



28th September 2022

RE: 3rd year Reminders and Updates

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. We have a number of items that we would like to bring to your attention as the year continues.

Work Ethic

Firstly, we would like to express how proud we are of our 3rd year students, many of them have made a great start to this year. We hope as this year proceeds that they will produce work and achieve results that they are proud of. Academic success in secondary school requires several elements to be in place; regular attendance, good punctuality, adherence to school rules, and consistent attention to homework.

Dialann

As you are aware the Dialann is the main form of communication between school and home. Teachers regularly write notes informing you of areas where your son/daughter is excelling or areas where they can improve; any important notices or poor behaviour issues are also recorded here. We ask that you check the Dialann on a **daily basis** to monitor your son/daughter's progress in 3rd year. Please initial or sign notes in the comment section to let us know you have received and read them. Please complete absence or early excuse notes here. It is important that students take care of their Dialann.

Homework & Study

We are continuing to emphasise the importance of the Dialann for students **in recording assignments, tasks and revision**. You should be able to monitor and support your son/daughter's homework. In order to compliment the continued focus on study and revision skills we have organised a **Study Skills workshop** for each class at the start of October. We would ask that you continue to encourage your son/daughter, as you always have, with setting goals throughout this year, organising a timetable, including time for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Students who perform to the best of their ability, regardless of grades achieved, are those who consistently study throughout the school year and not just in the run up to a class or end of term exam. It is recommended that 3rd year students spend 2 hours an evening on homework to reinforce learning. This time can be broken up.

November Assessments & Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)

Due to the DES announcement decreasing the amount of Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) for this cohort of 3rd years an Assessment Week in November has been scheduled. These November assessments will allow students an opportunity to experience an exam setting and to assess their progress to date. All written exam subjects will be included except Wood Technology, Graphics, Engineering and Home Economics as these subjects are still required to complete CBA2. A timetable of exams will be shared with students on Teams when finalised.

Please see below a list of subjects undertaking CBAs this year, each CBA is completed in 3 weeks unless otherwise stated. Students will be advised as to the criteria and requirements by their classroom teacher.

Starting in September	Starting after the February Mid-Term Break:
Wood Technology - Student self-analysis and evaluation	Irish - Communicative Task
Engineering - Research and Development	Music - Programme Note
Graphics - 'The Geometry of Food Packaging'	Home Economics - Food Literacy Skills
Art - Communicate and Reflect – 8 weeks to complete	

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Future Choices

3rd year is a really important year for your son/daughter to focus on what paths are available to them in Senior Cycle. Over the coming weeks students will be informed on subject options and programmes available in Ratoath College.

Over the coming weeks students will engage in Eirquest with our Guidance Counsellors. After completing a variety of aptitude tests students will receive a report detailing areas of strength and suggesting possible careers and future paths based on interests and abilities.

Whilst we do not expect every student to know exactly what path they wish to follow at this moment, it is important that you encourage your son/daughter to consider all the options.

In addition there will be an **Senior Cycle Information Evening** for parents on November 16th here in the school on Senior Cycle and we look forward to seeing you then.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would first like to congratulate the majority of the students who have excellent attendance records; this is commendable and a credit to them and to you. **If your son/daughter is sick please contact the school and leave a message on my extension before 8:30am or send an email to me on RDonnellan.RTH@lmetb.ie or their caomhnóir.** Please keep us informed of any planned absences and where a student is unavoidably absent, may we remind you to complete absence notes in the Dialann to be shown to their Caomhnóir on their return to school.

Registration is recorded during assembly and students should be in their classrooms **prior to 8:40** to ensure that they have time to get their books and materials ready for their classes. Where students are unavoidably late they must sign in via the main office.

Contacting teachers

Where there is a concern in a particular subject, we ask that you contact the subject teacher first. If your concern is of a pastoral care nature please contact the caomhnóir or if there is a serious concern please contact the Moltóir.

Uniform

Thank you for your support with the uniform policy, there are still a number of students presenting to school in the incorrect uniform and shoes. Please contact the school if you have any difficulties. The correct items of the uniform and shoes are detailed on Pgs. 29 - 31 of the Dialann.

Important dates

3rd Year Assessment week

Senior Cycle Information Evening

Mock Examinations

Parent/Teacher/Student meetings

Monday 14th – Friday 18th November

Tuesday 16th November

Monday 16th – Friday 20th January 2023.

Wed 22nd February 2023

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our 3rd year students all the best for this important year ahead. We have high expectations for them and look forward to continuing to work with you as we support your child through their secondary school journey. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the 3rd Year team.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Rita Donnellan (Moltóir)

Lorna Clerkin

Steven McKenna

Keith Conlan

Christine O'Hanlon

Aoife Flynn

Mikela Smyth

Andrea McCormack

James Toher

Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí