



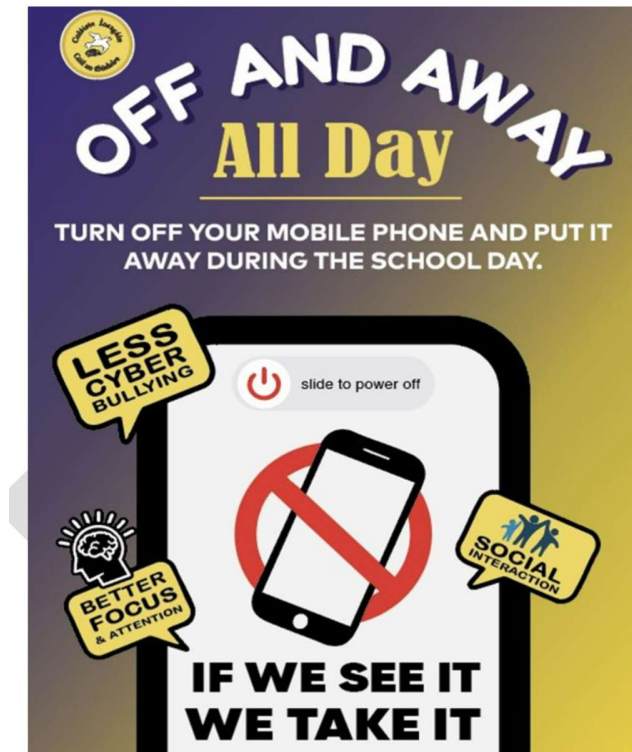
First Year 2026/2027 Information Evening 26/03/26

www.colaisteiosagainport.ie

Speakers

Presenter	Topic	Contact Email
Justin Brown Principal	Welcome and Introduction Mobile Phone Policy 2026	jbrown@colaisteiosagainport.ie
Brendan McGlynn Deputy Principal	Autism class /School Day/Compass/Free Book Scheme/Lockers/ Subject Choice	bmcglynn@colaisteiosagainport.ie
Cathy Kane Joan O'Hara Guidance Counsellors	Student Supports/Making an Informed Choice	ckane@colaisteiosagainport.ie johara@colaisteiosagainport.ie
Joan O'Sullivan Deputy Principal	New Beginnings/Friendships/Resilience/Wellbeing/ Getting to know our students	josullivan@colaisteiosagainport.ie
Karen Walsh Deputy Principal	School uniform/Code of Behaviour/Attendance What to expect on Days 1 and 2	kwalsh@colaisteiosagainport.ie

Mobile Phone Policy 2026 – Circular 0044/2026



Make Responsible Choices!

Autism Classes

- **3 Autism classes (six per class), all full for 2026/2027**
- **Students on a waiting list can access some supports**
- **Laura Cooke Autism Class Coordinator will answer any questions/concerns at the end of our talk**
- **Can email Laura at lcooke@colaisteiosagainport.ie**

School Day / Student Timetable

- The first bell rings at 8.52 am to inform students to go to their First class.
First class starts at 8.56 am.

1 Hour Classes

School is officially open for students at 8.30 am.

Class Times

- Class 1 - 08.56 am
- Class 2 - 10.00 am
- Break – 11.00 am**
- Class 3 - 11.15 am
- Class 4 - 12.15 pm
- Lunch - 1.15 pm**
- Class 5 – 1.55 pm
- Class 6 - 2.55 pm
- School Finishes 3.55 pm Monday to Thursday**
- Please note that on Friday classes end at 1.15 pm (Early Finish)*

8:56: 1AENGA - 75 - CKLY	8:56: 1AHECO2C - 18 - GMCD	8:56: 1APMATA - 45 - EF	8:56: 1AJCRELA - 47 - CHOO	8:56: 1APMATA - 45 - EF
10:00: 1AGERC - 43 - AOC	10:00: 1AGEOA - 09 - GMURPH	10:00: 1AHECO2C - 18 - GMCD	10:00: 1AGRA1F - 74 - RBUR	10:00: 1AGEOA - 09 - GMURPH
11:15: 1AGRA1F - 74 - RBUR	11:15: 1AHISA - 13 - DLH	11:15: 1AIRIA - 09 - GMURPH	11:15: 1APEA - 30 - MFITZ	11:15: 1APEA - 30 - MFITZ
12:15: 1ACSPEA - 10 - SOCO	12:15: 1AITA - 31 - JS	12:15: 1AACD3F - 20 - TFRE23	12:15: 1AENGA - 75 - CKLY	12:15: 1AIRIA - 09 - GMURPH
1:55: 1AACD3F - 20 - TFRE23	1:55: 1AIRIA - 09 - GMURPH	1:55: 1ASPHEA - 44 - RF	1:55: 1AGERC - 43 - AOC	
2:55: 1AJCRELA - 47 - CHOO	2:55: 1APMATA - 45 - EF	2:55: 1AENGA - 75 - CKLY	2:55: 1AHISA - 13 - DLH	



What does Compass do for me?

School Communication & Administration System On One Platform.

- Compass allows you to access up-to-date and meaningful information about our school and your child's progress in one place. What is Happening in Coláiste Íosagáin this Week?
- Monitor your child's attendance and enter an explanation for absence or lateness – School Alert System .
- View your child's timetable and the school calendar
- Download and view your child's academic reports
- Monitor your child's behaviour & work ethic – **Good News, Parent Referral Form, Year head Referral Form, Detentions**

1st Year Subject Choice... Key Points

Students choose **three** of the Choice Subjects and 3 Back Up Subjects **in order of preference**. This will be done online - watch demo video before completing.

They will choose **1 Modern Foreign Language**:

– German, French or Spanish.

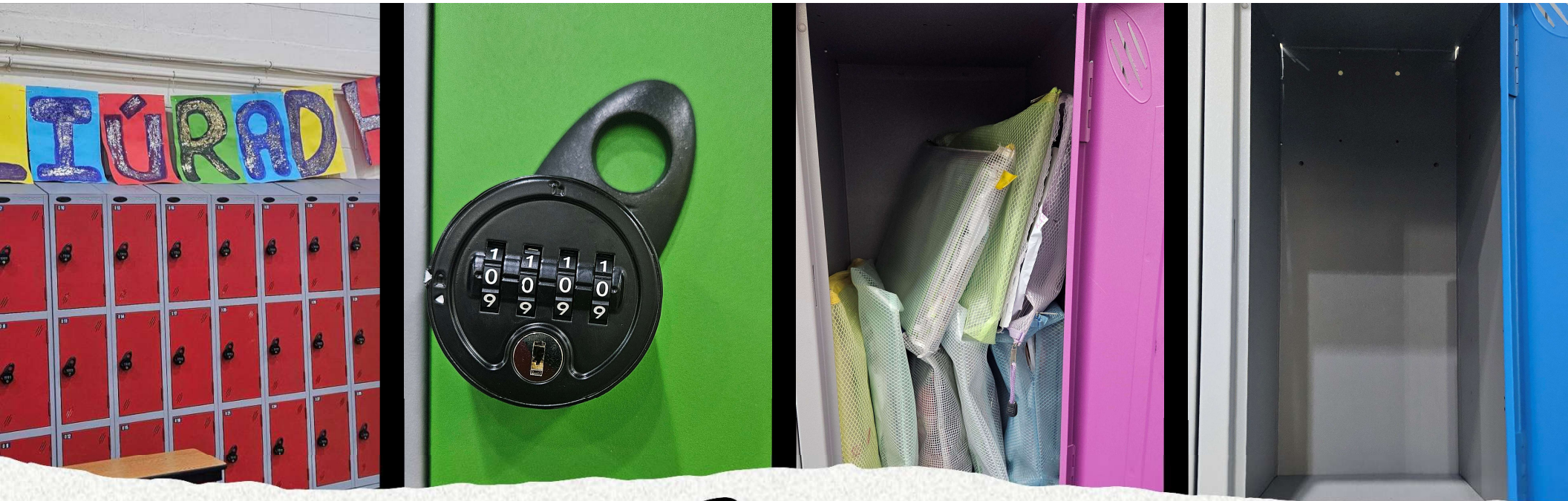
Every effort is made to give students their top 3 choices (your number 4, 5, and 6 are used as back up, if needed).



Free Book Scheme

1 st Year Book Rental Books 2023-24	
English	Fire and Ice 1 (Set) 2nd Edition – Gill Education
Mathematics	Active Maths 1 Folens
Irish	Mol an Oige 1 (Set) -Gill Education
History	Artefact (Set) Junior Cycle History - 2nd Edition O'Neill & Jenkins. Educate.ie
Geography	New Geography in Action (2018) Norma Lenihan & Jason O'Brien Educate.ie
French	Allons-y 1 (SET) 1st Year JC French 2nd edition – Educate.ie
Religion	Beliefs in Our World - Gill Education
Science	Essential Science 2nd Edition Folens
Business	Junior Cycle Business Studies Enterprise Book And Activity Book by Caroline McHale – Gill Education
Home Economics	@Home Textbook Package JC Home Economics, Eilis Flood Educate.ie
SPHE	My Wellbeing Journey – Gill Education
CSPE	Call To Action - Gill Education
German	Alles Klar - Educate.ie
Engineering	Basic Engineering for the Junior Cycle By: Sean O Tuairisg. Published by CJ Fallon
Wood Technology	Design in Wood Dermot Gannon-Educate.ie
Graphics	World of Graphics book by William Nolan and Patrick Sugrue, Published by Educate.ie.
Music	Maestro Textbook & Composition Portfolio-Nathan Barrett (Educate.ie)
Visual Art	No Text Book Required

- Free schoolbooks scheme covers all school books and core classroom materials for all Junior Cycle & Senior Cycle Students.
- Operate like a book rental scheme, so books will have to be returned.



Student lockers

- Students access their lockers before school, at breaktime and lunchtime and after school.
- A tidy locker helps students to be more organised. Zipped large plastic pockets are ideal for keeping items together.

Student Supports

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Year Head
- Tutors
- Behavioural Support
- Student Support Team
- AEN Dept.
- Guidance Counsellors:

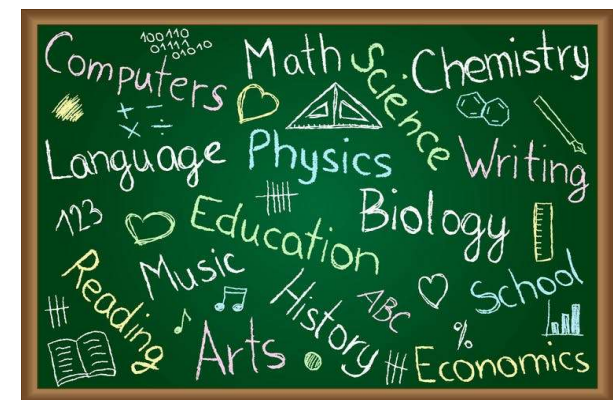
ckane@colaisteiosagainport.ie Cathy Kane

johara@colaisteiosagainport.ie Joan O'Hara

All students will take the following subjects

Core Subjects

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- French/German/Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Religious Education (Exam)
- PE
- CSPE
- SPHE
- IT



Wood Technology

- **Practical skills** to make small projects
- **Design, develop** an idea to a finished project.
- Design thinking, Wood Science and Materials
- Will be using **hand tools and machinery** in the Woodwork Room.
- Should like working with their hands.
- **Creativity** and **problem-solving** skills.
- Called Construction Studies at Leaving Cert
- **Final exam worth 30%**
- **Coursework worth 70%**



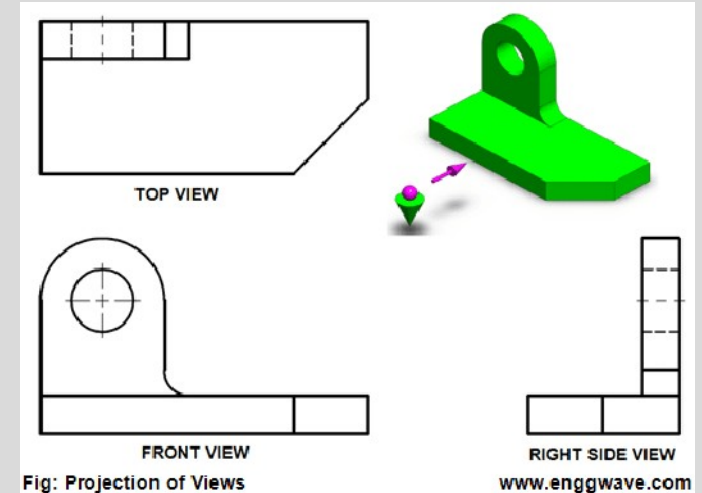
Engineering

- **Processes and Principals:**
material and processes to make projects
- **Design:** bring an idea to a finished product
- **Mechatronics:** inputs, processes and outputs.
- Develops **problem solving** and **creativity**
- Will be **using hand tools** and **machinery**. Should enjoy working with their hands
- **30% Theory exam**
- **70% Practical project**
- Called Engineering at Leaving Cert



Graphics

- 2D Graphics, constructions, shapes and projection systems
- 3D Graphics
- **Drawing with instruments** (set-squares, T-square) and also **sketching**
- Computer aided design
- **Design** thinking
- **Creative**
- Problem solving
- **70% exam (drawing)**
- **30% project**
- Called Design and Communication Graphics at Leaving Cert



Home Economics

- Practically minded, creative student
- Food
- Health and
- Culinary skills
- Responsible family living
- Textiles and Craft



- Develop life skills to enable them to manage resources responsibly and sustainably in the home, family and community.
- **50% Theory Exam**
- **50% Practical (cookery) exam**

Business Studies

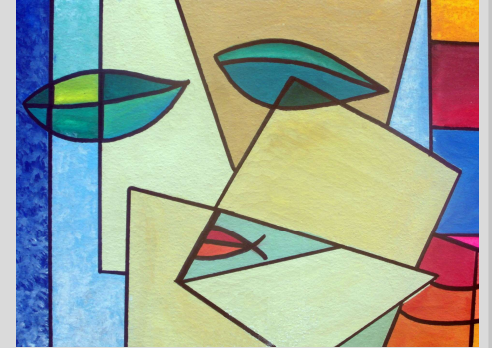
- Stimulate student interest in business environment
- Knowledge and understanding of good business practice
- Personal Finance, Enterprise, Our Economy
- **2hr exam 90%**
- **Reflection task 10%**



- 3 Leaving Cert subjects follow on from JC Business Studies
 - Accounting
 - Business
 - Economics

Visual Art

- Students should have an interest in being creative.
- Students will develop their artistic skills over the 3 years of the course
- Assessment **100% practical** project done in 3rd year during class time.



- Critical and visual language
- Drawing
- Visual culture and appreciation
- The art elements and design principles
- Media
- Art
- Craft
- Design

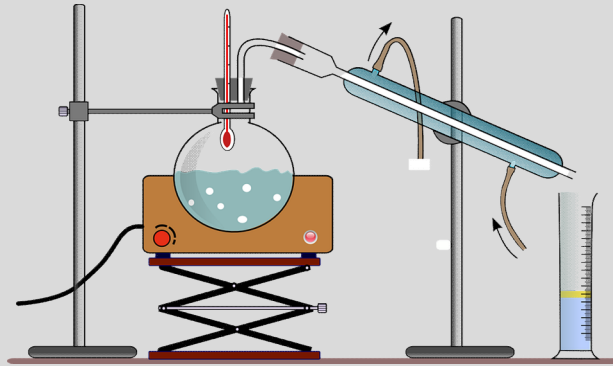
Music

- Students who play a musical instrument or sing
- Students can take up this subject having not learned to play an instrument, will have to spend time learning outside class



- **70% theory**
- **30% practical performance exam**
- **At Leaving Cert there is 50% practical performance**

Science



- Nature of Science, Physical World, Chemical World, Biological World, Earth and Space
- Laboratory technique, experiments
- **2hr exam 90%**
- **Reflection Task 10%**

- **Requirement for some 3rd level college courses** such as nursing, veterinary, medicine and any science or health science course
- subjects at LC:
 - Agricultural Science
 - Chemistry
 - Biology
 - Physics

Choice Subjects



- **Business Studies**
- **Engineering**
- **Graphics**
- **Home Economics**
- **Wood Technology**
- **Music**
- **Science**
- **Visual Art**

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer_jc.php

New beginnings,
new adventures,
new challenges



There is **NO**
elevator to
SUCCESS.

You have
to take the
STAIRS.

thepathismadebywalking.com

no one is *you*
& that is
your
superpower



Starting Secondary School

You're off to great
places! Today is your
day! Your mountain
is waiting, So get
on your way!

- Dr. Seuss, *Oh the Places*

You'll Go!



Getting to Know our New Students

Open Night and Information
Evening

School passport

CAT 4

Educational Assessments



5 MAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LIFE IN PRIMARY AND POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS



SCHOOL STRUCTURE AND SCHEDULE

Primary School: You stay in one classroom with the same teacher all day, and the schedule is pretty simple.

Post-Primary School: You'll move between different classrooms for each subject, and have different teachers, which means a more complicated schedule.



SUBJECT VARIETY AND SPECIALISATION

Primary School: You study basic subjects like Maths, English, Irish, and Science.

Post-Primary School: You get to choose from more subjects, including cool options like new languages or technical courses, so you can learn about what interests you most.



TEACHER / STUDENT RELATIONSHIP

Primary School: You have one main teacher who knows you well and teaches most of your subjects.

Post-Primary School: You'll have different teachers for each subject, so you'll need to get used to different teaching styles and won't see the same teacher all day.



INDEPENDENCE AND RESPONSIBILITY

Primary School: Your day is pretty structured, and your teacher helps you stay on track.

Post-Primary School: You'll need to manage your own schedule, keep track of homework, and get ready for exams on your own.



ASSESSMENT & EXAMS

Primary School: Tests and projects are more about seeing how you're doing regularly.

Post-Primary School: Big exams like the Junior Certificate become important, so you'll need to study hard and be prepared for them.

Friendships

Adolescence is a time of huge emotional change and development. During 1st and 2nd year, teenagers can be seen to 'try out' new friends. They may expand or move from the circle of friends they had in primary school. This is perfectly natural and normal, particularly if the new friends share the same interests and values.

If the circle of friends is small, when a friend is absent from school, it may be hard to join other groups. If friendships change, they may be left alone later in the year, when it's hard to make friends. Mixed groups of friends are very healthy - it adds balance to groups.

In the initial weeks, we recommend encouraging a widening of friendships, beyond the friends they may already have. It's easy to make connections in the early weeks. Lots to talk about and great opportunities to engage. They may want to stick to the group they came in with, but widening the circle is important.

School extra-curricular activities are important here, as opportunities to meet and socialise, in a safe and supervised environment. Participation supports wellbeing.



11 WAYS TO MAKE FRIENDS IN SCHOOL

Remember that a person's name is to that person the sweetest and most important sound in any language.



Talk in terms of the other person's interests. What do they like?



Sit with new people at lunch. This will give you a chance to engage with an entirely new group of people.



BECOME INTERESTED IN OTHER PEOPLE

When you ask questions to another person and listen they feel important. "You can make more friends in two months by becoming interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you." - Dale Carnegie



PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR BODY LANGUAGE

Looking down or away, or even crossing your arms and legs can make you appear closed off and deter people from talking to you.



Get involved in school sports & hobby groups



Be a good listener. Encourage others to talk about themselves.



Personalise the conversation. Start moving from small talk to really getting to know them on a more personal level. Use open-ended question as opposed to "yes/no" questions. It may help to try using the 5 w's: who, what, when, where and why.



"Have you played any good video games recently?"



"Whats your favourite youtube video?"



"Whats your favourite school subject?"



"Do you have any brothers, sisters or pets?"

UNPLUG FROM YOUR DEVICES

Sometimes we are so involved with technology that we are not engaged with the people around us. Your new friends could be right in front of you.



FIND COMMON GROUND

Think of things that a lot of people like and use them as conversation starters. It is also useful to try open-ended questions to learn what interests they may have.



TIPS TO BUILD EMOTIONAL RESILIENCE IN KIDS

Spend quality time with kids.
When they feel loved and supported, children develop emotional strength.

Talk about feelings so your child learns to share their worries and fears with people they trust.

Instead of rushing to solve problems, give kids time to work things out themselves.

When children experience failure or disappointment, it's important to praise their effort and encourage them to try again.

Acknowledge your own mistakes to teach kids that mistakes are essential for learning and growth.

If your child can't find a solution to a problem, use gentle questioning to guide them towards it.

Ensure kids are eating well and getting enough sleep and exercise.



Resilience

The ability to cope with change is a key life skill.

Resilience is the ability to cope with change positively and successfully.

A safe, stable relationship with at least one caring and responsive adult is a potent buffer against stress.

Recent studies suggest that youths who feel connected to a parent or other caregivers and their peers, and follow consistent daily routines, are best equipped to manage challenges.

The transition to secondary school is a big milestone in a young person's life. As with many areas of life, preparation makes all the difference.

Enrolment Costs – Payments can be made from now

• Insurance	€15
• Locker	€15
• Photocopying	€20
• NGRT (Reading Test)	€20
• CAT4	€25
• Communication Fee	€15
Total	€110

Voluntary Contribution	€50/€75
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School Uniform



The School Uniform is monitored closely and our code of behaviour is applied if students do not adhere to wearing it correctly.

The School uniform can be purchased in Colgan's [Coláiste Iosagáin Portarlinton - Colgan Sports](#)

The school jacket is the only coat permitted.

Footwear is all black shoes.

**The PE uniform is compulsory for PE classes and trips.
Label all uniform items – each student is responsible for their own belongings.**



School Expectations: Code of Behaviour

In our school, we aspire to be guided by the following six values:

- Value 1 – Respect for our Catholic Ethos.
- Value 2 – Respect for others.
- Value 3 – Respect for self.
- Value 4 – Respect for our school.
- Value 5 – Respect for the environment.
- Value 6 – Respect for the law.

We promote, in a positive manner, our values and our expectations of the students in Coláiste Íosagáin.



Our Code of Behaviour

CEIST *Coláiste Íosagáin*

FULL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN AT ALL TIMES
THE SCHOOL JACKET IS THE ONLY JACKET ALLOWED
NO SCHOOL OR PE HOODIES ALLOWED
ALL PLAIN BLACK / NAVY FOOTWEAR MUST BE WORN

MOBILE PHONES WILL BE SWITCHED OFF DURING CLASS
STUDENTS SHOULD NOT USE THE IR PHONE OR HAVE IT VISIBLE ON THE CORRIDORS IN BETWEEN CLASSES

SMOKING / VAPING IS NOT ALLOWED WITHIN THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

EARPHONES / HEADPHONES SHOULD NOT BE VISIBLE AT ANY TIME

NAILS SHOULD BE KEPT SHORT FOR HYGIENE AND HEALTH & SAFETY REASONS

STUDENTS ARE PERMITTED TO WEAR A SINGLE STUD IN EACH EAR AND ONE RING ON EACH HAND
NO OTHER VISIBLE OR COVERED JEWELLERY OR BODY PIERCINGS ARE ALLOWED

HAIR SHOULD BE CLEAN, NEAT AND TIDY POSING NO HEALTH AND SAFETY RISK
ONLY HAIR IN THE NATURAL COLOUR RANGE IS ACCEPTABLE

ARRIVE ON TIME FOR CLASS AND DO YOUR BEST

School Attendance

Regular school attendance is important to provide our children and young people with a solid foundation for life. When our children miss school, they miss out – on learning, social development and valuable time with their friends and teachers.

When a child or young person *can* go to school, they should go to school.



**Every School Day
is a New Day**

tess
Seirbhís Tacaiochta
Oideachais Tusla
Tusla Education Support Service



An Roinn Oideachais agus Óige
Department of Education
and Youth

Attendance



ALL TEACHERS ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE THE ROLL FOR EVERY CLASS ON OUR SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION SYSTEM COMPASS. THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL AND ATTENDANCE OFFICER WILL MONITOR ATTENDANCE. SCHOOLS ARE **LEGALLY REQUIRED TO REFER STUDENTS WHO HAVE MORE THAN 20 DAYS ABSENCE TO TUSLA.**

STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ATTEND ALL CLASSES ON TIME. THE SCHOOL SECRETARIAL STAFF WILL CONTACT PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF ABSENT STUDENTS EACH DAY BY TEXT MESSAGE.

STUDENTS WHO ARRIVE LATE TO THE 8.56 AM CLASS MUST HAVE A NOTE IN THEIR JOURNAL AND SIGNED BY A PARENT/GUARDIAN. THE NOTE MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL. PERSISTENT LATES TO SCHOOL/CLASSES WARRANTS THE SANCTION OF DETENTION.

IF A STUDENT BECOMES UNWELL DURING THE DAY, THEY MUST GO TO A DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, WHO WILL CONTACT HOME. STUDENTS IN 1ST, 2ND, 3RD, LCA1, TY AND 5TH YR MUST BE COLLECTED FROM THE SCHOOL BY THEIR PARENT/GUARDIAN.

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL WITHOUT PERMISSION OR NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL WITHOUT THEIR PARENT'S / GUARDIAN'S PERMISSION IS A SERIOUS BREACH OF OUR CODE OF BEHAVIOUR.



Every Minute Counts



There are 365 days in the year.

Students spend 167 days in school.

Students have 198 days out of school.

100% Attendance	95% Attendance	90% Attendance	85% Attendance	80% Attendance	75% Attendance
167 days In school Each year	8 days Absent	17 days Absent	25 days Absent	33 days Absent	41 days Absent
	40 Classes Missed	102 Classes Missed	150 Classes Missed	198 Classes Missed	246 Classes Missed
	159 days In School	150 days In School	142 days In School	134 days In School	126 days In School
<u>Good</u> Best Chance of Success		<u>Worrying</u>		<u>Very Concerning</u>	

Lateness = Lost Learning

Minutes Late	Days Lost
5 mins	2 days
10 mins	4.5 days
15 mins	7 days
20 mins	9 days
30 mins	14 days





CREATE A HOMEWORK ROUTINE THAT STICKS!

01

Set a consistent homework time

Choose a regular time each day for homework so it becomes part of your child's daily routine and builds strong study habits.

02

Create a quiet study space

A calm and organised workspace helps your child stay focused and complete their homework more efficiently.

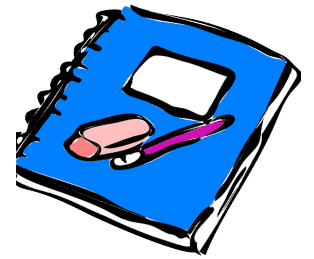
03

Break homework into small, manageable tasks

Dividing work into smaller sections makes homework feel less overwhelming and helps students stay motivated!



The school journal: the solution to being organised!



The journal is the student's passport around the school. The student must have it in every class, every day. It must be available for teachers at all times.

My Information Page: this will contain very important information regarding the student's identity, health and health and will be filled in and signed by parents/guardians.

The journal is an invaluable organisational tool. Each student is responsible for their journal.

Keep a copy of the timetable at home. Colour-coding for each class is helpful. The timetable can have you prepared for the whole week.

Homework must be recorded for every class. Homework can take many forms. Good quality homework is a great form of revision.

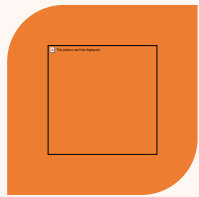
Parents/Guardians are asked to check your child's journal every evening and to note toilet breaks and notes home.



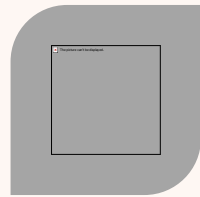
- ☐ **Students will wear their school uniform.**
- ☐ **No school bag, copies or books are needed.**
- ☐ **Bring water and a snack.**
- ☐ **Meitheal students will meet and greet your children and welcome them to their new school.**
- ☐ **There will be fun activities for everyone to get involved in.**
- ☐ **It is a morning to meet old friends and new.**
- ☐ **It gives time and space just for our 1st year students.**



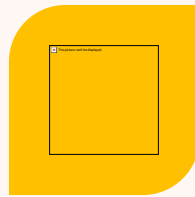
Day 2



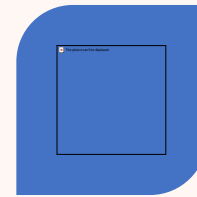
ASSEMBLY WITH YEAR HEAD,
TUTORS AND THE SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM



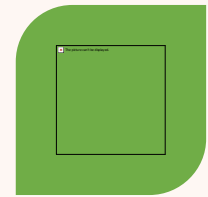
DIVISION OF CLASSES



DISTRIBUTION OF JOURNALS
AND TIMETABLES EXPLAINED



ALLOCATION OF LOCKERS –
STUDENT'S OWN 4 DIGIT
CODE



CLASSES AS PER TIMETABLE
WILL COMMENCE

Working
together to
support your
child's
transition to
secondary
school.

