

December 2018

As Christmas approaches I look back over what has been an extraordinary term for us all, it has been a term that we will not forget for many reasons, since our return to school at the end of August. We have had a long and sometimes difficult term. The untimely loss of our students under any circumstances is hard to bear, sadly this term we lost two of our wonderful students through illness and tragedy over the last few months. We remember Tara & Hannah as the Christmas season approaches and we keep their families, friends, and whole school community in our thoughts and prayers. On top of that, we also had a fire to contend with when one of our Science labs suffered damage in September. As Principal here, I would wholeheartedly like to thank, all the staff, all of our students, and all Parents/Guardians for your support, kindness and dedication to our school community through these difficult times. I would like to thank the students and teachers for their dedication and hard work both in and out of the classroom, in teaching & learning, and the many extra-curricular activities that are on offer here in the school. Though the term has been a difficult one, we look forward to the New Year with hope and optimism and as a community; we will continue to strive to provide quality education, support and aim to achieve Our best, always. As well as this, we had a wonderful week of celebrations for our Bicentenary, which took 2 years of planning to mark what has been in the making for 200 years. It would not have been possible without a hardworking, dedicated Bicentenary committee of 20 staff members and sisters from the convent & our students who helped at many of the events during the course of the week. For anyone looking for a copy of "Going One Step Beyond", our Bicentenary publication, it is now back in stock and available only from the school reception and Wexford Book Centre for €20. Be sure to pick up your copy for the perfect stocking filler! We also had an excellent report published following our WSE-MLL that was held in the school in April, please see inspection reports.

Many thanks to all of the prospective students and parents who came to sample the atmosphere at the school for our open night the 14th November. Well done to all our students and staff who showed off what we do best here at the school. It was a very successful night with large attendance; I hope you got a flavour of what we have to offer here in Presentation Wexford.

Well done to our 5th, 2nd and 1st years on the completion of their House Exams. The hard work pays off. Reports will be live from the 18th of December on Vsware.

Congratulations to everyone involved in this year's Transition Year play – I would like to commend the Transition Year students for the time and effort they put into their Annual Panto, "Cinderella" by Thomas O'Leary. A massive thank you to Paul Walsh and all the teachers & staff involved in putting on this production. You certainly lifted the spirits of the school this past week.

I would like to offer a special word of thanks to the members of the Parents' Council who put tremendous work into organising the recent Race night. Their fundraising, work and support is invaluable to the school community.

Plans are underway for the refurbishment of the Science lab damaged in the recent fire; we hope to have it up and running in the next few months. Our new wing comprising 1 Science lab and Prep room, 2 general-purpose classrooms, and toilet facilities has now been tendered and plans are being drawn. We look forward to this additional accommodation starting in the next few months.

Can I remind Parents/Guardians that supports are in place for your daughters if they are feeling any way upset or distressed over recent events. Below are two documents and that may help in some way for you.

1. SupportingYourChild.Bereavement
2. Information.Parents.Guardians.Teen.Bereavement

I wish you all the joy of the festive season, may it be a peaceful and happy Christmas. Take time to relax, reenergise, spend time with family & friends, 2019 comes with a sense of renewal and new beginnings. May your new year bring big dreams, new goals and hopes that all you wish for will come to fruition in 2019.

William Ryan  
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