O CONNELL SECONDARY SCHOOL





As we approach the Halloween mid-term break, I would like to take this opportunity to thank our students, staff, parents and wider school community for their support and contribution to what has been an extremely positive and productive start to the school year.

Over the past number of weeks, O'Connell Secondary School has been a hive of activity. From the classroom to the playing fields, from clubs and societies to educational trips and events, it has been wonderful to see students engaging so positively in school life. The energy, enthusiasm and sense of community throughout the school are clear to see each day.

Our extra-curricular programme continues to grow, providing students with many opportunities to become involved, develop new skills, build friendships and represent their school with pride. I would encourage all students to continue taking advantage of the wide range of activities on offer.

A particular highlight this term was our Open Evening. It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase all that is best about O'Connell Secondary School. The many prospective students and parents who visited were hugely impressed by the welcome they received. I would like to sincerely thank our staff and students who gave their time so generously and represented the school so positively on the night. Their pride in our school was evident throughout the event.

I would also like to congratulate our Junior Certificate students on their excellent results. Their success is a reflection of their hard work, perseverance and commitment, supported by their families and teachers.

As we head into the mid-term break, I encourage everyone to take some time to rest, recharge and enjoy time with family and friends. When we return, there will be a busy and exciting period ahead as we continue our work together and prepare for the remainder of the term.

Thank you once again for your continued support of O'Connell Secondary School. I wish all members of our school community a safe, enjoyable and restful Halloween break.
Regards
Mr. Coone
(Principal)

www.oconnellschool.ie

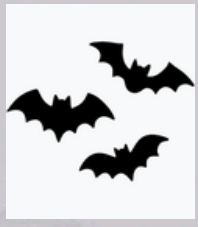
secretary@oconnellschool.ie

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

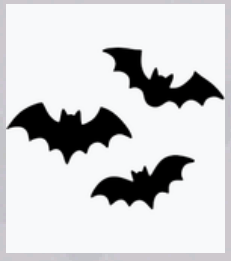




Date	Activity
26th - 30th October	Mid Term Break
Tuesday 3rd November	1st & 2nd PT meeting
Monday 16th November	5th Year & ASD classes PT Meeting.
Friday 27th November	School Closed
Monday 30th November	School Closed
Friday 4th December	Whole School Training Day
Wednesday 9th December	Anti-Bullying talks with Paula O Connor. 1st/2nd /3rd @ 8:45 to 10:45 TY/5th/6th @ 10:55 - 12:55pm.
Wednesday 16th December	Whole School Christmas Gathering in the worker's union. More details to follow.
17th - 22nd December	Christmas Exams



TAP
Cláir Rochtana Choláiste na Tríonóide
Trinity Access Programmes



O'CONNELL SCHOOL HAS ONCE AGAIN PARTNERED WITH TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN THROUGH THE TRINITY ACCESS PROGRAMMES. A NUMBER OF OUR STUDENTS ARE TAKING PART IN HIGHER LEVEL MATHS SUPPORT SESSIONS AT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN. STUDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH THE PATHWAYS TO LAW PROGRAMME, HELPING THEM EXPLORE FUTURE EDUCATIONAL AND CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.
WE ARE DELIGHTED TO CONTINUE THIS VALUABLE PARTNERSHIP, WHICH PROVIDES OUR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC SUPPORT AND ACCESS TO EXCITING THIRD-LEVEL PATHWAYS.



OPEN EVENING



OUR OPEN EVENING WAS HELD ON TUESDAY, 22ND SEPTEMBER AND WAS A WONDERFUL SUCCESS. ALL SUBJECT DEPARTMENTS AND A WIDE RANGE OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES WERE PROUDLY SHOWCASED, GIVING PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES A GREAT INSIGHT INTO LIFE IN OUR SCHOOL.
A SINCERE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR THEIR ENTHUSIASM, HARD WORK AND DEDICATION IN MAKING THE EVENING SUCH A POSITIVE AND WELCOMING EXPERIENCE. YOUR EFFORTS TRULY REFLECTED THE SPIRIT OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY.
CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO OUR LUCKY 6TH CLASS PUPIL WHO WON THE IRELAND JERSEY IN OUR PRIZE DRAW. WE HOPE YOU ENJOY WEARING IT WITH PRIDE!
WELL DONE TO EVERYONE INVOLVED.













OPEN EVENING













EXTRA CURRICULAR

A HUGE NUMBER OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES TOOK PLACE BEFORE THE MIDTERM BREAK, SHOWCASING THE TALENT, COMMITMENT AND ENTHUSIASM OF OUR STUDENTS AND STAFF. WELL DONE TO EVERYONE WHO PARTICIPATED, ORGANISED AND SUPPORTED THESE EVENTS. YOUR INVOLVEMENT HELPS MAKE O'CONNELL SCHOOL A VIBRANT AND ENJOYABLE PLACE TO LEARN AND GROW.

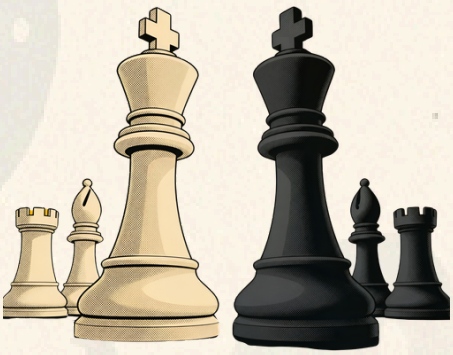
Soccer	Chess & Boardgames	Art History
Gaelic Football	Spanish Club	Art Club
Athletics	Snooker/Pool	Mindful Crafts, Mediation and
Dungeons & Dragons	DJ School	After School Study















ASSEMBLIES



THIS WEEK, ALL YEAR GROUPS GATHERED FOR ASSEMBLIES LED BY THE PRINCIPAL, DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, YEAR HEADS, FORM TEACHERS AND HOME SCHOOL LIAISON COORDINATOR. AS AN EDMUND RICE SCHOOL, EACH ASSEMBLY BEGAN WITH A PRAYER AND REFLECTION, REMINDING US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPECT, INCLUSION AND CARE FOR ONE ANOTHER. STUDENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO OUR CARING AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY, WHILE IMPORTANT UPDATES AND GUIDANCE WERE SHARED BY THE VARIOUS MEMBERS OF STAFF. THE HOME SCHOOL LIAISON COORDINATOR HIGHLIGHTED THE IMPORTANCE OF REGULAR ATTENDANCE, AND ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES WERE PRESENTED TO STUDENTS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCELLENT COMMITMENT TO SCHOOL.

















SAFETY TALKS

AS PART OF OUR ONGOING COMMITMENT TO STUDENT WELLBEING AND SAFETY, OUR 1ST AND 2ND YEAR STUDENTS RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN SCREAM SAFETY TALKS. THE SESSIONS PROVIDED PRACTICAL ADVICE ON PERSONAL SAFETY, RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING AND STAYING SAFE IN A RANGE OF SITUATIONS. WITH HALLOWEEN APPROACHING, STUDENTS WERE REMINDED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING SENSIBLE CHOICES, LOOKING OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER AND STAYING SAFE WHILE OUT AND ABOUT. WE THANK THE PRESENTERS FOR DELIVERING SUCH TIMELY AND VALUABLE MESSAGES.





STUDENT COUNCIL VISIT LEINSTER HOUSE





TRANSITION YEAR TRIPS















JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS

ON WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7TH , OUR JUNIOR CYCLE STUDENTS RECEIVED THEIR EXAMINATION RESULTS. CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL STUDENTS ON THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS AND ON REACHING THIS IMPORTANT MILESTONE IN THEIR EDUCATIONAL JOURNEY. A SPECIAL WORD OF THANKS TO THEIR YEAR HEAD, MS MERCER, FOR HER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT, AND TO ALL THE TEACHERS WHOSE DEDICATION, ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMMITMENT HELPED OUR STUDENTS ACHIEVE THEIR VERY BEST. WE WISH OUR STUDENTS EVERY SUCCESS AS THEY CONTINUE THE NEXT STAGE OF THEIR EDUCATION.











WELLBEING DAY

WELLBEING DAY IN O'CONNELL SCHOOL WAS A GREAT SUCCESS, WITH STUDENTS ENJOYING A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH, TEAMWORK AND FUN. THROUGHOUT THE DAY, STUDENTS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE PART IN BOARD GAMES, GAA, SOCCER AND MANY OTHER ENGAGING ACTIVITIES. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DAY WAS A VISIT FROM A MAGICIAN, WHOSE PERFORMANCE BROUGHT PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT AND LAUGHTER. THANK YOU TO ALL THE STAFF AND STUDENTS WHO HELPED MAKE THE DAY SUCH AN ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED















IN NOVEMBER WE REMEMBER

As the leaves fall and the days grow shorter, the month of November invites us into a time of quiet reflection. Within our school community at O'Connell School, we look back with gratitude and look forward with hope.

In this traditional season of remembrance, we hold space for the memories of those who have shaped our lives but are no longer with us. Though we come from different backgrounds, cultures and faith traditions, we are united in the shared values of love, compassion and respect. Let us pause to remember family members, friends and members of our school community who have passed away. We carry their stories, their laughter and their lessons in our hearts.

Throughout November, students will have the opportunity to remember loved ones by writing their names on a remembrance card and placing it on our Remembrance Tree in the school garden. This simple but meaningful gesture will allow us, as a school community, to honour those we miss and to keep their memory alive in our thoughts and prayers. May this special space serve as a reminder of the connections we share and the lasting impact of those who have touched our lives.



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust