

Cumann Gaeilge na hAstráile – Ranganna 2005

Welcome to all new students and welcome back to all returning students. You are all here for one purpose. To learn Irish. This is to let you know about the classes and also about your obligations as a student.

Your class

- Please be here in time for start of class each week
- After tea break return quickly but quietly to your own class and try not to disrupt other groups already in progress
- A class roll call will be held each week, so be considerate and tell your teacher in advance if you know you will be absent
- If you do miss a class its up to you to catch up (ie do any missing homeworks & get notes off another class member). Teachers do not have time to chase after everyone
- You should exchange contact details with your classmates so you can help each other out when needed

Books & syllabus

- At start of each year you will be told what books you will need
- Your teacher will tell you where the books can be obtained and also what topics you will be covering during the year
- If you are also using other books of your own that's fine but your teacher must give priority to the class syllabus
- The amount of work you will have to do in a year is based on your full attendance. So if you are absent you will definitely miss something
- To learn a language, for every hour you spend in class, you need to put in a further two hours study of your own. So that's an additional **three and a half hours study** in your own time each week, and this does not include homework.

Your own personal study plan

- Is entirely up to you, but should involve something every day, not all in a rush at the last minute
- Set aside a study area at home with everything you need
- Ask for advice if you have not done any formal study for a while, and set yourself realistic targets
- If you are using a computer make sure you know how to type a fada
- Learning any new language is a big undertaking so be sure to allocate sufficient time & energy and stick to your plan

Homeworks & tests

- These are designed to reinforce your knowledge so treat them seriously
- They also give both you and your teacher a realistic assessment of where you are at, so take careful note of anything you get wrong and try to get it right next time – teachers are always looking out for this.
- Some textbooks contain copies of old exam papers used in Ireland. You can practice with these.
- Listen to (or read) very carefully any homework instructions you are given, and clarify there and then if you need to. Don't come back after a week saying you didn't understand
- Use a proper homework book, not loose pages.

Teachers

- Are all volunteers so they don't have unlimited time
- They are all here because they want you to speak and understand Irish.
- Are responsible for getting your whole class through the current level and ready for the next one
- Will try to help you in any reasonable way
- But don't ask them what's the word for aardvark if you already have a dictionary in your hand

The committee

- Meets regularly to keep things running smoothly
- Is elected every year at the AGM in June
- All paid up members can be nominated for office and are encouraged to attend and vote at the AGM
- Speak to any committee member if you want something brought up for discussion any time during the year
- If you have special expertise in any area that would be of benefit to the Cumann then the committee would like to know

The Cumann

- Is a voluntary organization which exists solely to promote the Irish Language in Australia
- Has existed as an incorporated body since 1993 and an annual financial report is provided at each AGM
- Relies entirely on the support of its members and is not affiliated with, or controlled by, any other political, cultural or business group
- Organizes the weekly classes and also an annual summer camp (Daonscoil)
- Also raises money via merchandise and occasional fund-raising events

The library

- Contains lots of books, and also videos, CD's and cassettes
- Has material suitable for all levels of student
- Accepts anything useful that you may wish to donate
- Is open to all paid-up members of the Cumann
- Items can normally be borrowed for one term

Our Website

- Is called www.gaeilgesanastrail.com
- Has material for all levels of student to read
- It also has links to lots of useful resources for you
- Always needs new content, so get together in your class and come up with ideas
- Show your allegiance – put a bumper sticker on your car !

You

- Are our best form of publicity
- Tell your family and friends you are learning Irish with us
- Can do your bit by promoting Irish in the wider community at every chance
- Should take every opportunity to show off what you have learnt so far
- Should seek out students from other classes during tea-break and tell him/her something in Irish (don't wait to be asked a question)