

Dear parents, students and colleagues,

During this season of Lent, which began in Crescent with the celebration of Mass on Ash Wednesday, we have daily Morning Prayer in our chapel, and our students continue to focus not only on their work, Leaving and Junior Certificate oral and practical exams, but what they can do for others who are less fortunate.

The Easter break is one we can all enjoy: our most significant religious celebrations, family gatherings perhaps, and all without the stresses and consumerism associated with Christmas holidays.

For our Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students it provides an opportunity to revise and review their work to date, tweaking study plans and refocusing on areas which need attention. I repeat what I say regularly: students will succeed if they follow the advice and revision plans provided by their teachers, eat and sleep well, and take regular exercise. The Easter supervised study package is sold out, and our regular supervised study programme will resume on 29 April.

I wish to use this opportunity to update you all on *our development plans*. The first phase of our development work is due to begin later this year, with *the reroofing and refurbishment of classrooms*; soon the design team will submit a planning application for the temporary accommodation and the site for *our five new labs*, as well as upgrading *work to our sports hall*. We have all been frustrated at the slow pace; however, when dealing with public bodies and public money, this is how it works.

The Department of Education and Skills is financing the roof and refurbishment work, but it is only thanks to the remarkable generosity of the Society of Jesus that we can build 5 new, state of the art science laboratories. I must acknowledge here the Jesuit Provincial, Fr Leonard Moloney SJ, himself a proud Limerick man and past pupil of Crescent College Comprehensive SJ, and the vote of confidence in Crescent that this represents. The board, under Helen O Donnell's chairmanship, the staff, parents and management were always determined to preserve and strengthen the Jesuit ethos of the school and improve the infrastructure to facilitate teaching and learning. This is a phased development plan however, and the next phases will focus on improving all facilities for the students and teachers. We are very ambitious.

Leading this development, is a daunting task, but I relish the challenge and I know I can depend on the support of the whole Crescent community, the Province, staff, parents, board, and students, and alumni. I thank all of you who make a contribution to Crescent's development, whether on a committee, as a coach, with a voluntary contribution to the school or by attending fund-raising events such as the Spring Spectacular event which was held in the Radisson on 6 April. I acknowledge again our sponsors and the hard-working event committee whose brainchild that event was.

I wish you and your families a very Happy Easter and look forward to welcoming all our students back on Monday 29 April, which will be a normal school day.

God bless,

Karin Fleming