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COLAISTE MUIRE,

COBH,

CO. CORK.

Date: 7/11/21

RE: November Updates:

Dear Parents/Guardians, Host families and students,

Our TY students of 2021/22 continue to enjoy their Transition Year Programme (TYP) and all the opportunities it brings. Their positivity, commitment and appreciation of the TYP is to be commended. As coordinator I really enjoy working with them and seeing them develop both academically and personally. Some events are for the whole group, others are opportunities for students to engage in areas of interest and develop their own personal interests and skills. Well done students!

So far students have engaged with:

- Fota Adventure Day
- Cobh/Spike Heritage Day
- Connect Reflection Day
- First Aid and Drive for Life Workshops
- Apple Virtual Visit
- Community Clean Ups and creating, maintaining and developing school resources and facilities.
- Crocus Project- Planting bulbs which will bloom in time for Holocaust Day to remind us of the children lost in the Holocaust
- Cork Conference on Intergenerational Climate Justice
- Team Leader Guides for Parent-Teacher meetings
- Musical rehearsals for the Addams Family
- Gaisce Initiatives, Sport's Teams and many other competitions
- Many interesting research projects, podcasts and presentations in their various subjects/modules

In the coming months we look forward to:

- Language Connect Day Nov 25th
- Great Cake Bake-Off
- Online Film-making Workshop (elective)
- Cobh Garda Visit to the school
- CPR Training in association with Irish Heart Foundation
- Christmas Assessments (It is important to continue with our academic learning and assessment)
- Christmas Outing December 15th to Leisureplex Cork City

Cappanalea Update:

It is with regret that we made the call to cancel our much-loved trip to Cappanalea for TY 2022. Cappanalea is currently closed due to Covid 19 pandemic. Department of Education TY Guidelines asked schools to avoid overnight trips and Cappanalea does not envisage overnights being facilitated for some time yet.

While this is disappointing, I am delighted to offer an alternative Activity Week to our TY students which I am sure they will enjoy. This week will occur on Feb 28th- March 4th and will include:

- Visit to Naval base Haulbowline, Haulbowline Park and National Maritime College.
- Day cycle on Waterford's Greenway
- Day visit to Zipit, Ovens (High-Rope Climbing)
- School based workshops: Magic, Art/Craft skills/Animal Care/ Ceilí
- Tour of Gaeltacht areas of Cúil Aodha, Ballyvourney and a Hill walk in Gougane Barra

I am grateful to all the staff who helped to source and provide alternative options and who will also accompany students on these various activities.

Work Experience: Work experience will now take place for all students during the weeks of Feb 7th and Feb 14th. Ms. A.O' Shea has been very busy supporting students in securing work placement opportunities. Most students have secured places at this point. Some students may need the support of parents and host families to find placements, but it is expected that all will find and attend this valuable learning opportunity. If you are genuinely having difficulties, please contact Ms. A.O 'Shea via the main office.

Uniform: With the weather getting colder we remind students that we expect them in full school uniform. This can include a thermal layer under the school shirt, the school jumper is essential, the school fleece is an optional extra, flat black leather shoes and school uniform jackets are compulsory.

Attendance: Attendance is generally very good. Any afternoon absence should be requested in advance and a note in the journal must be presented to the office before 12:45pm. Any unplanned absences should be communicated with the office via phone and accompanied by a note in the journal when a student returns to school. Students are expected to be present for the full day otherwise.

Journal: Students are requested to fill their journals with their daily learning experiences and following any significant learning events. The journal is presented at the end of year interview and students will be evaluated on the content. It is expected that parents keep a regular eye on journals, check for content and sign any behavioral notes and the back.

Hoping that we all remain safe and well as we journey towards the Christmas season. Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to TY.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Ormond, TY Coordinator and Year Head