

Coláiste Ráth Tó

Ratoath College

Jamestown, Ratoath, Co Meath, A85 TW84.
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16th December 2022

1st year 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. Firstly we would like to express our pride in each of our 1st year pupils and their progress this year and to thank you for your support.

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, also any important notices or poor behaviour issues are recorded here. We ask that you check the Dialann on a daily basis to monitor and keep abreast of your son/daughters progress. Please initial or sign notes in the comment section to let us know you have received and read them. We have been encouraging students to record their Homework and revision in the relevant section of their Dialann. You should be able to monitor your son/daughter's academic assignments from here. The pages at the back of the dialann can be used to communicate any absences or any early excuse absences.

Attendance and Punctuality

We would first like to congratulate the majority of the students who have excellent attendance and punctuality records throughout the first term so far, this is commendable, a credit to them and to you. Where a student is unavoidably absent, we ask that absence notes are filled in the blue section of the Dialann and shown to their Caomhnóir immediately on their return to school. Please keep us informed of any absences.

Registration is taken in assembly and students should arrive to school no later than 8.30am to ensure that they have time to get their books and materials ready for their classes and that they are ready to start registration at 8.40. Where students are unavoidably late they must sign in via the main office.

Extra-curricular Activities

It is wonderful to see so many 1st year students taking part in extra-curricular activities over the last few weeks. Congratulations to these wonderful representatives in activities from Sporting, musical, Singing, Student Council, School magazine and many others. We would like to remind these students that should they miss any class due to extra-curricular events they must catch-up on their work from their peers or through Microsoft Teams. All students are encouraged to take-up an extra-curricular and should contact the coordinating teachers.

Uniform

Thank you for your support with the uniform policy, there are still a number of students presenting to school in the incorrect uniform. 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. We remind you to please label all items so that if they get lost we can return them to the students with greater ease.

Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí

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The school environment

Students are reminded that they must use their Ratoath College bottle as we are a single-use plastic free school. We remind students to ensure to take care of their belongings and keep the school environment clean and litter free.

January Assessments

The students will engage in formal exams in January. These assessments will begin on January 16th. The timetable will be shared on our year group page on Teams when it is finalised. Students follow this timetable for the duration of the exams and must only attend when they have an exam. Students who have a longer gap in the middle of their day are permitted to leave and return for their later exam. Teachers will discuss exam topics and preparation with students over the coming weeks with some having done so already. Their advice will be recorded in the Yellow Notes Section of the Dialann. It is important that your child engages with revision for each of their subjects so that we have a true idea of their progress in each subject. Please reassure your child that assessments are part of school and an opportunity to show what they have learned in their classes. There are a number of study skills PowerPoints in a folder on their year group teams page and a number of posts in relation to this on the page. All students have been given a copy of a weekly study planner in order to help them prepare. Our advice is that preparation now avoids anxiety in relation to exams at a later stage.

Anti-bullying procedures

We continue to remind students about our anti-bullying procedures. Students must show respect to all fellow students and staff. Where students wish to report incidents there are clear procedures outlined in the policy and students have received instructions on how to report any issues.

Dates for your diary

Wednesday 21st December 2022 12pm school closes for the Christmas break

Thursday 5th January 2023 school re-opens after the Christmas break

Thursday 19th January 2023-No school for students -JCT Teacher in-service

We would like to thank you for your support and engagement with the school throughout the first term and we look forward to continuing to work with you as we support your child through their secondary school journey. While there are four weeks left in this term we would also like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise.

Kind regards,

Paola Flynn (Moltóir)

*Dervilla Bailey
Jane Lawler*

*Gillian Callan
Mohammad Nissar*

*Kevin Farrell
Richard Moynihan*

Sophie Gerrard

Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh sí