



Message from the Director of Boarding

Welcome to the Castle of 2021-2022. On August 29th, 32 boys arrived to join the 7 boys who had been taking part in the Induction

Programme. In 10 hours, the Castle changes from a quiet, empty building to an excited, (if nervous) community of teenage boys. Most of the boys were returning to a familiar setting but others were embarking on a new phase of their lives.

It is an amazing thing to witness the creation of a community; to see friendships begin overnight, to see independence blossom; to see the welcome of a community for newcomers. All of this happened during the month of September and was cemented in the month of October. The boys got to know new roommates, joined clubs, met new teachers, faced up to obstacles and the Castle staff worked tirelessly in the background to help them settle in.

It been a very good start. Joe Tansey (6th Year) and the Castle Council have advised on the daily routine and Castle life from the boys' perspective. The study routine is in full swing. The Family Mass, organised by our new Chaplain Mr. Joe Keena, had a strong spiritual impact. The Chapter Indoor Soccer competition was a great success and St. Laurence have taken an early lead. Our Castle boys on the J.C.T. have done us proud and are now in the final of the competition.

But above the hustle and bustle of academics, sports, hobbies, grinds, music lessons the boys are building the relationship cement that holds the Castle together. We are not builders of bricks; we are builders of men and the Castle boarders of 2021-2022 will become fine men.

I am reminded of the words of the American inspirational author: "When someone you love says goodbye you can stare long and hard at the door they closed and forget to see all the doors God has open in front of you "

Our boys and families are looking at the "open door".

Niall MacDermott,
Director of Boarding.

THE OPENING TERM SO FAR

At the end of August, 89 boys from all over Ireland and the world either returned or were welcomed to The Castle. After a well-deserved summer break, we were all very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Mr MacDermott, Aisling, the Housemasters, and everyone else looking after us helped us to settle in and get the most out of these first 8 weeks and we would like to thank them for that.

We continue to look forward to what will hopefully be a very enjoyable year with many boarding school and whole school activities just around the corner. We wish everybody a great mid-term and a brilliant year ahead!

Message from Castle President – Joseph Tansey

Some of the highlights from the opening term!



Some of our new boarders on their first day in Blackrock



Some of our new boarders on their first day in Blackrock



Andreas Anderson and Conor Alken at the 6th Year House Tens Rugby games.



5 aside football competition winners!



Day trip to the beach for some of our younger boarders.



Some 5th Year Boarders supporting the House Rugby Team