 

WELCOME TO THE HSCL PAGE.

My name is Mairead O’Brien and I am the Home School Community Liaison Teacher (HSCL) in New Cross College.

HSCL teachers are found in DEIS schools throughout the country and at present there are 19 HSCL teachers all based in either a primary or post priamary school in the Finglas/Cabra area.

My main role is to work with you the parents/ guardians along with the teachers and the wider community to enhance your son/daughters’ learning opportunities and to promote attendance, participation and retention in school.

My job also involves visiting you in your home to work with you, help you and act as a support to you in whatever way I can around any issues that may impinge on your childs’ attendance, participation and retention in school.

I also link in and work with other key players both in the school and the local community eg Principal, Deputy Principal, Pastoral care team, Guidance teacher, Behaviour for learning teacher, year heads, tutors , class teachers, other HSCL’s in the Finglas/Cabra cluster, Finglas / Cabra Drug Taskforce, Cross Care, Juvenile Liaison Officer, Education Welfare Officer, School Completion, CDETB, Symantec, Dublin North West Partnership, Local Management Committee, Focus Ireland, St Vincent De Paul, Wellmount Health Centre and Tusla to name but a few in relation to supporting further our students in attendance, participation and retention in New Cross College.

I organise personal, leisure and academic classes and courses for adult family members in the school thereby encouraging you to take an active role in your childs’ education while empowering yourself and learning new skills. Parents / Guardians and family members are always encouraged to be part of the decision making in New Cross College and so I would encourage you to become involved in our Parents Association so your voice can be heard and to be part of the policy formation in the school.

A parents room is also available in the school and here you can pop in and enjoy the hospitality of other parents in a warm and welcoming environment.

Please feel free to contact me anytime Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm on 085 1672777. Remember “ There is no problem to big that it can’t be solved with a little contemplation.....over a cup of tea and a chat”.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mairead O’Brien HSCL teacher

**So whats happening in the HSCL Dept:**

**Classes & Courses:**

**Woodwork: This takes place every Monday at 9.30am – 10.50am with Mr Guilfoyle in the woodwork room in New Cross College. These classes are open to adults only and will continue until 14th May 2018.**

**Pottery: These classes take place every Wednesday at 10.30am until 12.30pm in the art room in New Cross College. These classes are funded by CDETB and Ms Tina Poole is the pottery teacher. Again these classes are open to adults only and will run until 16th May 2018.**

**Beginner Maths for adults: These classes will start up again on a Friday morning at 10am beginning April 20th and will take place in the parents room in New Cross College. “Remember the only way to learn maths is to do maths!”.**

**Workshops: Throughout the year different workshops are held for parents / guardians. These can be anything from Parenting programmes to wreath making, Tai Chi, Zero to 5k walk/run, glass decorating, science week experiments etc. We are always on the look out for new ideas and talent that you can share with us and perhaps give a class to other parents on this. These workshops are advertised via text messaging and facebook. At Christmas time the parents make items from these classes to be sold at the Christmas market in the school. Its always a very enjoyable morning and everyone is welcome.**

**If interested in any of these classes please contact me on 0851672777. It’s never to late to sign up and everyone is welcome.**

**Every September and again in January flyers are sent home with the students detailing what classes and courses are on in the school and in other local schools around so remember to check the school bags! Also follow up text messages are sent along with reminders on our facebook page.**

**Parents Association:**

**Every 6 weeks the Parents Association meet in the parents room in New Cross College at 6pm. We are always looking for new parents to join up at any time during the year. These meetings are attended by Mr Lynch Principal, Ms O’Brien HSCL, Karen our school secretary and the parents. These meetings are really important in highlighting the shared understanding of the important partnership role parents play in our school and also to form part of the policy making and decisions that take place in the school.**

**Business in the Community links:**

**This year the 5th year Business students along with their business teacher Mr White and myself engaged in a partnership with Business in the Community and Symantec. The scheme aims to tackle the retention rates in post primary schools while at the same time fostering a pipeline of talent and equipping our students in skills such as CV preparation and mock interview techniques so as to prepare them for their future in the work place.**

**Wellness Fair:**

**For the last 2 years all the HSCL teachers in the Cabra/ Finglas area have organised a wellness fair for the adults in our community. This year it took place on the 7th March in Erins Isle. On the day there were over 20 stalls ranging from health checks to information stalls, nail and hand massage, angel card readings, New Cross horticulture stall, hot breakfast stall, indian head massage stalls, and a toddler area to name but a few. Our guest speaker spoke about how to reduce anxiety and mental health issues through different mediums. A great day had by all with the very important message of the day – “ Lets Talk”. As part of Wellness week all the first year students were given bracelets with the logo “ Lets Talk”. These students had a mindfullness session every Thursday morning since October for 16 weeks with Honor – a drama therapist from the School Completion programme.**

**Transfer Showcase:**

**Every November all the post primary schools in the Finglas area come together to showcase their schools. This showcase takes place in Erins Isle and is attended by the 3rd, 4th & 5th class parents of the children from all the local primary schools in the Finglas area. The idea behind this event is to empower parents in making choices about the secondary school they would like to send their child to. On the morning itself parents are invited to visit each of the post primary school stands and to ask questions about their schools, the different programmes on offer, the special needs provisions in each of the schools, breakfast & lunch clubs, after school study, fees, transport etc. Each of the post primary stands will have the HSCL teacher along with two students from their schools so there is lots of opportunity given to chat to the teachers and students.**

**Transfer Morning:**

**Every May the parents/guardians of the new incoming first years are invited into New Cross College along with their child for an information morning. We all understand how daunting this experience can be especially if this is your first child starting secondary school and so the information morning will alleviate alot of those fears. An information pack is also given out on that day which includes uniform details, books, school rules and times, subjects etc. It is also a chance to get to meet the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year head, HSCL and other staff members. Details of this date is sent out in a letter and followed up with a phonecall to each of the families.**

**Pastoral Care Team:**

**Every Monday morning the Principal, Deputy, Year Heads, HSCL teacher, Behaviour for learning teacher, the Guidance Councellor, Special needs Co Ordinator and the Councellor from Scp attend this meeting. Any issues or concerns you may have about your son/daughter can be discussed with any of the above members in a confidential manner and if you wish your son/daughter to attend councelling this can be organised also along with other interventions that you feel may help at that time.**

**Parent Teacher Meetings:**

**Details of these meetings are in the front pages of the school journal. A letter and text message are also sent to parents as a reminder. At present these meetings take place from 4.15pm until 6.45pm. This means you can call to the school any time during these times. When you arrive to the school you sign in and you will then be given a list of the teachers that teach your son/daughter. I am also present to help with any issues or concerns you may have. Young children are welcome to attend with you as there is a colouring table and drinks to keep them busy while you chat to the teachers.**

* **Remember the journal is a very precious book and I urge you all to check it regularly as this is where teachers will do most communicating with you in the form of notes etc.**

**Linking in with the primary schools:**

**During the year there are a number of events held in our school. These events are open to our local primary schools and in conjunction with the HSCL teacher, our librarian Ciaran and the Principal from the primary school we arrange to take some of the primary children in our school bus to join in the fun eg Scientific Sue, Jungle Dave, Author in residence etc. Its always a great way to get the children familiar with our school. For the last two years we have had a Primary School Talent show held in December where the children from the primary schools get to show us their wide array of talents on the night.**