



## Parent's Newsletter September 2018

**Dear Parents/Guardians,**

As the new academic year commences, we extend a warm welcome to all our students, especially those who are beginning their post primary education in First Year and those who have joined other year groups. We do hope you had a good summer break and are refreshed and ready for the new challenges that lie ahead. As a school that recognises the importance of partnership between school & parents/guardians, we encourage you all to play an active part in your Parents Association which will hold its AGM on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm.

**Retirees:** We wish to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Ms Breeda Barrett, Ms. Eileen Kelleher (Deputy Principal), Mrs. Anne Roche-Cagney and Ms. Winifred Shinkwin, to the life of the school. All teachers have made significant contributions to the development of our school community over the last four decades. In their decisions to retire, we thank them and wish them and their families every happiness in the future.

**Welcome:** We extend a warm welcome to Ms. Kathy McGlade in her role as Deputy Principal. Ms. McGlade is a past pupil of St. Aloysius' Secondary School and joins us from her teaching position in St. Mary's Secondary School, Mallow. Ms. McGlade is looking forward to working in partnership with our students and parents in the coming years.

**Parents Association (PA):** The PA of St. Aloysius meet once a term and meetings take place on a Monday evening for approximately one hour. The PA work with the Principal in supporting the school at various school events. We would ask that two parents would represent each year group, assisting in the communication of year group issues and concerns to the Principal. If you are interested in sharing 4-5 hours of your time over the full academic year, we would welcome you to attend the AGM on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September in the school library. Our PA donated additional outdoor seating for the student's use during lunchtimes. This has allowed for seating for an additional seventy students.

**Leaving Certificate and Junior Examinations:** We congratulate all our LC and JC Students 2018 for excellent results achieved across all areas. Once again, your daughters have achieved well beyond national averages in a wide range of subjects. We are delighted to see so many of our recent graduate students commencing the Third Level course of their choice in the various PLC, IT & University institutions. We look forward to marking the success of our students at our Annual Awards on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

**Paternal Voluntary Contribution:** Student grants received from the Department of Education and Skills have been reduced consistently over the past years yet energy, student insurance and building costs have increased. Voluntary secondary schools in Ireland receive one third less than Educational Training Board schools. The school is highly dependent upon the generosity of our parents in assisting us bridge the cost gap each year. Our voluntary parental contribution was reduced in May 2014 from €190 per student to €100 per student and €150 per family. It is the intention of the Board of Management to continue to maintain this requested contribution at this level for the coming academic year. I thank you all for your support of St. Aloysius.

**Summer Works:** During the summer months the school hall floor was refurbished. The floor surface is now non-slip and significantly improved. The overall cost was €5,600. Our school walk, held in May 2018 generated €2,217 and our school Fashion Show raised €2,409, the remaining balance for the hall floor works was sourced from student council organised non-uniform days held in March and May 2018. Wifi was installed on the first floor, which will support the further use of ICT in teaching and learning for our students.

**Breakfast Club:** Our school is open from 8:00am each morning. Students are invited into the canteen where a free breakfast club is available to all students. Students help operate the breakfast club to assist the girls in creating a sense of shared responsibility for their school and fellow students.

**After School Study:** Students are actively encouraged to attend After School Study on a termly basis, if students wish they may attend on specific days. This system operates from Monday to Thursday inclusively and at a cost of €2.50 per day. The habit of studying can be difficult to establish at home; therefore we encourage students to begin as early as possible in the academic year. Further information is available from the school office or Ms. McGlade D.P.

**Your Support:** To ensure that your daughters remain engaged with learning & teaching and strive to achieve their full potential, we ask all parents & guardians to insist that your daughters:

1. Attend regularly and punctually. Please ensure that all absences are explained with a note to the Subject teachers in the Student Journal on day of return.
2. Wears her uniform with pride – please ensure that all items of uniform are as required, including adherence to our jewellery and make-up policies, as found in the Student Journal.
3. Maintains her school journal in good condition and records all homework & assignments each day. Please note that all non-written work must also be recorded.

Spends regular time each evening on homework & study.

4. Is actively involved in the extra-curricular life of the St. Aloysius and avails of opportunities to represent their school with pride and distinction.

In the interest of health & safety, we ask parents/guardians to refrain from driving onto the school grounds for any purpose. We respectfully ask your cooperation with this matter to ensure the safest possible environment for students entering and leaving the school grounds. Please observe the double yellow lines outside the school gates.

**Important Dates of this term:**

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September: School closed due to early return.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September: First Year parents information session at 6:30pm.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September: Parents Association AGM Dr. Gillian Moore-Groarke at 7:30pm.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October: HSE First Year vaccinations.

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: Leaving Certificate Parent Teacher Meeting at 4:15 – 6:45pm.

Classes end at 3:30pm.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Classes end at 12:20pm.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October: Teacher training in school in the new Junior Cycle. No classes for students.

Wishing you and your family every joy and God's blessing for the coming year.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Ms. Richel Long, Principal

Ms. Kathy McGlade, Deputy Principal

