



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School

Dear Friend of Stratford,

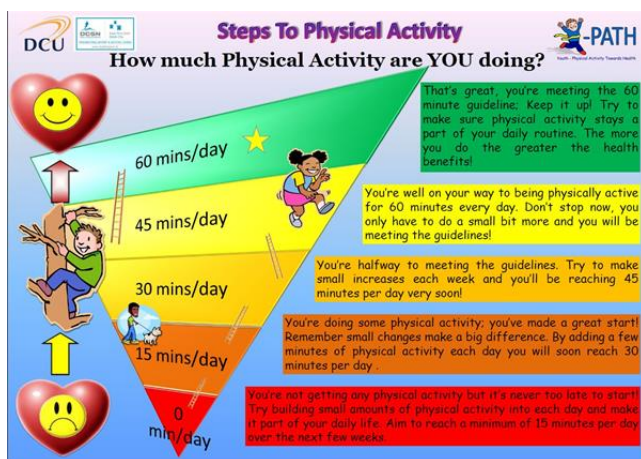
Assessment is Changing!

The way we assess our students' progress and even the grades we give our students are changing. Assessment for Learning (AfL) focuses on students learning how to improve their own work by reviewing feedback and identifying what they've done well and how to improve, setting goals, redrafting and correcting their own work and giving feedback to others. More information on AfL for parents can be found [here](#).

Grades are also changing for Junior Cycle as the new subjects come on stream - and for Leaving Certificate subjects in 2018. Go to the CAO website to see the **new grading system and points** for the Leaving Certificate.

Ms. Patricia Gordon
Principal

The importance of daily physical activity



Stratford's P.E. Teacher, Ms Finnegan, has been working for the past three years with the **DCU Y-Path Sport Science Research Programme**, tracking the progress of the current 3rd year student's fitness levels.

DCU's overall findings to date are thought-provoking and highlight the importance of everyone aiming to do 60 minutes of physical activity per day. **Stratford College's strategy towards sport** is take an holistic approach to encouraging each student to

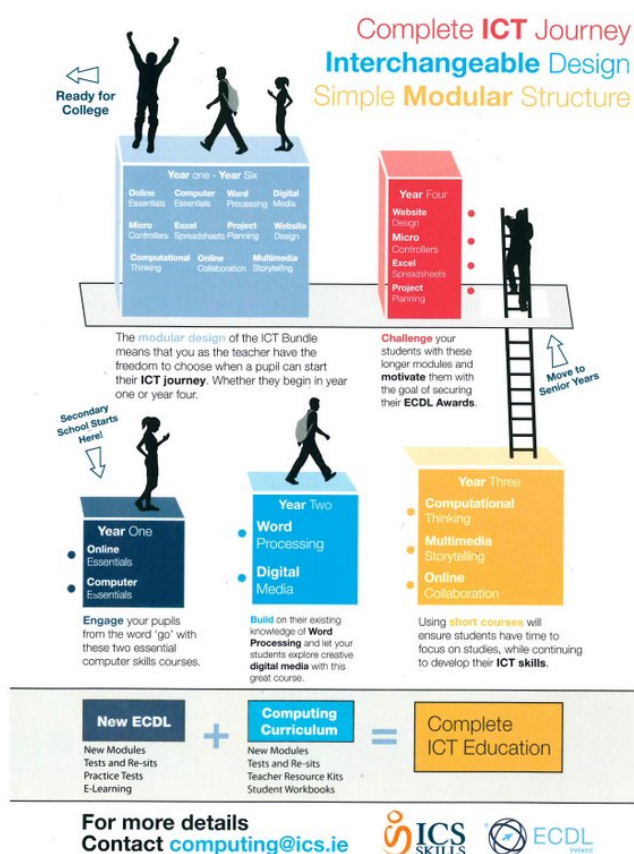
participate as part of their personal development and attainment of lifeskills.

Centenary Ireland

Stratford College has been invited to have representatives at a number of key national events as part of the Centenary Ireland celebrations. They include the National Flag Presentation Ceremony in Croke Park on Monday, 7th March and the Interfaith Service at the Remembrance Wall, Glasnevin on Sunday, 3rd April. In addition on Tuesday, 15th March, Stratford will raise the National Flag in the school grounds as part of Proclamation Day, followed by the annual Seachtain na Gaeilge concert. [Image: www.dfa.ie]



Stratford students embark on ICT skills from 1st Year



Students at Stratford College start the **Irish Computer Society (ICS) Skills Card** modules from 1st Year. Over a number of years they will complete 7 modules from the ICT curriculum and 4 modules from the Computing Curriculum.

The 7 ICT modules are online courses, while the 4 modules from the Computing Curriculum - programming, microcontrollers, digital media and multimedia storytelling - are taught as hands-on practicals in class using 21st Century teaching and learning methodologies, promoted by Trinity College's **Bridge 21** programme.

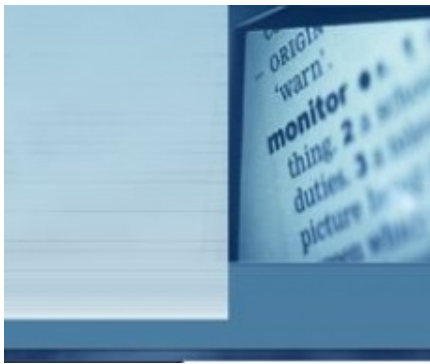
Students will be awarded with a European Computer Driving Licence on successful completion of these modules.

[Image: www.ics-skills.net]

Safer Internet Day 2016

Safer Internet Day is an EU wide initiative to promote safe internet usage among all people, but especially young people. Safer Internet Day was Tuesday, 9th February 2016. There are a variety of excellent websites and videos to help teachers and parent inform and promote safe internet usage.





Stratford College Parents Association: Digital Safety Workshop

On Wednesday, 10th February at 7pm, the Stratford College Parents Association has organised a Digital Safety Workshop in the school hall. Stephen Davies, from immunizeNet is hosting a digital safety workshop for parents. All are welcome. See blog for more details.

TY students attend Fighting Words Workshop

Ms Reynolds brought her TY English class to a Fighting Words Workshop on Tuesday, 2nd February. It is a workshop to encourage creative writing. Every Wednesday and Saturday there is a teen writing club - the Write Club. Read what the class wrote in a 40 minute collaborative effort.



Annual Holocaust Commemoration Service Mansion House Dublin January 2016

Every year a number of TY Stratford College students, and a number of other schools, are invited to read from a scroll of names at the Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration at the Mansion House.

Stratford Past Pupils Look Back: Karena Walsh (2000s)

Karena Walsh, contributed her memories of Stratford for the 60th Anniversary book, 60 Years A Growing, which was launched in November 2015.





Managing Information: Growing up mobile

Conor Dougherty, published an article in The Irish Times on Monday, 11 January 2016, which gives an insight into how teenagers who have grown up with mobile technology to hand, manage apps by using constant alerts.

Junior Science students visit BT Young Scientist Exhibition

Ms McCarthy and Ms O'Sullivan organised a trip for the Junior Science classes to visit the BT Young Scientist Exhibition on Thursday afternoon, 7th January. 2nd Year students, Greg Brenner and Oonagh Delargy write about their experience of the visit.



Briefs

Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): Students have been set up with their own school e-mail address. Students will also have their digital portfolio set up through Office 365 Education.

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday, 3rd March with events around the school.

Seachtain na Gaeilge: The annual concert will be held on Tuesday, 15th March.

Dates for Your Diary

Wednesday, 24th February at 7pm: *Subject Choice Information Meeting*
TY students and parents and prospective 5th Year parents welcome to attend.

Tuesday, 1 March at 7pm: *TY Information Meeting*
Parents and 3rd Year students and prospective TYs welcome to attend.

Monday 7th March at 7pm: *Information Meeting*
Incoming 1st Years and Prospective Parents welcome to attend.

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[Stratford National School](#) website

[Stratford College Facebook](#) page

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