



# Salesian Secondary College

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Dear Parents / Guardians,

This time last year, we were sure that our Covid experience would not endure into the new school year. Thankfully, we have been able to put down a very busy first term 2021-22, with a great deal of “normal” school experience in evidence for all, despite the ongoing trials and tribulations our country is living through.

Students returned to school in September with a feeling of gratitude for friendships and with a sense of how fortunate we are to be able to come to school. I think, on balance, it is a great gift to be able to be together, learning and growing safely in community, while the education of so many other young people across the globe is threatened daily by illness, war or poverty.

I give thanks for the constant good humour of our students and staff; even on “off” days, the sound of laughter or earnest chatter is everywhere. It is an enormous privilege to be able to come to work each day to such a positive, joyful place. On those “off” days, I hope that you and your child can feel supported here.

I send special thanks to Mr. Lavan, Mr. Ryan, the Year Heads and other Committee Coordinators, teachers, SNAs, facilitators of extra-curricular activities, Joe and Mike, Regina and Karen, the Parents’ and Student Councils for the enormous contribution you have made this year so far, in getting the school up and running fully again.

The road to Bethlehem was paved with challenges and worries. Yet it ended in a place of great hope and peace. Let’s think of that as we prepare to celebrate the Christmas story.

Le gach dea-ghuí,  
Ms. Morgan-O’Brien.



## Message from Attendance Team

The Attendance Team has had a busy start to the year with the introduction of a new note system on VShare. Parents have engaged well with the system but it's something we are hoping will continue to improve throughout the year. We ran our attendance awards initiative, which was started last year. Students with perfect attendance between the start of the school year and October midterm and then again from after October midterm to Christmas received a small token to say “well done”. Where students are well and able to attend school it is crucial that they are attending, for academic reasons, but also to keep in touch with their friends. Please continue to use the VShare app to record absence notes, all information regarding this can be found on the school app.

## Young SVP

**Young SVP raised €815 for the local branch of St Vincent de Paul through a fundraising Christmas raffle. They also held a Christmas Jumper Day where in excess of €600 was raised, which will be donated to Pallaskenry Senior Citizens.**



## Chaplains’s Office.

In September we welcomed Fr. Tim Wrenn to the chaplaincy team.

The team has been busy with a reconfiguration of the church, class masses for all, the November Remember Sacred Space and acts of reflection, thanksgiving and remembrance throughout the term. Fr. Dominic has put our beautiful crib set at the front of the school, as a reminder of the heart that lives in the Christmas story. And Ms. Meehan has concluded retreats, which were beautifully and meaningfully conducted for all.



**"GOD SEES YOU."**  
**"MAKE YOURSELF HUMBLE, STRONG AND ENERGETIC."**  
**VENERABLE MARGHERITA BOSCO.**

### **RITA**

**THIS BUILDING IS NAMED FOR DON BOSCO'S MOTHER, MARGHERITA. "RITA" ASSISTED HER SON IN HIS WORK WITH POOR AND ABANDONED BOYS OF THE STREETS. SHE IS REMEMBERED FOR HER GOODNESS AND KINDNESS TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE.**

With our exciting NEW BUILDING now in the early stages of the planning process, it came time in August to rename the building which has been known as the "New Building" since its opening in the late 80s. The original school, our foundation building, is now known as BOSCO, while the building added later, housing Reception and the specialist rooms, is now known as RITA.

It has taken a long time to get used to the new names of classrooms, but we are getting there! Well, most of us, anyway.....

**"IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO LOVE THE YOUNG, THEY MUST KNOW THAT THEY ARE LOVED."** DON BOSCO

### **BOSCO**

**THIS BUILDING IS NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF THE SALESIAN ORDER, DON BOSCO. HAVING DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO YOUNG PEOPLE, DON BOSCO ASKS US ALL TO WORK IN REASON, RELIGION AND LOVING KINDNESS.**

Parents are requested to drop students in the morning in the school car park and follow the arrows to enter and exit. The same is required in the evening for collection. Students can walk to the car park by using the pedestrian crossing to meet with you. Please drive with care. The driveway is wide enough for two vehicles to pass. Please give buses the right of way to avoid congestion. The main drive, the tarmacadam play areas and the driveway to reception must be kept free of cars at all times. **Remember, if car pooling, please ask all passengers to wear a mask.**

We send a big hello to our fabulous Leaving Cert 2021 class, who have now put the strangeness of last year's Leaving Cert behind them and moved on to their next chapter. It was great to meet last year's Awards Winners this term and to pass on their Commemorative Trophy to them. We are very proud of all !

### **News from our LCVP Classroom:**

Our LCVP students demonstrated an enterprising spirit this Christmas.

In order to get the students and staff in the Christmas spirit our LCVP students decided to organise a Christmas market. The students were divided into different groups who then set up stalls and sold festive products. It created a lovely atmosphere within our school and gave our LCVP students some valuable experience on how to set up and run a business.

Well done to all involved,  
 Mr. Nicholson



**Parent Teacher Meetings** for 2nd, 5th and TY are due to take place in the new year. Dates may differ from those published. Please watch the App for updates. We are hopeful of being able to run meetings face to face, but we are preparing contingency plans again this year, in case this is not possible. Remember, you can always contact your child's teacher by email.

**Merit System:** Students are rewarded for positive behavior through with Don Bosco Commendations. Well done to all recipients on receiving Commendations at Halloween. The commendations congratulate students for making a contribution to our Salesian school and notes that the student:

- Was considerate and generous to peers
- Exercised a great degree of self-discipline
- Responded with sensitivity to the needs of others
- Displayed sound leadership qualities
- Showed exceptional Salesian spirit
- Has greatly improved behaviour
- Showed an outstanding example of good behaviour
- Was a great team player
- Set targets and stuck to academic or personal goals
- Shows sustained effort to improve academic work
- Completed an outstanding project / exercise / task
- Gave outstanding presentation work
- Was always ready to help
- Showed resilience and courage
- Overcame a difficulty
- Showed courage
- Had an exceptional achievement
- Played an outstanding match
- Shows Reason, Faith or Loving Kindness

etc.....

*"We celebrate a contribution you have made to school life. You deserve praise and, with your family, we gladly give it."*

### **Salesian Secondary College Charity Lunch.**

With current conditions continuing as they are, unfortunately the Salesian Charity Lunch will not be feasible, again, for another school year. We do look forward to the return of the Charity Lunch when it safe and possible to do so in the future.



### Evening Supervised Study.

Evening study will resume on Monday, 10th January up to and including 11th February 2021. Cost is €90, which should be paid via the App. If your son / daughter does not wish to resume Study, please opt out on the App. This is open to 5th, 6th and 3rd Years, generally, but please contact Mr. Lavan if you wish to attend study as a 1st or 2nd year.



**Please note that school PE track ends must be worn on PE days. Personal leisure wear, club jerseys, hoodies, jeans are NOT permitted. Nasal and facial piercings are not permitted. Non-school jackets are NOT permitted. Jackets are now available from O'Neill's online and all uniform items are available from Noel's Menswear and Shaws.**  
**Thank you.**

### Science News

Sadie Loftus (2nd Year) has been accepted into the BD STEMSTARS Science competition, following in the footsteps of Niamh O'Connor (TY) who was runner up in last year's competition.

Sadie's project, entitled "A device that alleviates Raynaud's Symptoms" aims to help with blood flow, relieving pain and numbness in persons suffering from Raynaud's. Sadie is currently designing a prototype for the next stage of the competition in February 2022. Well done, Sadie!

### School Expenses and Voluntary Contribution.

Thank you for your response to the call for our voluntary contribution this year. We are very grateful for the support. Your contribution helps with:

- Cleaning: corridors, toilets, classrooms, site
- Refuse and sanitary bin collection
- Postage (State Exams Commission, DES)
- Photocopying for students
- Printing for students / guardians
- Exams at Christmas and Summer
- Our school App
- Our school database: VSWARE
- Production of Student Journal
- Student Retreats (not 5<sup>th</sup> Year)



- Outside speakers' fees
- Upkeep of Games Room and Book Loan facilities
- Special Educational Needs resources
- Classroom materials
- IT Licences (Zoom, Google Classroom etc)
- Lockers (administration, repairs, access, etc.)
- Purchase of PE, music, TG, DCG equipment: also maintenance
- Care of grass pitches
- Mock exam papers (where applicable)
- 365-Day Brennan Personal Accident Insurance
- Aptitude Testing
- Extra-Curricular and Sport – affiliation and registration fees

**Ms. Morgan-O'Brien.**



### RAINBOWS.

Rainbows is a service which offers support to young people who are bereaved. Coming out of Covid, we have set about training teacher facilitators here. This training is ongoing and we hope to begin to offer the service to students next year.



### Ceannaire Programme

This year, as part of the TY Year, we set up the Don Bosco Ceannaire Volunteering Programme.

Students are encouraged to volunteer for activities in and outside of school. Their engagement is logged and they will receive a certificate at the end of the year acknowledging their work and efforts.

Ceara Scally, David O'Mahony, Fergal Kearney, Gareth Airey, Colin Ryan and Armelle Mangan

Students are NOT permitted to use their own phone to call parents / friends during the school day.

Students are NOT permitted to make arrangements for collection from school without speaking to a member of school management FIRST, for Child Protection and Welfare purposes.

### Pastoral Care Team

The team, coordinated by Ms. Hogan, continues to provide a listening service for anyone who needs it. If you would like your child to talk to someone here, please let us know. The team is committed to providing kind, gentle, non-judgemental support to all students.

Please DO NOT AGREE to collect your child during the school day, unless the call comes from the office. The school office is staffed so that students can be reached quickly in an emergency, should you require it.

Students should not be using social media in school AT ANY TIME. This is a time for real, human connection.

The Department of Education and Skills allocates a number of Posts of Responsibilities to schools. In our school, the Posts reflect critical areas of development which I wish to resource. The work of the Senior and Middle Management teams is crucial to the ongoing growth of Salesian Secondary College. Congratulations to new appointees, appointed late this term.

Principal	Caitríona Morgan-O'Brien
Deputy Principal	Mike Lavan
Deputy Principal	David Ryan
Assistant Principal Level 1	Colin Ryan: Programme Coordinator
Assistant Principal Level 1	Paul Whooley; Coordinator of School Improvement
Assistant Principal Level 1	Seán Cronin: To be confirmed
Assistant Principal Level 1	Brian Chambers: Year Head, 1st Year
Assistant Principal Level 1	Pat Windle: Year Head, 2nd Year
Assistant Principal Level 1	Brian McGreal: Year Head, 3rd Year
Assistant Principal Level 1	Armelle Mangan: Year Head, Transition Year
Assistant Principal Level 1	Karen O'Sullivan: Year Head, 5th Year
Assistant Principal Level 1	Eilís Lavan: Year Head, 6 <sup>th</sup> Year
Assistant Principal Level 2	Mary O'Connell-Murphy: Support for Able Students, Mentor for Visiting Students
Assistant Principal Level 2	Rachel Meehan; Coordinator of Wellbeing
Assistant Principal Level 2	Ross O'Donovan; Coordinator, Environment and Sustainability Committee
Assistant Principal Level 2	Michelle Ni Riain: Coordinator, Digital Learning Committee
Assistant Principal Level 2	Ciara Rock: Special Educational Needs Coordinator
Assistant Principal Level 2	Derval Ryan: Coordinator of Public Relations and School Promotion
Assistant Principal Level 2	Therese Hogan: Coordinator of Student Voice and Student Liaison
Assistant Principal Level 2	Jayne McMahon: Coordinator of IT services (Micheál Brosnan: Acting)
Assistant Principal Level 2	Tara O'Donnell: To be confirmed



**Please make sure you have downloaded our Unique School App and our VSWare App!**

Unique App: Our main COMMUNICATIONS platform: news, notices, updates, grants, payments and circulars: find on Android Play Store or Iphone App Store

VSWare App: Our main ADMINISTRATION platform: attendance, reports, timetable, subject choice: find on Android Play Store or Iphone App Store

Our Salesian school strives to be a place of belonging for all: please contact us if your child is feeling lonely or overwhelmed.

If your young person is struggling, please let someone from the Pastoral Care Team know.



### Message from the Teaching and Learning Team.

The Teaching and Learning Team have recently published a report, compiled following an intensive period of "peer observation."

Staff have observed best practice in each other and, following reflection and dialogue, have identified areas for further development. This process of self-evaluation is critical for our school, as we strive to remain at the forefront of progressive, creative teaching practice.

**Mr. Cronin.**

Well done to music students for providing some Christmas carolling to classes who dropped by the Music Room....we had everything from Fleetwood Mac to traditional carols. Hopefully, restrictions will lift and allow choirs to sing again in the New Year.

**THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION** would like to wish the staff, students and their families a very happy Christmas and a healthy, happy new year.

We would like to extend an invitation to all parents / guardians to attend our AGM on January 27th 2022 at 8pm. A link will be sent on the school app. We would be delighted to welcome new members and have planned some exciting events for the new year. We hope to run many of the fundraisers that have been so popular in the past such as the cycle challenge, the golf classic and many more.

The Parents' Association is a wonderful way to meet other parents / guardians and to become more involved with the school community. It is very rewarding and sometimes we even manage to have some fun!

Regards, Caroline Williams, 6th Year mother.

## NEW WEBSITE FOR SALESIAN SECONDARY COLLEGE.

Please make sure you check out our new website, which contains all our school policy, news, information and gallery for you to enjoy. [www.salesiancollege.ie](http://www.salesiancollege.ie) and put us in your favourites!



### Christmas Doors.

One of the most fun ways the students have to mark Christmas has been the Christmas door competition. The competitive nature of the teacher who “owns” the classroom door is matched only by the creativity of the artistic team of students who take on the challenge. Well done to the Wellbeing Team for bringing a smile to everyone’s face all term.

### 5th Year 2022 / 23 Subject Choice Workshops for TYs:

To assist students in choosing Leaving Cert subjects, subject workshops will be held in early February.

Subject choices are made through VSWare. More information will follow.

### Good news stories help but it’s not always easy....

Although, for many, 2021 has been a difficult year, let’s not forget all the good news stories which have happened for staff and students. We have had graduations, engagements, weddings, births, promotions, great achievements and new homes among staff, students and their families. As well as that, we know that lots of students have reached personal goals. We join together to congratulate all our good news story tellers....thank you for keeping the good feelings alive!

But let’s all spare a thought for those in our school community for whom periods of lockdown and the entire Covid experience have been very challenging. Perhaps for you, family life is not easy. Or maybe, your family has suffered more than others. Please let us know and allow us to offer discreet support where we can, so that you can flourish as you should.

### Virtual Open Night.

Again this year, we had to have our annual Open Night online. The evening was extremely well attended and we are on track to having a fantastic intake of bright new 1st Years next year.

The school was beautifully show-cased and, as always, our students were seen as our greatest asset.

The Open Night is available to see on our website. Please spread the word about our wonderful school!



### Work Experience.

A big thank you to all the employers in our school community who have assisted with our Work Experience Programmes. Both our LCA classes attend work experience every Friday. Our huge TY class have also had great success in securing placements. These could not happen without the generosity of parents / guardians and all your contacts.

**NEW IMPROVED website:** [www.salesiancollege.ie](http://www.salesiancollege.ie) (Set us up on your favourites!)

**Facebook:** (Please like, follow and share!)  
[www.facebook.com/salesiansecondarycollege](https://www.facebook.com/salesiansecondarycollege)

**Unique App:** Download iClassCMS from your device's App Provider (Play Store or The App Store) and set up an account for instant updates and news to your phone or device

**VSware App:** <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vsware.virtualschool> or visit The App Store

**Twitter:** Salesian Pallaskerry @salesianpallas (instant updates, news and pics.)

### Leaving Certificate Applied.

Salesian Secondary College’s 5th and 6th Year LCA students are continuing the accumulation of Leaving Cert credits. At this stage of the year, all of our 6th Years are aware of what needs to be done to achieve that prestigious **DISTINCTION** in June. The LCA moves away from the traditional 7 subject LC, towards areas of study which are immediately applicable to the world of work. Our students will progress onto college courses which will further develop their amazing skills and talents. Well done, LCA class!



## News from Transition Year

Our Transition year students have had a busy first half to the year and some normality seems to be resuming thanks to the patience and good protocols followed by all.

We were delighted for them to make new memories and friendships in Killyary, experience life in the work environment for the first time for some and complete their first aid course to name a few big highlights.

Some students have gained experience behind the wheel and also we have tried to unearth the next golf prodigy. Students have shared their experiences in the Soar workshop which brought them together and learned some valuable life skills along the way.

I am delighted to say our show rehearsals have stepped up a notch and I am really looking forward to seeing this develop further in the new year.

Ms Mangan has introduced the students to the world of volunteering through the Ceannaire programme which is flourishing and students are recording all their memories in Media and Broadcasting class.

A big thank you is extended to the TY Tutors Mr Airey, Ms Scally, Mr O Mahony and Mr Kearney for all their help, along with the TY Year Head, Ms Mangan.

Mr. C. Ryan.



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## Student Council 2021/22

The 2021/2022 Student Council have hosted a number of meetings since elections in October. Each class in the school has a representative on the council with Leaving Certificate students holding some extra positions.

The following students were voted onto the council:

Ellen Bridgeman  
TJ O Malley Toomey  
Willie Russell  
Kieran Kennedy  
Ben O' Brien (Benjamin)  
Shane Fitzgerald  
Darragh Taylor  
Daragh Kelly  
Nadia Szydlowska  
Alannah O'Neill  
James Conner  
Ben Looney  
Sophie Carey  
Alexandria Fitzgerald  
Adam Bolger  
Peter Kiely

Andrew O'Brien  
Olivia McCormack  
Catherine Kiely  
Aoife Kavanagh  
Stephen Costello  
Sean Mendes  
Saidhbh King  
James Fitzgerald  
Riccardo Breveglieri  
Lindsey Senior  
Eoin Sexton  
Josh Battles  
Oisín Moss  
Ciaran Uwatse  
Evan McNamara

The following LC students were duly voted onto Student Council committee.

Chairperson- James Fitzgerald  
Secretary- Saidhbh King  
Treasurer- Ciaran Uwatse  
P.R.- Eoin Sexton

Well done to all participating members so far and we look forward to a good and productive year in 2022.  
Ms. Therese Hogan

## Animation Club

Our Salesian Animation Club was set up on the foot of Daniel Pepperell's request this year and takes place on Friday at lunchtime.

Students from 1st to 3rd Year have been attending and are working on creating an animated short for the end of year competition.....Pixar & Disney will be lucky to employ these students in the future!

Many thanks to Jack O'Regan in TY who gives up his lunchtime to help oversee the work with Daniel & I. Looking forward to the finished shorts in 2022!

Ms. C. Rock.

Gaeilge24 was a huge success this year. It was great to see such enthusiasm and grá for Gaeilge throughout the day with students displaying a brilliant desire to practice their cúpla focal. €1003 was also raised for Conradh na Gaeilge which will help the organisation to promote and support the growth of our native language.