accumulated over the past four weeks, a number of valuable winter coats, hoodies, lunchboxes and bottles in our lost property area. If your child is missing any of these items, could you remind them to go to main school office any break-time to check for the particular item. All class tutors will also remind students of this procedure throughout the second half of this term. Any items not claimed from lost property by the end of this term (Tuesday 21st December) will be recycled or donated to one of our local charities.

School App

Thank you to all of you who have downloaded our school app. We have almost 100% coverage. If you still need to download our school app, please see tutorial visit on our homepage (www.hcetss.ie). Thank you also for your patience regarding our attendance fob system. Unfortunately we have had a few small glitches with setting up this system, which have now been resolved. Please see the attached pdf which outlines how your child can set up their fob via the school app on their iPad. Please ensure that your child has this set up by Monday 1st November. If you have any issues with the app, please contact support@uniqueschools.ie.

First Year Option Subjects & Short Courses

Please see attached e-books/materials that your child will need for their chosen short course and option subjects. Please note that in order for your child to complete assigned Junior Cycle projects in Technology, there will be an additional resource fee in September 2022 and September 2023 for this specific subject. We will do our very best to keep these costs to a minimum.

Second Year Technology

Please note that in order for your child to complete assigned Junior Cycle projects in Technology, there is an additional resource fee for this academic year and for 2022-2023 for this specific subject. For 2021-2022, if your child studies Technology, the additional cost per student is €20. This cost covers the following items: acrylic, pine, LED's, aluminium sheets, battery snaps, paint, gears, dc motors, switches, gear racks, servo motors and light dependant resistors. We would greatly appreciate if you could pay these charges as soon as possible via the payments section on our school app.

Parent Staff Association (PSA) Committee

Thank to you all of you who contacted us after our PSA Information meeting offering to help out with school events and activities. Your support is hugely appreciated. We are delighted to inform you that the following parents have been nominated and seconded for officer roles on our PSA committee.

- Chair: Oisin Coghlan
- Secretary: Laura Mulrooney
- PRO: Tara Mullen

Our PSA committee in conjunction with school staff will be in touch with you all after half-term.

Parent Coffee Mornings

We would like to invite all parents/guardians to a coffee morning in our school for their child's tutor group. This is an informal opportunity for you to put names to faces, meet some key school staff and connect with parents/guardians from your child's tutor class. There will also be a tour of our school and an opportunity to view detailed drawings of our permanent accommodation. Schedule:

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| • Tuesday 9 th November at 10.30am | 1 Leinster |
| • Wednesday 10 th November at 10.30am | 1 Le Vere |
| • Tuesday 16 th November at 10.30am | 1 Shamrock |
| • Wednesday 17 th November at 10.30am | 2 Arbutus |
| • Thursday 18 th November at 10.30am | 2 Zuma |

To help us estimate interest and numbers, if you plan on attending, could you please email office@hcetss.ie by 1.00pm on Thursday 4th November and indicate your child's tutor class. We hope to see you there.

Finally, as always, thank you for your continued support. It is truly appreciated. Wishing you a restful and relaxing half-term break.

Kind regards,



Pádraig Conaty
Principal



Mick Heffernan
Deputy Principal