

Leaving Certificate 2021/2022

Christmas Newsletter

Introduction

Hi all and welcome to the Leaving certificate Christmas newsletter for 2021. It has been a challenging term for our students but once again they have displayed magnificent fortitude and resilience in the face of adversity. They have achieved many noteworthy achievements and are progressing well as a year group.



A message from our student council.

Hi everyone we are this years head of student council, Rob Hanton and Lucy Egan. We were over the moon to be chosen to do this job together, and together We think we make a fantastic team! We have such an unbelievable group of people from all different backgrounds from 1st to 5th year working with us. Each and everyone of our team is full of creativity and passion for our school community and we are so proud of all of them. Every fortnight we all try to meet with Mr Keane and Ms Glendon-Garry, where we all discuss our wishes for the weeks coming, our LC1 member Maria Vrabete came up with the fantastic idea of uploading a google doc to each year group on teams and every student had the chance to voice their opinion on what they wanted to see us achieve! The most popular request was the lockers and fortunately we got them back thanks to the student voice! As you all know this year was roughly the same as our previous year in Caimins, mask wearing, distancing and sanitizing, but as a school we made it work! It's been a tough year for everyone but thanks to the help of teachers and staff we are getting by! We are currently planning our debs with the help of Nora McInerney and Lee Hayes, so we are quite busy with that, but behind the scenes the rest of our team is coming up with some great ideas that we are excited to tell you all about in the near future! I can see great things coming from our student council in 2022 and I know each one of us will make a difference for our school! Just a reminder to everyone we are always available to discuss any problems or issues amongst the students. Thanks so much so everyone's involvement this year!

Planning for next term.

- When we return after the Christmas break on the 6th of January, we will have four weeks to the mocks. The mocks are scheduled to begin on the 9th of February and run up to the mid-term on the 18th of February.
- CAO opened on the 5th of November and remains open until February 1st. Guidance Counsellors were busy helping you with your career choice.
- Students have been supported in their learning by Ms. O'Loughlin. Where they engaged in the learning to learn module. Weekly plans and study tips were made available to all students. It is vital that you use this module in your planning for future success



English Awards.

This years English awards were presented to our winners by Mrs. O' Driscoll. Our winners this year are Jack Holloway followed by Carlo Canno. We also had Ava O' Regan and Udita Mishra involved in the awards for their wonderful work.



Our music award winner!

Owen recieved the David Keane Memorial Trophy, an award that is given for an excellence and commitment shown to music. Owen is the first non-music student to receive the award. Well done to Owen and his dedication to the music in the school.



Thoughts about winning the student of the year for LC1.

Hello, I am Eric Yong Yu Ng. There are many other students in my year who could have won this award. When Mr Cunningham and Ms Dalton came to my class with the award, I looked around, it could have been given to any of my classmates.

I am the student of the year for LC1. So, I must think about why? I worked hard last year. I also worked hard all the previous years. This work ethic has been shown to me by my family and by the schools I went to.

I really appreciate the support of my parents, friends, and teachers. Especially during the present time. Leaving Cert is considered a rite of passage in Ireland. That has been further complicated by the pandemic.

I am lucky to enjoy support that I believe will help me in the future. I need to say thanks to Vice Chairperson of the Student Council Robert Hanton and my friends Tom Forde, Gary O'Callaghan and Ian Collins who had been a positive

influence in my life who always support me no matter what.
I would also like to say a big thank you to Ms Dalton, Mr Cunningham and Ms Glendon-Garry who make St Caimin's the school that it is.

Learning to Learn and Study Skills Tips

All Leaving Cert students this year have engaged in a Learning to Learn study skills class with Ms. O'Loughlin. This involves completing an online study skills course with The Super Generation exam skills experts. The Learning to Learn programme demonstrates the importance of planning through the use of a weekly study plan, using a traffic light system to highlight areas that need to be inputted into the study plan and also the importance of spacing out learning, the use of pretesting and having a growth mindset.

Students have also experienced a half day study skills seminar with Ray Langan from "Rayse the Game" which reinforced the points above and also highlighted the importance of wellbeing through time to rest and plan for the week ahead.

Mr. Cunningham has also paid for each Leaving Cert student to have a premium Study Click account so as each student has access to a system that will allow each student to pre test using on line quizzes and full access to past leaving cert exam questions, marking schemes and video blogs on each subject. Please click the link for more information on study clicks [Studyclix School Licence: Students & Parents | How to use Studyclix PLUS+ on Vimeo.](#)

In an effort to keep parents and students up to date with all relevant information on learning to learn the school has also developed a padlet (very like a website) which has all the resources used in class with the students and some extra information for your perusal. Please click on the link to access the padlet:

<https://padlet.com/taraol/t46gtvhvo8diqplg>

Good study skills and exam preparation are essential to success. So take good care of yourself.

4 Key Points:

1. Nutrition: eat a balanced diet.
2. Exercise: take a break for regular exercise.
3. Sleep: maintain a regular sleep pattern.
4. Replace negative thoughts with positive thinking.

Oral Guidance.

Tips for succeeding in the French/German Oral

- **Prepare** and learn as much as you can- The same topics come up over and over again in the oral so make sure you know these topics really well such as (Moi-meme, Ma famille, Mon quartier, Mon école etc..)

- **Be careful of your tenses!** Questions will be asked in the in the past, present and future. Also there are certain key words which will help you identify the tense the question is being asked in, for example (demain) indicates past and (prochain/future). Familiarise yourself with these keywords.

- **Try lead the conversation-** Rather than waiting for the examiner to ask you questions (sometimes in areas you may not be as prepared for) try and steer the conversation towards areas you have lots to say about.
- **Prepare a document!** In the French oral, you have the choice to bring a document, it is a good idea to prepare one, as it allows you to speak on a topic you have prepared very well for
- **Take you time-** Many students are nervous when doing oral exams and tend to race through what they are saying, this can lead to them making mistakes and sometimes it can be difficult to understand what they are saying. Slow down! This can also give you time to compose yourself.

Christmas Memories

Christmas Memories

Christmas Memories are something we can all reminisce on. Whether it's putting cookies and milk out for Santa, or icing a Christmas cake with your family. As we grow older, these memories become more of a treasure for us, as we adjust from being the ones who experienced them, to the ones creating them for the younger members of our families. Throughout our years in St Caimins, we have made many Christmas memories that will stick by us forever. From Christmas jumper day, to Toy Show sweet boxes, and even certain students dressing up as Mrs Clause. As leaving cert students, we look back fondly upon all the memories we have created here, and look forward to hearing about new memories made by future students after we have left. As we approach this Christmas, we look forward to going downstairs and seeing the presents under the tree, and remembering how special it was when we were younger, and how much more special it is now... even if we only get socks!! As we all know; "It's the most wonderful time of the year!"

By Meabh O'Grady, Tom Forde and Kaci Toomey.



A note from our year head, Mrs. Dalton

I am extremely pleased to recognize the contribution of each student to our school community. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy, peaceful and healthy Christmas.

