

KEY CALENDAR DATES IN AUTUMN TERM

- **7th October** School closed for students
- **10th October** Open Night
- **14th – 18th October** Music Week *Soundwaves*
- **21st October** 1st Year Progress Meeting
- **22nd October** 5th Year PTM
- **25th October** Mid-Term Break begins
- **13th November** Careers / College Information Meeting Parents & Guardians
- **25th – 29th November** Tests for all students
- **20th December** Last day of term

OPEN NIGHT

This year's Open Night will take place on **Thursday, October 10th, from 6.45 pm to 9.00pm**. This is a great opportunity for families to gain a new experience of life at St Kilian's. Please encourage your friends to come along too. All are welcome!

RETIREMENT



Mr Gerry Dunne has retired from his position as Biology/Science/Maths teacher, which he has held since 1984. Over those years, Mr Dunne made an invaluable contribution to the school and its students and built a wonderful reputation as a highly skilled, dedicated and caring teacher. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

FIRST YEAR PROGRESS MEETING

Parents and Guardians of First Year students are invited to a **Progress Meeting** at the school on **Monday, 21st October from 11.30am to 1.00pm**. This is an excellent opportunity for you to meet with your son's/daughter's teachers and other key school personnel. Please try and attend for at least some of the meeting.

SUPERVISED STUDY

Supervised Study has resumed for the new school year. Full details are in the **attached handout**. Payment to be made at the School Office or through Easy Payments Plus (see website homepage).

PUNCTUALITY & ATTENDANCE

We thank parents/guardians for their cooperation with Year Heads during 2018-2019 in promoting good student attendance and punctuality. The results have been very encouraging.

We ask you to continue to make good punctuality and attendance a high priority for this school year.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

The new **PE sports top and bottoms** have proven very popular with students; they are comfortable and look very smart.

Note 1: The PE bottoms **may not** be worn instead of grey trousers as part of the regular uniform.

Note 2: The special offer for the **school jacket** continues this year. Students who have all of their payments up-to-date with the School Office can get a **€25 voucher** toward the purchase of the jacket (normal price €45).

Please support the school in ensuring that your son's/daughter's uniform is always in line with school policy.

STAFF CHANGES

Ms Siobhán Garvey has taken up a position as a Guidance Counsellor in a different school. Ms Garvey first joined the school in 1996 as a Modern Languages teacher and is particularly remembered for the eleven years she spent as the school's Home School Community Liaison Teacher.

Mr Daire Donohoe has taken up a teaching position in his home county, County Cavan. Mr Donohoe, who worked as a Geography teacher at St Kilian's since 2005, also made an invaluable contribution to the school's extra-curricular sports and as the leading light of the school's Green School Committee.

Mr Angus Laidlaw has also moved to a school nearer his hometown, after a year and a half working at St Kilian's as a History and English teacher.

Ms Audrey Dalton has moved to a new school after fourteen years at St Kilian's in a variety of roles, including Attendance Officer, Breakfast Club Organiser, School Completion Programme project worker and Special Needs Assistant.

We thank all of the above for their great dedication to the school and its students and we wish them every happiness in their future careers.

We welcome **Ms Orla Coyne (Geography)**, **Mr Darragh Kelly (History and Resource)**, **Ms Dearbhla Keating (English and Resource)** and **Mr Stephen Wright (Resource)** who have joined the teaching staff.

WALTON CLUB, TCD

Nine 2nd Year students have qualified to be part of Trinity College's Walton Club. This is a **Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)** club that meets at TCD every Saturday of the school year. **Five 3rd Year and two 4th Year students** continue to be involved since they joined in 2nd Year. Six of the students involved have received full **scholarships**. Congratulations to everyone involved!

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2019

In early September, five 6th Year students, **Naoise O'Connell, Amy Howick, Nicole Keogh, Kayleigh Howick and Dylan O'Toole**, accompanied by their Year Head, **Ms Maeve Taaffe**, took part as helpers on the **Dublin Diocesan Pilgrimage** to Lourdes. This is the **tenth year** of the school's involvement with the pilgrimage.

NEW PARTNERSHIP

Under **Junior Achievers Ireland**, St Kilian's has begun a partnership with



Evros, a major technology company based at Cherrywood. Evros personnel will work with Transition Year students on a range of initiatives over the coming months. The school is very grateful for the support of **Sharon O'Reilly**, a past-pupil and Director of Evros.

EMBED PROGRAMME



St Kilian's is the pilot school for a new programme with the **UCD Access Office**, called **EMBED**. The idea was developed with **Dr Daniel Crean**, a past-pupil and now an Assistant Professor in the

School of Veterinary at UCD. The initiative involves Dr Crean being based at the school every Tuesday morning until Christmas. In cooperation with the school's Guidance Team, he is leading a mentoring programme with the 6th Years.

SCHOOL REFURBISHMENTS

During the summer months, **Room 6 (Maths)** and **Room 7 (History/English)** were refurbished and fitted with student computer work stations. A major refurbishment of **Room 28 (Demonstration Room)** is planned for the Halloween Break.

An application has been made for funding to carry out a **complete replacement of the school's heating system**. This is a major project which can only be addressed under the DES's **Summer Works Scheme**. The application was submitted in June – this has been the first time that the DES has accepted applications like this since November 2015. Your patience and understanding is appreciated.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Please use the school website (www.stkilianscs.com) and Facebook page to keep up-to-date with school events and information.

Best wishes to everyone for the school year ahead.

John Murphy, Principal

September 2019