



MEDIA

MEDIA 2021 is produced by students for students, parents and staff. Please let us know what you would like to see in the next edition of MEDIA, we can be contacted at umaguire998@c2kni.net and in the meantime happy reading. #TEAMKNOCK

OLSPCK eBulletin

AUTUMN TERM - Issue 21

OCTOBER 2020

Important Dates

College closed

19th Oct - 30th October (inclusive)

Mock Exams - Years 12 and 14

Commence on

16th November 2020.

You should create a revision timetable to plan your study.

Read this article for more information on successful exam preparation <https://www.theguardian.com/teacher-network/2016/apr/19/students-revise-exams-revision-science>

GL Assessment

GL Assessment Tests Saturday 30th January

January 2021 Examinations

Monday 11th January

GCSE Mathematics Unit 3 9.30am – 11.30am

GCSE Mathematics Unit 4 9.30am – 11.30am

Tuesday 12th January

GCSE English Language Unit 1 9.30am – 11.15am

Wednesday 13th January

GCSE Mathematics Unit 7 9.30am – 12.00pm

GCSE Mathematics Unit 8 9.30am – 12.00pm

Thursday 14th January

GCSE English Language Unit 4 9.30am – 11.15am

Examinations start at 9.30pm SHARP.

Results issued Thursday 4th March 2021.

Unfortunately we cannot issue results by email or telephone.

Book Week NI

19 - 25 October 2020

libraries NI

BBC NORTHERN IRELAND



BOOKBUZZ 2020

This is the third year OLSPCK have rolled out Bookbuzz. Every Year 8 student received a free book courtesy of the school library.

Pictured above are 8² with Mr Cowan receiving their gifted books.

Sponsored Walk 2020

Years 8-10

The annual Sponsored Walk has been a long standing tradition in the College for over twenty years, so we are determined to ensure its continuation, even in the midst of a pandemic. It is usually the first major fundraising initiative of the school calendar, the proceeds from which benefit an orphanage in Peru run by a past pupil of OLSPCK, Father Tony Coney. It will take place this year on the return from our Halloween Break as part of your P.E. lessons, rather than the usual format. Sponsored Walk forms have been brought home and we hope you can use your midterm break to get sponsorship for the event. The city of Lima in Peru has been hit very hard by COVID-19 and the Orphanage is in a particularly impoverished area of the city. While the pandemic has affected the entire globe and every last one of us has been affected, we must all do our bit to help those significantly worse off than ourselves. Thanks to everyone in advance for the generosity of spirit the students of Knock always demonstrate in all our fundraising campaigns.

Mr Austin



Year 8 Technology students using the outdoor classroom to learn about materials and the environment.

OUR LADY AND ST. PATRICK'S

COLLEGE KNOCK

Halloween Update for Parents

OUR LADY AND ST PATRICKS

Dear Parent

My aim today is to provide information without the adjectives and set phrases that have dominated our vocabulary in 2020. We were delighted to welcome our Year 12/14 students back on College premises on 24/08/20 and College staff have enjoyed working with and supporting our 1,328 students as they returned together as seven year groups from 03/09/20. It has been an exceptionally busy half-term, but also extremely productive and very worthwhile. Friendships have been reinforced and new friendships have been made. Particular credit must go to our 195 Year 8 students who have managed the transition from primary school with wonderful enthusiasm and positivity. The College will close today for mid-term in accordance with the direction from the Department of Education. I have outlined some information for parents below as we prepare for a longer mid-term break and a return to school on Monday 02/11/20.

Important Dates: The College will be closed from 19/10/20 - 30/10/20 inclusive as per instruction from Stormont. Our initial College Calendar planned for students to attend school four days next week (Monday - Thursday), with an INSET day for teachers on Friday 23/10/20. Three days (Monday - Wednesday) are now designated as Exceptional Closure Days. The other two days (one teaching/one INSET) are changed to Optional Days and the Thursday/INSET will be added to the end of June. This means the last day of term for Year 8-10 will now be Wednesday 23/06/20 at 12 noon. Year 11 will finish on Tuesday 22/06/20 at 3.35pm. The College Calendar will be updated to reflect these changes.

Return to School: Students should return to school on Monday 02/11/20, unless they have to self-isolate in accordance with PHA guidance. College staff and students are all on various subject Teams since the beginning of the academic year. In the event of an extended lockdown, your child(ren) should register with the class Tutor at 9.20 each day and subject teachers will then liaise with students via Teams.

Staff: It is important that I formally record my thanks to all staff for the herculean effort which has enabled our students to avail once again of a first-class education in Knock. The past eight weeks have required tremendous flexibility and sacrifice from our staff, who show up valiantly each day to support our College community. Their ongoing commitment and positivity are an example to all and I wish our staff and students a refreshing and very well-deserved mid-term break.

Positive Cases for COVID-19: The College has had

15 positive cases since late August to date, 86% of which have been in the Upper School (Year 13/14). We have at all times followed PHA advice to keep our College community as safe as possible. It is important that I clarify that the majority of students have tested positive through no fault of their own.

Quarantine/Self-isolation: You may be interested to know that 275 students have returned from an expired quarantine since the beginning of the school year. There are currently 136 students on quarantine/self-isolating at home. My thanks to our parents for ensuring that their children comply with current PHA/government advice to safeguard our College community.

Responsible Behaviour: It would be remiss of me not to comment on the practices of a minority of students which continue to cause grave concern. Whilst I understand that restrictions may be particularly difficult for our older students, attendance at large gatherings in parks, bars and/or house parties is quite clearly putting the health and education of others at risk. This is simply not acceptable.

As Principal, I am increasingly concerned about the ongoing impact of the actions of this minority on those students who have acted responsibly, staying at home or meeting a few friends, always mindful of social distancing. When another student tests positive, these students are identified as 'close contacts', they are instructed to self-isolate at home for 14 days, and subsequently miss approximately 10 teaching days.

Our Year 12 and Year 14 students are aware that their outcomes for GCSE/A-level will be completely based on their performance in Year 12/14, unless they decide to sit additional modules from Year 11/13. High attendance for Year 12/14 in particular is absolutely crucial and should not be impacted upon by others. Remote learning does not replace classroom teaching. Staff and students are already under pressure to make up for lost time from 23/03/20 when skills which were developed remotely will now be formally examined.

I would therefore insist that should your son/daughter choose to meet up with large groups, should he/she choose to prioritise a social event over both his/her own individual health and education and the health and education of others, he/she should regard the day of the social event as Day 0 and not attend school for 14 days. He/she may return on Day 15. Our College Mission Statement calls on our students to be 'of service to others'. Our students will best serve others this academic year by acting responsibly and respecting government/PHA advice.

New Positive Test: Parents are reminded to inform the College immediately if there is anyone in their household with any COVID-19 symptoms by telephoning 028 9040 1184 between 9.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday or by emailing: info@knock.co.uk outside College hours. Parents should also inform the College of a positive test without delay.

Set Down/Collection by Car: The numbers of cars on College premises in the morning/afternoon has decreased. As a result, the only designated area for set down/collection on College premises from 02/11/20 will be close to Reception. Parents are reminded to exercise extreme caution and keep within the speed limit of 5mph when driving on College premises.

Parents may therefore drop their child(ren) off:

- Close to Reception, following direction from staff;
- In a street adjacent to the Gilnahirk Road/Kingsway Gardens; or
- At a suitable distance from the College on the Gilnahirk Road, mindful of not adding to traffic congestion.

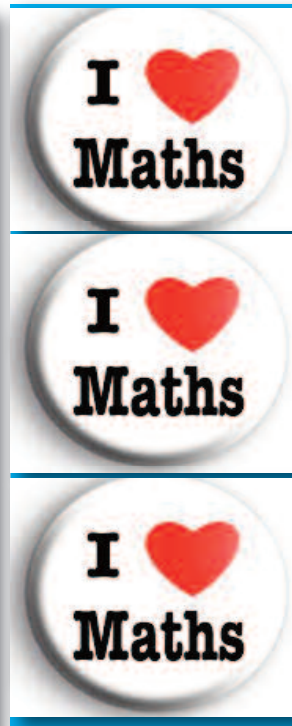
Chaplain: Sr Marie Doyle (St Clare Sister) has been appointed as College Chaplain by the Diocese of Down and Connor. Sr Marie was formerly parish sister in St Malachy's Parish and we were delighted to welcome Sr Marie to Knock on 01/10/20 to support our College community.

I thank you in advance for your cooperation and support as we begin this 'circuit break'. Positive choices will ensure that we are all able to return to school on 02/11/20 and I look forward to seeing everyone then. In the meantime, I wish you and your family good health in the months ahead.

Yours sincerely

Deborah McLaughlin

Principal



Maths Week Ireland

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Maths Week Ireland competition. I have just completed the draw for the Junior, Senior and Staff Competition and the winners are as follows:

Junior – Megan Smyth 9²

Senior – Francesca Wilson 14⁴

Staff – Mrs S O'Brien

**Congratulations
Mrs C O'Callaghan**



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CAREERS

@OLSPCKLanguages
Languages

@OlspckD
OLSPCK DRAMA

@OLSPC
Sports

@OlspckG
OLSPCK GEOGRAPHY

@OlspckUN
UN Young Ambassador

Student Council

2020 - 2021

Congratulations to all students who have been appointed to the Student Council 2020-2021.

| | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| 8-1 | Caitlin Spence | Aaditya Raman Soma Sundaram |
| 8-2 | Eve Adair | Arianna Mooney |
| 8-3 | Tom Jamieson | Cara McCullough |
| 8-4 | Luke Murphy | Joe McKnight |
| 8-5 | Abbie McCann | Cillian McClelland-Treacy |
| 8-6 | Aoife McNally | Gabriella Erwin |
| 8-7 | Mia Harvey | James Quinn |

| | | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|------------------|------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 9-1 | Eimear McSorley | Josh Whearty | 10-1 | Grainne Hollywood | Una Branniff |
| 9-2 | Ellie Clarke | Oskar Stelmasiak | 10-2 | Ellie Barton | Conor Adair |
| 9-3 | Ruby Atkins | Conall Hughes | 10-3 | Hannah Thompson | Grace Canning |
| 9-4 | Sam George | Cuan O'Meachair | 10-4 | Bronagh Crozier | James Gibson |
| 9-5 | Aoife Reavey | Donal Gallen | 10-5 | Joseph Lavery | Lily Mason-Hood |
| 9-6 | Tomas Dorrian | Olivia Dalton | 10-6 | Sean McCollum | Eimear Napier |
| 9-7 | Noah Kavanagh | Kathryn Dickson | 10-7 | Kevin McKee | Luke Doran |

| | | | | | |
|------|---------------------|------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 11-1 | Gavin Murphy | Erin Sloan | 12-1 | Ishtaq Abedin | Uainin Cumiskey |
| 11-2 | Maeve Burke | Eibhlinn Hutchinson | 12-2 | Jasmine Byrne | Dayah Hunt |
| 11-3 | Molly Small | Rory Taggart | 12-3 | Caoilainn Gribbon | Ronan McPeake |
| 11-4 | Elizabeth McQuillan | Taravat Sohrabi Zamani | 12-4 | Seamus Carroll | Beth Conde |
| 11-5 | Callum Campbell | Hannah Monaghan | 12-5 | Oliver Watson | Ciaran Kelly |
| 11-6 | Deirbhile McKeown | Anastazja McLean | 12-6 | Anna Cassidy | Dominic McQuillan |
| 11-7 | Oliver Smyth | Aine Breen | 12-7 | Daniel Gilmore | Maya Farley |

| | | | | | |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|------|-----------------|----------------|
| 13-1 | Julia Boitel-Gill | Patrick Macfarlane | 14-1 | Jack Halliday | Ethan Sheals |
| 13-2 | Jude McGloin | Hannah Burke | 14-2 | Lucy Hunter | Danny Neill |
| 13-3 | Tom Savage | Oliver Leonard | 14-3 | Joe Carberry | Anna Farrell |
| 13-4 | Charlie McAdam | Hannah McCabe | 14-4 | Eoghan Smyth | Erin Wilkinson |
| 13-5 | Joseph O'Sullivan | Niamh Blaney | 14-5 | Michelle Murray | Ben Molloy |
| 13-6 | Emma Knight | Oliver Leonard | 14-6 | Rosi O'Neill | Fionn Lyons |
| 13-7 | Ben Gilmore | Conor Gunn | 14-7 | Orla Wilson | Donal Teague |

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

The current COVID-19 measures are currently limiting the range of careers activities that can take place. Be assured the Careers Department will endeavour to assist students with their careers decision as much as feasibly possible.

Year 14 Students

The internal school deadline for the completion of UCAS applications is the week beginning Monday 2nd November 2020. Students are currently working on Personal Statements and conducting thorough research into the courses and universities they intend applying to. Students must pay for their own application using a credit card. Do not worry, this will not send your application off to UCAS directly - the school will do that. We strongly advise students to complete this process as soon as possible. The sooner the application forms are completed; the sooner students will begin receiving offers from universities. Any student who is having problems choosing a course can still request an interview with their Careers teacher. There are numerous Virtual Open Days and University Fairs taking place over the next few weeks. Students should continually check their emails regarding these events. At present we will not be able to host our annual mock interview evening for students requiring an interview for university. We are still working closely with The Knights of Columbanus to look into alternative arrangements.



Higher Apprenticeships.

Higher Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular for Year 14 students looking for an alternative to university. They will provide students with the opportunity to earn while they study. On successful completion, students will obtain a university degree or an equivalent qualification, without the debt associated with university and in most cases a guaranteed job. The range of Higher Apprenticeships are increasing each year, covering areas such as: IT, Finance, Engineering and Science. A number of popular Higher Apprenticeship programmes are now open for application. For more information and how to apply use the links below:

Careers Service NI

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/higher-level-apprenticeships>

Kainos (Earn As You Learn)

Application closes: tbc

<https://www.kainos.com/careers/student-and-graduates/earn-as-you-learn>

Deloitte (Bright Start)

Application closes: tbc

Deloitte Careers Website - BS Programme
Application Process Link

PWC (Flying Start Programme)

Application closes: 15th January 2021

<https://www.pwc.co.uk/careers/school-jobs/jobs/flying-start-degrees/technology.html>

Year 13 students

Year 13 Work Experience had initially been planned to occur 18th - 22nd January 2021 but unfortunately we have had to put this event on hold. We are hopeful that

Work Experience opportunities can still occur later in the academic year. We will keep you up to date should these arrangements change in the next few months. Do note there are various virtual Work Experience events occurring, these events will be emailed out to students. It is important that students regularly check their school email account for these opportunities.

A lack of Work Experience may make it more difficult for students to decide on a careers path, therefore independent research is more important than ever. Students who are still unsure about a career path should: speak to their Careers teacher; assess their skills and qualities and interests and strengths. There are numerous websites listed in the Careers booklet that may help.

Usually at this time of year there would be various Student / Parent Information events at QUB and Ulster University. These have all been moved to virtual events. Past and future webinars at UU and QUB can be found below.

Ulster University

Go to the following website for more information:
<https://www.ulster.ac.uk/events/recruitment-webinars>

Queen's University Belfast

Go to the following website for more information:
<https://www.qub.ac.uk/Study/Undergraduate/events/>

There will be a range of similar event from a wide variety of universities. Students need to check their school email and Careers notice board regularly for any additional events.

Year 12 students

During this important transition year, students will continue to be informed by their Careers teacher on the most up-to-date careers and labour market information. All students will receive an individual careers interview with our DE Careers Advisors, Brenda McKeown and Jack Ward. Unfortunately, these interviews will not be conducted face to face but will be done remotely. It is vital that students conduct thorough careers research before their interview. After this interview has been completed, parents / guardians will receive a letter highlighting what was discussed and an agreed action plan. Unfortunately, Year 12 Skills NI Careers Fair that was to occur in November has been cancelled. There will be various virtual Career Insight events occurring throughout the year, these events will be emailed out to students. It is important students regularly check their school email account for these opportunities.

Twitter

Follow the Careers Department on Twitter @OLSPCKCareers

Mr Davey
Head of Careers