

STRATFORD



COLLEGE

22nd August, 2011

Dear Parents(s)/Guardian(s) & Students,

As the new academic year approaches I write to wish you all a happy and successful year ahead.

Leaving Certificate Results

Congratulations to all our Leaving Certificate students who did so well in their exams. The CAO offers are out today and the students are involved in making decisions. We will let you know what they are doing in my report to the Parents' AGM as usual. 48% of the class of class of 2010/2011 gained over 400 points and congratulations in particular to Todd Harrison for his excellent results - he gained 570 points in his exams with 6 As!

Junior Certificate Results

We expect the Junior Certificate results to be released in Mid September (**Wednesday 14th September 2011**). TY students will be in Delphi that week and will forward them to the centre as soon as they are received. Internet access is also available on www.examinations.ie from 4 p.m. using the Student PIN number previously circulated and examination number. The staff of Stratford College wish all our Junior Certificate students well in their results.

Staff News

We are very sorry to inform you that following confirmation of a reduction in our Special Needs Assistant (SNA) allocation, we have had to terminate **Mrs Lena Mulligan's** contract. Mrs Mulligan has played a very important role in our school for the last six years and was very much part of the team in Stratford. She participated in everything, including trips to Delphi and Norway and generously volunteered her time and her enthusiasm to us all. Fortunately, she will be working in the primary school from September so we will continue to see plenty of her!

We are pleased to announce that **Ms Siobhan Reynolds** has been appointed to the position of Deputy Principal with effect from the 1st September following the retirement of Mr Roddy Cody; and **Mrs Colleen Cryan** has been voluntarily deployed to Christ Ri, Cork City.

P.T.O.

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In order to facilitate these reductions in our staffing, while at the same time maintaining our commitment to our curriculum, we have had to reduce the amount of Resource hours that we can make available to individual students.

School Development

Louise O'Sullivan BVM has been appointed as National Co-ordinator for Jewish Studies in-service. She met with us during the summer and will be facilitating in-service for junior cycle Jewish Studies from September. The SEC has clarified that the first exam will be taking place in 2013 (not 2012 as was previously communicated).

The NCCA Review of the Junior Certificate is ongoing and I attended a presentation on some of its proposals in June. The Minister of Education & Skills has signalled that the new curriculum will begin for First Years in 2012.

School Maintenance

The Basketball Courts are being refurbished and look wonderful! Other routine maintenance and repair jobs have been carried out during the summer.

Music Tuition

One- to -one classes in singing, keyboard, guitar and drums will be offered to students in the new term.

Log on to Learning

The TY students will continue to lead a learning initiative with our neighbours. Log on to Learning is a community based project where students facilitate the introduction of basic computer skills to adult learners. We are very pleased to be working with Ms Orla Devane, the Secretary of Rathgar Residents' Association and the 8 week course will commence in October next. It is being co-ordinated by Ms Finnegan as part of An Gaisce Award. She will be leading the way for the overnight challenge in Wicklow in September with a group of participating students.

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Ms McCarthy and a group of students once again facilitated Primary School Science Investigations with pupils from 3rd and 4th classes from local primary schools in attendance in June.

HSE Vaccination

As you are aware the HSE vaccination & immunization teams will again be requesting entry to administer important vaccines to both male & female students. The vaccines the HSE are offering this year are HPV Cervical Cancer vaccine to **1st year & 6th year girls**. Also this year the Tdap vaccine (this vaccine protects against diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (whooping cough) is to be introduced to **all 1st year students male & female**.

Monday 10th October - Parents' Association AGM 8.00PM

I would like to thank the present Committee for all their work over the year and appeal to all parents to become involved in the work of the Parents' Association which gives parents an active role in the education of their children through participation, consultation and communication. **The nomination forms were forwarded to you in June and are available on About Us/Current Listings** and I would appreciate if you could return them as soon as possible.

We have been working on a **Friends of Stratford forum** where members of the network can communicate with each other. This is being 'tweaked' at the moment and should be up and running in September.

Reasonable Accommodation for Certificate Examinations (RACE)

RACE supports requiring extra personnel are not possible to implement for exams other than mock certificate exams. Our ability to provide special centres for these exams will depend on the availability of staff and accommodation.

Texting

Please ensure that the office has your most up-to-date mobile telephone numbers in order to receive texts from the school. This service will only be used for general messages or reminders and has proved to be very useful since its introduction.

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Lost Property

As I noted in my letter to you in June, there is a large amount of lost property which will have to be disposed if not claimed. If you are missing items belonging to your son/daughter, please contact the office to arrange to inspect Lost Property or Mrs O'Kelly at the beginning of the term.

Supervised Study

Supervised study will be held as usual from Monday to Thursday (4-6pm) and Friday (1.30- 3.30pm) and is offered on a term basis. Further details are available from Class Tutors or the office on request.

5th & 6th Year Parents

Please note that your son/daughter's school diary should be signed at the end of each week.

Dates for your Diary

Please check the school calendar and/or your son/daughter's school diary every month for any relevant dates for your diary. Any changes to the calendar will be notified by text.

Stratford College Annual Awards Ceremony 2011
The Principal & Staff of Stratford College
cordially invite you to attend the
Annual Awards Ceremony 2011 to be held on
Friday, 28th October at 11.30am.
Regrets only 4922315

Yours sincerely,

MS. PATRICIA GORDON
PRINCIPAL

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