

CB STAFF NEWS



Volume 5 1st May 2020



A message from Mairead

Hi Everyone,

We are inching closer to the end of the school year. Since March 12th, it has been a merry-go-round of energy, activity and raised stress levels but we are coping and getting there!! It may not be the space we like but being optimistic – we are learning loads.

I often think of Niamh who worked so hard on getting Teams off the ground and now we are all becoming Team experts. I hope Niamh is enjoying her time at home, enjoying her family and baby. We wish her all the best.

We are now coming into the May Bank Holiday weekend, normally a very happy time for us as teachers, as the exams are in sight and all the hard work on getting our students ready for their exams is coming to an end and hopefully pay off. This year, due to Covid-19 we are in a different space, but as always, fully engaged with our students and moving our school world online as best we can. Take your long weekend break, enjoy the time with family, stay safe and gird the loins for the final stretch. It will be busy!!

Mind yourselves.
Mairead Earley



When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush in the morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

—Laura Kelly Fanucci



CHECK OUT OFFERS FROM THREE IRELAND - these are specific to school communities. Full details were emailed to you and are also available on our website.



A message from the Board of Management...

These days are not easy for anyone, trying to keep everything going is challenging to say the least. As we approach this bank holiday weekend the Board of Management would like to congratulate and commend each and every member of the school community for its constructive and engaged response to the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Thank
you

We have been heartened and filled with pride with the way in which our students, parents and families, and our teachers and wider school staff have demonstrated their capacity to respond in these unprecedented times. You have modelled great leadership and resilience in your approach to dealing with the situation.

MAY YOU BE PROUD
OF THE WORK YOU DO
THE PERSON YOU ARE
AND THE DIFFERENCE
YOU MAKE

To our students and their families, we know that the current situation causes you much anxiety and frustration, affecting many of the daily activities we all once took for granted. We thank you for trusting your teachers and engaging so well with these new processes. Your levels of engagement and support for one another at this time have been so impressive. Parents, we thank you for sharing your support, encouragement and feedback - it's very much appreciated.

To our teachers and staff of Coláiste Bríde, we applaud your capacity to adapt the ways in which you work to enable the school to move to operating in an online space, with minimal time for preparation. We thank you teachers for your hard work, support, care and dedication to your students. You have ensured that students can continue to learn and have their wellbeing supported through their engagement with you.

We wish to publicly acknowledge the huge amount of online support and encouragement offered by the Principal, Ms Kilmartin, Deputy Principals and all of the staff to the pupils of the school during these extraordinarily difficult times. The school's motto "To Teach, To Guide, To Form" is certainly being fulfilled.

The recently published Whole School Examination by Inspectors from the Department of Education highlighted the exceptionally high standard of teaching in the school and the exemplary good behaviour of the pupils. The Board of Management acknowledges this and congratulates the entire school community on such an excellent report. It is clear to see, even in these unusual times, that both of these observations by the Inspectorate continue to be evident.

With only four weeks of term left, we need to support each other with kind and thoughtful words and actions, never losing sight of the fact that we are all in this together. We acknowledge that some families in our school community have already suffered from the COVID 19 illness and the Board of Management has sanctioned the creation of a memorial the will mark both the memory of loved ones who suffered and this time of challenge for everyone. We will come through this crisis together as a school community. In the meanwhile, look after yourselves and those around you.

Stay safe.

The Board of Management



Happy Workplace Wellbeing Day May 1st 2020



As a parent and a member of the BOM I wish to acknowledge the changed vista that colleagues find themselves in, currently. I want to salute the efforts being made by the Staff of CB in rising to the educational challenge that dealing with the pandemic has brought.

Teachers have had to re-adjust very quickly to their changing circumstances. This has involved collaborating with colleagues, engaging with pupils, being more resourceful at problem solving for the girls in the new setting of the 'virtual classroom'.

I am fulsome in my praise of the teachers belting it out to their classes as if the girls were sitting in front of them, as I have had the pleasure of eavesdropping on some classes, as I pass through one of my virtual classrooms!!

Up-skilling so quickly to meet these demands along with the attendant pressures of teaching exam classes only serves to highlight the versatility and adaptability of the Staff.

To all the Leadership teams, especially our SLT, for their continued, unstinting service congrats too and a sincere thank you.

To all the Admin Staff, CB wouldn't manage without all of you and your dedication beyond the call of duty. To every other member of the Support Staff, thanks for what have done and continue to do on behalf of the girls.

All of you make us very proud and we, as a Board, are very fortunate that we can call you "our Staff".

Finally, it would be very remiss of us not to let both Basketball teams know that we recognize and salute their efforts in reaching both Finals and would like our best wishes conveyed to every teacher and pupil involved in the preparation of the teams and indeed of U16 Team in winning the Final in what appeared to be a thrilling match. Well done to everyone concerned.

Remember your Amicus

To you, it might only be a text or an email, a smile or a virtual hug, a card or a small gift But it might just mean the world to the recipient who needed a lift that day



A message from Anita Thoma, past pupil & Chef...

Sometimes I have to pinch myself when I think that I did my leaving cert in 1984 in Coláiste Bríde. For anyone in school at the moment, particularly waiting to do exams, it probably feels like time is dragging but believe me, time flies and before you know it, the school year will be behind you. Remember this time of uncertainty too will pass.

Things were different in CB back then. No internet, no diversity and a much smaller building. Times move on and with it comes change, growth and a journey that can take any of

you anywhere... that's really up to you. It's hard to know at a younger age "what you want to do" when you leave school and some will only work that out as you discover that in yourselves. I wasn't a great student academically in school. It's not that I wasn't able, I just struggled to apply myself. On reflection, I think working out my own sexuality at a time when there were no positive LGBT messages, was hard. Thankfully things have changed, we all said YES and Kathy and I will be getting married this July (hopefully) having been together for 14 years.

I had ups and downs in school as I'm sure many of you do, try always to talk things out with the people you trust. I've always had really strong friendships and still after all these years I am close to several people I was in CB with. Having a sense of shared history and social, cultural experiences has bound us together in often unspoken loyalty. Talking things out and being there for each other without judgement has created a strong bond between us. Even now in our 50's we talk about CB and about some of the teachers and the many experiences and "firsts" we had while at school. We all ended up in different worlds of work which is great when you need unbiased advice.

Teaching is a challenging job I think, after all, teachers are just people trying to do a job as best they can. I wouldn't have liked to have been one of my teachers back then. I had one teacher for 5 years (Mary Kennedy) she was a great teacher and made me want to be a better student. I often had far too much to say for myself apparently... This personal trait has stood me well over the years, achieving my first head chef position at 21, no mean feat for a woman, then or now. I always wanted to be a chef (my father was a chef). After the leaving cert I attended Cathal Brugha Street. My chosen profession led me to work and live in Paris and Switzerland, to travel extensively and to eventually be a partner in my own business. Whatever you want to do when you leave school, you can do it, but only if you are willing to work hard (sometimes harder than others when you are a woman), to never give up or give in. Hopefully you will find, just like I did, that the same ethos will apply to the relationships you have made while at CB.



Pan fried marinated sirloin with rocket & parmesan shavings

Ingredients

550g sirloin steak, trimmed
1tbsp Dijon mustard
Black pepper
Dash of tabasco
Dash of Worcestershire sauce
Olive oil
50g rocket
A little balsamic vinegar
75g of Parmesan shavings (to serve)

Serves 4

To serve:

Place a bed of rocket on each plate. Put strips of sirloin on top and scatter over the parmesan shavings.

Method

- Prepare the meat by cutting it into finger sized thin strips.
- Make the marinade by mixing the mustard, a little black pepper, a dash of tabasco and a dash of Worcestershire. Place the strips of sirloin in the marinade. You need only enough mustard to coat the meat. If you have time, marinate for a couple of days; if you don't, then at least overnight, covered in clingfilm in the fridge.
- Heat a little oil in the pan until it is very hot. It's important it's hot because you want to seal in the flavour and juices. Cook the meat quickly for 1 minute on each side until it is well sealed and browned.
- Dress the rocket with enough olive oil and balsamic vinegar to just coat the leaves.

