

Principal
Ms. Frances Threadgold

Deputy Principals
Mr. Brendan Daly & Ms. Una Osborne



F.C.J. Secondary School
Bunclody
Enniscorthy
Co. Wexford

Telephone: 053 9377308
Email: office@fcjbunclody.ie
Web site: www.fcjbunclody.ie

Wednesday, 28th February 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you to express concern over our senior students' attendance patterns in school. Our efforts to promote academic achievement and good attendance are being compromised by students prioritising short term socialising needs above long term academic objectives. Aside from socialising at weekends on a regular basis, there are an increasing number of events being organised by our students which involve bus and venue hire for the end of term and half term events. All of the above take students time and energy away from their studies and result in students arriving into school on Monday tired and poorly prepared for class. While the school's name is often attached to these events in reality we have nothing to do with them and are not in any way responsible for them on any level. Very often we only hear about them second-hand.

Further to this an increasing number of 4th, 5th & 6th Year students are attending concerts in Dublin midweek which involves them leaving school at lunchtime and arriving late to school the next day in a tired condition which simply isn't conducive to learning. Our senior students have in recent years started to attend 3rd level college student nights out in Waterford and Carlow. Again this is during the school week and this has affected attendance and punctuality in school. On top of this we have heard of mystery bus tours and a number of other events organised by our 6th Years for our 4th, 5th & 6th Year students. Alcohol is widely available at all of these events and has given rise to obvious negative effects. Last year students attended two house parties in which alcohol was abused.

Therefore I am appealing to you to **not** allow your son or daughter miss class to attend these events or indeed to come to school tired and in no fit state to engage in learning. The argument that students socialise to reduce stress levels is not one we can support. In fact we have evidence of increasing anxiety levels among our students particularly among those who find themselves facing critical exam deadlines without the adequate work done. Achieving their potential in school should be their first priority and attendance in school and concentration in class are critical to achieving this. Life is lived at a very fast pace for teenagers now and 2nd level students seem to want to lead the social lives of 3rd level students before their time.

It is no easy task being a parent and I know, first hand, the difficulties you face in saying no to these requests. However in order for your son/daughter to excel academically I believe it is the wisest decision in the long run. That is, after all, why you chose FCJ, Bunclody.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

God bless,

Frances Threadgold

Principal

Founded by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus, in 1861

Companionship Justice Excellence Hope Dignity Gentleness