



## Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome to the fifth bulletin for the 2020/2021 school year.

Four months almost done and we are well settled in to the normal routines of school life. It has been a strange year in our schools history with lock downs, the monumental task of reopening and the ongoing challenges in remaining open since September. Yet here we are four months in and going good. A big thank you to all our students for their compliance with all the measures in place– we do appreciate limiting interactions and social distancing is very difficult for teenagers so hopefully 2021 will bring some welcome news for all. Thank you to all parents/guardians for your support in following our requests to help prevent the spread of covid-19 thus ensuring as safe a return as possible for every student and staff member. Thank you to all teaching, secretarial and auxiliary staff at SMC who all continue to go over and above expectations to keep the school running smoothly and ensuring quality learning and teaching at this time. THANK YOU everyone. We wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and every good wish for the new year.

This bulletin will discuss some of your questions raised and items of interest.

## Dates for your Diary

**Tuesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>** Christmas holidays will commence on 22nd at 13.10.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of January** School will reopen

**Wednesday February 3<sup>rd</sup>** is definitely a date to mark on your new 2021 calendar. Shane Martin author and psychologist will present a talk for all Sancta Maria College parents. Shane is a psychologist dedicated to teaching the very best evidence-based psychology to help people protect their mental health and enhance the quality of their lives. In his light-hearted and enjoyable presentation he talks about building resilience in ourselves and our children, learning how to cope – tapping into our own resources and fostering inner-strengths in order to stay ‘standing’ during and after crisis. He is the author of best selling self-help psychology book ‘Your Precious Life -How to Live it Well’ (Orpen Press) His seminars and presentations are a sell out success nationwide so this virtual presentation is one not to be missed. (more details to follow)



## **Online Learning**

Sancta Maria recently hosted an online learning day for non-exam years. First, Second and Fifth year students were invited to participate in online classes from their homes. It was a good opportunity for staff, students and parents to familiarise themselves with the process and we are very grateful for all the feedback received from you all. While the feedback was overwhelmingly positive we are working on the few challenges raised. Currently we have several students taking part in online classes.

## **Studyclix**

Studyclix is an online learning tool suitable for both exam and non-exam students. It is Ireland's largest leading website and is designed to make studying easier for students by providing access to videos, discussion forums and exam questions (organised topic by topic). A yearly subscription has been paid the school so all students in Sancta Maria are provided with free access to this online platform in the hope that it will make studying more efficient and effective. Please encourage your son/daughter to avail of this resource as part of their learning.

## **Louisburgh community TV**

Transition year students and their teachers have been busy preparing some Christmas entertainment for Louisburgh community TV. Keep an eye out for our TY and first year student performances coming up soon.

## **Chrome books**

Thank you to all first year parents that replied to our survey on chrome books for first year students. The response was very positive and we are going ahead with the purchase of chrome books which will be available on a rental basis for interested first year students. Text books can be downloaded for use in class so the heavy bags should be a thing of the past. Students can access classroom etc. on the device thus removing the need for mobile phones. We will be in touch with details for all first year parents early in the new year.

## **Parent teacher meetings**

Following current guidelines we are unable at this time to hold face to face meetings. Detailed progress reports containing the information that would be discussed at a parent teacher meeting are currently in progress and leaving cert reports will be issued before the holidays. Email address

# New Grading Systems Explained

## Changes in Junior Cycle Grading

You will see less of A, B, C grades as all new junior cycle subjects follow the new grading system as shown.

The new grading system is being phased in with the introduction of new subjects.

Irish English and Maths will be offered at higher and ordinary level while all other subjects have a common paper.

**What about short courses?** Students taking short courses will be required to carry out a Classroom Based Assessment. There are four level descriptors of achievement for each CBA. The Features of Quality are the criteria used to assess the student work as best fitting one of the following descriptors:

**EXCEPTIONAL;** describes a piece of work that reflects the Features of Quality for the Classroom-Based Assessment to an extremely high standard. While not necessarily perfect, the strengths of the work far outstrip its flaws, which are minor.

**ABOVE EXPECTATIONS;** describes a piece of work that reflects all of the Features of Quality for the Classroom-Based Assessment very well. The student shows a clear understanding of how to complete each area of activity of the investigation.

**IN LINE WITH EXPECTATIONS** describes a piece of work that reflects most of the Features of Quality for the Classroom-Based Assessment well. It shows a good understanding of the task in hand and is free from significant error. Feedback might point to areas needing further attention or correction, but the work is generally competent and accurate.

**YET TO MEET EXPECTATIONS;** describes a piece of work that falls somewhat short of the demands of the Classroom-Based Assessment and its associated Features of Quality. Perhaps the student has made a good attempt, but the task has not been grasped clearly. Feedback will draw attention to fundamental errors that need to be addressed.

**NOT REPORTED;** describes when a student has not submitted any piece of work for assessment

Junior Cycle	
Percentage	Grade Descriptor
≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)

## LEAVING CERT GRADES EXPLAINED

The A, B, C of old have been replaced by H1, H2, H3 etc. as shown

**What about LCVP?**  
 Distinction (80 - 100%)  
 Merit (65 - 79%)  
 Pass (50 - 64%)

Higher Grade	Ordinary Grade
H1 90-100%	O1 90-100%
H2 80<90%	O2 80<90%
H3 70<80%	O3 70<80%
H4 60<70%	O4 60<70%
H5 50<60%	O5 50<60%
H6 40<50%	O6 40<50%
H7 30<40%	O7 30<40%
H8 0<30%	O8 <30%

## Contact details for teaching staff

We have had a request for contact details for all staff members so we have compiled the full list here for you.

Name	Email	Role
Ailish Walsh	ailishwalsh@sanctamaria.ie	Year Head Second year
Aoife Duffy	aoife.duffy@sanctamaria.ie	ASD class Coordinator
Aoife Reilly	aoifereilly@sanctamaria.ie	
Bob Reaney	bobreaney@sanctamaria.ie	
Brian Byrne	brianbyrne@sanctamaria.ie	
Catherine Conway	catherineconway@sanctamaria.ie	
Chris Holloway	chrisholloway@sanctamaria.ie	SEN Coordinator
Clare Joyce	clarejoyce@sanctamaria.ie	
Clare Mc Dermott	claremcdermott@sanctamaria.ie	Year Head First year
Cormac McCarthy	cormacmccarthy@sanctamaria.ie	
Deborah Maxwell	deborahmaxwell@sanctamaria.ie	TY Coordinator
Diarmuid Griffith	diarmuidgriffith@sanctamaria.ie	
Eimear Dyar	eimeardyar@sanctamaria.ie	
Elaine O'Malley	elaineomalley@sanctamaria.ie	
Felicity McElroy	felicitymcelroy@sanctamaria.ie	
Finola Foy	finiolafoy@sanctamaria.ie	Deputy Principal (Acting)
Grace Hynes	gracehynes@sanctamaria.ie	
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Kelly Fetherston	kellyfetherston@sanctamaria.ie	
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Liam Murphy	liammurphy@sanctamaria.ie	
Marian Gill	mariangill@sanctamaria.ie	
Marina Rice	marinarice@sanctamaria.ie	ASD class Coordinator
Mícheál Healy	michealhealy@sanctamaria.ie	
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Michelle McGing	michellemcing@sanctamaria.ie	
Niall Conway	niallconway@sanctamaria.ie	
Noel McGreal	noelmcgreal@sanctamaria.ie	
Noel O'Malley	noelomalley@sanctamaria.ie	
Norah Gavin.	norahgavin@sanctamaria.ie	Year Head Third year
Norma Keane	normakeane@sanctamaria.ie	
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Pauline Moran	paulinemoran@sanctamaria.ie	Principal
Peig Needham	peigneedham@sanctamaria.ie	
Richard Berkeley	richardberkeley@sanctamaria.ie	
Sarah Mac Evilly	sarahmacevilly@sanctamaria.ie	
Sharon Hopkins	sharonhopkins@sanctamaria.ie	
Sheila Duffy	sheiladuffy@sanctamaria.ie	
Tom O'Flynn	tomoflynn@sanctamaria.ie	Year Head Senior classes