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02/09/19

A Thuismitheoirí:

Tosóidh Ranganna Breise do Theist Aistrithe na Scoileanna Gramadaí arís amárach, an Mháirt 3ú Meán Fómhair agus beidh siad ann gach lá an tseachtain seo. Ón tseachtain seo chugainn ar aghaidh, beidh siad ann Dé Luain, Dé Céadaoin, Déardaoin agus Dé hAoine go dtí 4.00pm. Gheobhaidh na daltaí torthaí agus uisce gach lá ach tá cead acu a sos sláintiúil féin a thabhairt isteach fosta.

Iniata a gheobhaidh tú sceideal do Theisteanna Cleachtaidh (seasann G do Gaeilge agus seasann M do Mhata). Mar is léir, is sceideal breá lán é agus tá súil againn go mbeidh muid in ann 50 teist Mata agus Gaeilge a chomhlánadh i mbliana. Déanfaidh na daltaí na teisteanna ar maidin, chéad rud (bí cinnte go mbíonn siad in am), ach amháin Dé hAoine nuair a dhéanfaidh siad an teist tráthnóna (beidh snámh ann Dé hAoine, nóta le teacht). Bainfidh muid úsáid as an uair i ndiaidh scoile le dul siar ar an teist. Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil go bhfuil roinnt laethanta beartaithe againn do theisteanna nuair a bheidh an scoil druidte, is iad: an Satharn, 28ú Meán Fómhair, an Aoine, 25ú Deireadh Fómhair (i ndiaidh leath lae na Samhna) agus an Aoine, 1ú Samhain. Breac síos na dátaí seo i do dhialann le do thoil agus déan gach iarracht lena dheimhniú go mbíonn do pháiste ar scoil ar na laethanta seo.

I ndiaidh teiste, gheobhaidh na daltaí Leabhráin Athbhreithnithe sa dóigh is go dtig leo foghlaim óna meancóga. Is ionann an Leabhrán Atbhreithnithe don Ghaeilge agus an teist féin leis na freagraí, agus don teist mata gheobhaidh na páistí leabhrán freagraí i gcomhair le Leabhrán Ceisteanna Breise, atá dátheangach agus le freagraí a dhéanann na páistí sa bhaile agus atá le marcáil agat. Eiseofar na leabhráin seo suas go dtí Oíche Shamhna, ina dhiaidh sin iarrfar ar na páistí gach gné de na Leabhráin Fhoghlama a bheith ar eolas acu de ghlanmheabhair. I mbliana, gheobhaidh na páistí an gnáth-obair bhaile ó Mhúinteoir Seána le linn na seachtaine, ach gheobhaidh siad trí leabhrán mata don obair bhaile ag an deireadh seachtaine. Arís eile, tá na leabhráin seo dátheangach ach iarrtar ar na páistí iad a thabhairt ar scoil ar an Luan agus marcálfaidh Múinteoir Seána iad.

Ar a bharr sin, tabharfar leathanach as na Leabhráin Fhoghlama do na páistí mar chuid den obair bhaile s'acu gach seachtain agus tá cluichí idirghníomhacha (Futaba) déanta ag an scoil ar an IPad le tacú leo leis na Leabhráin Fhoghlama, imreoidh siad na cluichí seo ar scoil.

Mar a tchí tú, beidh an chéad trí mhí eile iontach dian ach is teist an-chasta í Teist Iontrála na Scoileanna Gramadaí. Thar na blianta, d'fhoghlaim muid go mbíonn scór de 85 (as 105) de dhíth don A, agus bíonn D i scór ar bith faoi bhun 75. Bíonn na gráid iontach teoranta agus níl spás ar bith ann do mheancóga amaideacha nó cur chuige bogasach. Is iad na spriocanna a bheidh ag na daltaí ná 50+ sa Ghaeilge agus 35+ sa Mhata agus, más amhlaidh go mbaineann siad na spriocanna seo amach, mholfainn duit ligean dóibh gan na ceisteanna breise a dhéanamh mar luaíocht. Ní mór dóibh, áfach, an Obair Bhaile Mata Dheireadh Seachtaine a dhéanamh go fóill beag is cuma fán scór s'acu ach, má tá fáth ar bith ann nach dtig leis na páistí an obair bhaile sin a dhéanamh, cuirtear nóta isteach chuig Múinteoir Seána le bhur dtoil.

Is é an Aoine, 20ú Meán Fómhair an dáta druidte le do pháiste a chlárú don teist. Tig foirmeacha a chur isteach go Scoil Iósaef, an Domhnach Mór ach beidh teastas breithe agus grianghraif pais de dhíth fosta. Tabhair faoi deara le do thoil go bhfuil de dhualgas ort a leithéid a dhéanamh.

Pointe deireanach amháin ná, má tá sé de rún agat do pháiste a chur chuig Scoil Iósaef, ní gá dó/di an teist a dhéanamh. Fiú amháin le gach ceann de na trí Ghaelscoil i lár-Uladh ag cur páistí chuici anuraidh, d'éirigh le gach duine áit a fháil agus bhí áiteanna le spáráil acu go fóill beag. Sílim go mbeidh an cás amhlaidh i mbliana.

Maidir le Scoil Iósaef, seans go bhfuil a fhios agat go bhfuarthas 20 A* agus 7 A in GCSE Irish sa tríú bliain i mbliana. Maidir leis na A Leibhéil, d'éirigh le 88% na daltaí 3 Grád A – C a fháil, le 94% de na páistí ag dul chun na hOllscoile. Is iar-dhaltaí de Ghaelscoil Uí Néill an mhór-thromlach de na daltaí seo. Coinnigh seo i d'intinn thar an chéad trí mhí dhiana atá romhainn.

Thig linn bualadh le chéile ag deireadh mhí Dheireadh an Fhómhair le dul chun cinn do pháiste a phlé ach gabh i dteagmháil liom idir an dá linn dá mba mhaith leat buarthaí nó ceisteanna a phlé liom roimhe sin.

Ádh Mór,
Conor

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A Thuismitheoirí:

The Grammar School Entrance Test Classes will begin again tomorrow, Tuesday, 3rd September and will run each day this week. From next week on, they will run every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until 4.00pm. Pupils will receive fruit and water each day but are also allowed to bring in their own, healthy snack.

Please find attached a timetable for the Practice Tests (G stands for Gaeilge and M stands for Maths). As you can see, it is a very full schedule and we are hoping to complete 50 practice tests in both Maths and Irish this year. The children will sit the practice tests in the mornings, first thing (so please ensure they are early), apart from Friday when they will sit it in the afternoon (swimming will take places on Fridays, note to follow). We will use the hour after school to go over the children's tests. Please note that we have also scheduled in a number of days for the children to sit tests when the school is closed, these are: Saturday, 28th September, Friday 25th October (after the Halloween half-day) and Friday 1st November. Please mark these dates in your diary and make every effort to ensure that your child attends on these days.

After each test, the children will receive Review Booklets so that they can learn from their mistakes. The Review Booklet for Irish tests is simply a copy of the test with the answers, while the Review Booklets for Maths will comprise a copy of the test with the answers and an Additional Questions Booklet; bilingual and complete with answers for the children to do at home and for you to mark. These booklets will be issued up to Halloween, after which time the children will be encouraged to know every aspect of their Revision Books off by heart. This year, the children will still receive their normal homework from Múinteoir Seána during the week but will also receive three small maths booklets as weekend homework. Once again, these booklets are bilingual but the children are asked to bring them to school on Monday morning for Múinteoir Seána to mark.

As well as all of this, the children will be given pages of their Revision Booklets to learn as part of their homework each week and the school has produced a number of interactive games (Futaba) on the IPad to support their learning of the Revision Books, which they will play in school.

As I am sure you can appreciate, the next three months will be very intense but the Grammar School Entrance Test is an exceptionally difficult test. Over the years, we have found that the children require a score of about 85 (out of 105) for an A, while anything lower than 75 more often than not being a D. The margins, therefore, are very narrow indeed and there is little room for simple mistakes or complacency. The children's targets, therefore, are 50+ in Irish and 35+ in Maths and, if they achieve these scores, I would recommend that you reward them by not making them do any additional work in the Review Booklets. The weekend Maths Homework, however, has to be completed regardless of the children's scores but, if for any reason the children cannot complete this homework, please send in a note to Múinteoir Seána.

The closing date for enrolling your child in the Grammar School Entrance Test is Friday, 20th September at 2.00pm. Forms can be acquired from and submitted to St. Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore but you will also require a birth certificate and some passport photos of your child. Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that this is done.

One final, important point to make is that, if you intend to send your child to Scoil Iósaef, the Irish-medium stream of St. Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore, she/he does not need to sit the Grammar School Entrance Test. Even with all three Irish-medium schools in mid-Ulster sending children on to Scoil Iósaef for the first time last year, all children were accepted and the school still had capacity for more. I envisage that this will also be the case this year.

With regard to Scoil Iósaef, you may be aware of this year's GCSE Results in Irish where the children got 20 A* and 7 A grades in Irish in Third Year. With regard to A Levels, the children from the Irish-medium stream attained 88% A – C Grades with 94% of the children going on to University. The vast majority of these pupils are past-pupils of Gaelscoil Uí Néill. Please keep this in mind over the next few months as our very intense exam preparation programme is under way.

We can meet to discuss your child's progress in preparation for the test at the end of October but please feel free to contact me before then if you have any concerns or queries.

Good Luck,
Conor

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 G17	4 M17	5 G18	6 M18	7
8	9 G19	10 M19	11 G20	12 M20	13 G21	14
15	16 M21	17 G22	18 M22	19 G23	20 M23	21
22	23 G24 M24	24 G25	25 M25	26 G26	27 M26	28 G27, M27
29	30 G28					

October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
		1 M28	2 G29 M29	3 G30	4 M30	5
6	7 G31 M31	8 G32	9 M32	10 G33 M33	11 G34	12
13	14 M34	15 G35 M35	16 G36	17 M36	18 G37	19
20	21 M37	22 G38 M38	23 G39	24 M39	25 G40 M40	26
27	28 Closed	29 Closed	30 Closed	31 Closed		

November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 G41 M41	2
	4 G42 M42	5 G43 M43	6 G44 M44	7 G45 M45	8 G46 M46	9
	11 G47 M47	12 G48 M48	13 G49 M49	14 M50	15 G50	16 TEST