

# MCS May Newsletter 2017

The last few weeks are on us and we look back on a very successful year. We thank you, the parents, for entrusting your sons and daughters to us and for all your support throughout the year.



The exams are fast approaching. 3rd Years will have Block Teaching during the week of the summer exams and we would ask that you would ensure that your children attend school for the block teaching, as they will definitely do more in school than they would at home. Teachers are currently covering material that they think will come up and it is important that students attend all these classes.

During the exams the canteen will be open for the exams from Wednesday the 7th to Monday the 12th inclusive. Students may leave the school building and go down town. We recommend that you give the students a packed lunch—just in case of bad weather. Please be aware that the breaks between the exams, particularly for the Junior Cert Students, are long. We recommend that students are collected from school, if they have a long break, as the school operates a skeleton staff during June. Please ensure that students have all necessary equipment: Maths Sets, Coloured pencils, Pens, erasers, papers, rulers etc. It makes it easier for them and takes some of the stress away.

On Thursday the 25th May we will ask you to keep the 1st to 5th years at home to study for the day—this is to facilitate the 6th year breakfast and Preparation for the Grad Mass. This has been a lovely tradition in MCS since the school opened in 2009. The 6th years and the teachers have a cooked breakfast together. The rest of the day is used to facilitate a staff meeting and preparation for the Graduation Mass. The 6th years finish with their Grad Mass on Thursday the 25th May. We always say good bye to our students with part sadness and joy, sadness to lose them but joy as they go on to the next phase of their lives. The 6th years are welcome to come in for supervised study in the exam week. We would like to wish all our students all the best for the exams.

The House Exams are also on next week and we would ask Parents to please leave students in school for the normal times of 9- 3.50. Students, who do not have exams, may stay in the hall to study. It is then easier to keep attendance records and ensure the Health and Safety of all involved.



With regard to the new school jacket—405 students and parents voted and the vote came out as 87,5% in favour of the new jacket. If your child already has a jacket, there is no need to buy a new one. We will also be doing a vote next week with regard to changing the PE uniform.



This is very much at the request of the students and the Parents' Association. It is proposed to change the top to one of the tops here. Students would have a choice of **school** tracksuit bottoms—Skinnies with red stripes down the side or regular tracksuit bottoms with red stripes down the side. Parents will also have the chance to vote by going to the link on the school website. The reaction to the proposed new tracksuit has been very good and students and parents have been very positive. Again if your child has already got a tracksuit, there is **NO** need to buy a new one.



So what has happened since Easter? The TYs enjoyed a trip to Barcelona with their co-ordinator, Ms Mary Gannon and 4 other teachers, Br Gerry, Mr O'Toole, Ms Geary and Ms Kennedy. It was a super trip with the highlight being the visit to the Sagrada Familia Cathedral by Gaudi and the visit to Portaventura. Everybody enjoyed the trip and arrived back happy and exhausted in Ireland.

The Parents' Association organised a talk on "The Challenges of Parenting" by Mr John Lonergan, former governor of Mountjoy Prison on Tuesday the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017. The talk was well attended by about 70 parents and was very well received.



The new table tennis tables which arrived have proven to be a great success and students have been using them every day. It is great to see students enjoying the open air.

The Awards Ceremony took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017. We decided to hold the Awards ceremony during the day with the whole school. The idea was that the whole school would celebrate the achievements and that everybody would be able to take part. We had Student Journal Awards in place of the Tutor Awards. Students, who had no journal entries were entered into a draw for their Year group for €100 and then re-entered for a draw for an iPad. The prizes were sponsored by the Parents' Association. The Awards Ceremony was organised by Ms I Healy and was a great success. A lot of teachers and students helped with the organisation and we were also grateful to Seamus, Anne Marie and Tommy for all their help. Thank you also to the girls in the office for their support. The Ladies in the canteen were good enough to stay on 2 hours late to ensure that the students were fed which was great and very nice of them. The breadth of activities throughout the year and these awards would not be possible without a lot of work by teachers in their free time.



The Year book is complete and is currently on sale for €10. It is selling very fast. Thank you to Mr Duffy, Mr Boland and the TYs for giving us such a wonderful memento of the academic year. It is always amazing to see the breadth of activities.



The 1<sup>st</sup> Year Support Team Meitheal organised a very successful Fun Day for the 1<sup>st</sup> Years. The Meitheal Team has been working really hard all year to support the 1<sup>st</sup> Years. The school took both the Prefects and the Meitheal for dinner to thank them for all the work that they have done this year. The interviews took place for Headboy and Headgirl. Roseline Adeyemi is Headgirl and Sean Baker is Headboy. Deputy Headboy is Christopher Carew and Deputy Headgirl is Katy White. We wish them and the Prefects all the best in the coming year. We are also looking forward to working with Meitheal, The Student Council and all the students in the coming year to develop the student voice.

Well done to The U13 and U19 Table tennis team, who won the All Ireland Table Tennis competition under Mr Jimmy Hayes.

The Junior Girls' Volleyball team got to the All-Ireland Final under Ms Ryan and Ms Wallace but were unfortunately beaten.

The Junior Boys got to the All-Ireland Semi Finals but were narrowly beaten.

Windows 25th Poetry Competition Winners :Mayara Pessanha, Roisin Cunningham, Emma Weston, Paul Flynn, Tom Fennelly, Rose Delaney, Ned Ryan and Anisha Heffernan.



The U14 Hurlers won the North Leinster Final but were beaten in the Leinster Final.

Ms McGrath is progressing the students towards the Silver Gaisce Award.

The Student Council under Dr Kelly has been responsible for getting Probiotic Yogurt introduced to 55 school sites nationally and also came second in a Laois Leadership Skills Competition.

It gives us great pleasure to announce the appointment of Mr Denis Boland as Deputy Principal in Mountrath Community School starting in the new school year.

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support for the school. We wish all our students luck in the upcoming exams. We wish you all a very nice Summer and look forward to seeing you again in late August.

Kind Regards,

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Siobhán McCarthy

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Monica White

