



Ballymakenny College Summer Bulletin 2026 Transition Year



1. Back to School Details

Start-Up Dates 2026/2027

Date	Time	Arrangements
Friday 28th of August, 2026	08.30 - 10.45.	Students to meet tutors and House Leaders in the sports hall at 8.30am
Tuesday 1st of September, 2025	08:30 - 15.30.	Normal classes resume for all years. Senior students can proceed to base rooms upon arrival from 08:15 onwards.

Students should bring a snack for their start-up mornings as the school canteen will not reopen until Tuesday 1st of September.

Our Academic Calendar, which is included with this bulletin is also available on our school website. Please review regularly as this can be subject to change

2. Ballymakenny College News

We hope this summer bulletin finds you all well. We look forward to welcoming our entire school community back in August and a special welcome also to our 180 new first year students. For recent Ballymakenny College news and regular school updates, please visit our school website at www.ballymakennycollege.ie or keep up to date with all Ballymakenny news on our social media platforms – Instagram and Facebook.



3. Download the VShare App

As you know, we moved our communications away from the traditional model of writing absence notes in the school journal to now, logging absences on the VS App. This year and going forward, we will continue to operate as such. See guidelines below on reporting absence notes.

A reminder to all parents/guardians to please download the VShare app from the App Store or Google Play store if you have not done so already. Prompts on the app will guide you through the setup process.

All communications from the school, including notifications about term reports will be through the VS App.

Follow this link for more information on the VShare app – <https://support.vshare.ie/en/guides-for-parents>.



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3.1 Guidelines on Reporting Absences

The following codes are available to parents through the VS app when recording student absences.

ILL – Unfit to be in school due to illness.

MEDAPP– Attending a medical appointment throughout the school day.

UFR– Urgent Family Reason

HOLS – Holidays



If also using the free text option, please limit your response to providing further explanation for the stated absence only. For all other matters, such as arranging a meeting or requesting a phone call home, please contact the school office directly.

A submitted absence note is strictly a record of explanation and does not constitute formal approval or permission. Due to the fixed options built into our school administration software, staff may be required to click a button labeled 'Approve' to process and log receipt of an absence notification. It does not mean the school accepts, supports, or grants permission for the student's reason to miss school time. Leaving the premises without separate formal permission remains an unauthorised departure under our school's Code of Behaviour.

4. iPad Devices in Senior Cycle

Due to the hybrid nature of educational provision at Ballymakenny College, students are required to continue using their iPads in Senior Cycle. It is important to note that students are not expected to buy new iPads for senior cycle. If you are keeping the device you bought in 1st year, you do not need to do anything as the school will organise that your MDM license is extended. This is part of your Transition Year Fee.

If you are intending to replace your child's device, parents can purchase managed devices through our iPad provider SELECT on the following number 01-5079100 or email at education@selectonline.com.

5. Transition Year Fees

The closing date for the **TY deposit of €275 is the 1st September 2026**. A reminder to those who have not yet paid their deposit, please can you do so at your earliest convenience.

The outstanding balance of **€200** is due by the **1st November 2026**. Please make payments online through VSware. The convenience of the online facility is that you have the option to make payments in instalments. If parent(s)/guardian(s) have issues concerning this fee they must contact the Principal directly.

Please note that all workshops and trips are funded by the Transition Year Fee. If the fees are not paid by the deadlines outlined herein, your son/daughter will not be permitted to attend these events.



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6. School Book Scheme

For the 2026/27 school year all students in post-primary schools in the Free Education Scheme will receive free schoolbooks and core classroom resources.

Every student will be supplied with a TY Stationery set during our TY Start up. This will include, pens, hardbacks and copies. **A Working iPad is essential for TY classes** and portfolio work. Any additional stationary requirements will be communicated to students by individual teachers on our return to school in August.

Please consult the website under the News tab at the top of the page for further details.

7. Transition Year Work Experience

Incoming TY students should prioritise securing work experience placements over the summer. Please see the school website (Curriculum > Transition Year) for relevant insurance documentation that may be requested by employers. The dates for TY Work Experience this year are as follows:

Placement 1: 2nd – 6th November 2026

Placement 2: 1st – 5th March 2027

It is the responsibility of each student to source their own work placements.

As a lot of businesses are closed at present, you could email them and ask if they would be willing to take you on for work placement. Remember to address your email formally, introduce yourself and tell them why you would like to work with their organisation. There is stiff competition for work placements in the town as there are seven schools offering TY all looking for placements, so it is a good idea to get working on this now.



8. TY Calendar and Activities

The TY Calendar of events is included in this pack. Please familiarise yourself with the key activities we have planned this year. The training courses such as Customer Service, Personal Safety/Self-Defence and Crime Scene Investigation days have been booked to take place in school as normal. We have a very busy year ahead and we hope that all our TY students benefit from the variety of activities we have planned. Additional activities will also be included over the year. We will make students aware of these as the year progresses.

9. School Uniform

The senior school uniform will consist of the following:

- School jumper with **blue** strips
- Pack of crested t-shirts (red or blue)
- School Coat (navy or red)
- Trousers: students are permitted to wear skinny jeans, jeans, chinos, etc. – students are not permitted to wear tracksuit pants, shorts, leggings and any type of trousers with rips or a ripped effect.
- Footwear- runners and shoes with a good grip etc. Toeless shoes and Ugg style boots are prohibited.



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Note in relation to PE: Students must bring a change of clothes for PE and are only permitted to wear their PE clothes into school, if their **PE class is the first class of the day.**

The uniform can be purchased from 2 suppliers in Drogheda.

–The School Uniform Shop (beside Mattress Mick's), Mell, Drogheda – (041) 9838825

Website: www.schooluniformshop.ie

–Bestwear, 4 Shop Street, Drogheda – (041) 983 6036

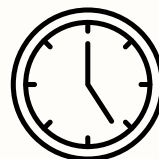
To avoid disappointment, it would be in your child's best interest to schedule a fitting as soon as possible and order their uniform. It is compulsory to wear the entire school uniform.

Our Parents Association are running a School Uniform Swap initiative on Saturday 13th of June and Monday 15th of June, 2026 from 10am –2pm. Free pre- loved BKC jackets and jumpers available to ALL students.

10. School Policies

Please familiarise yourselves with all our school policies which are available on our website – www.ballymakennycollege.ie

11. Office Summer Opening Hours



The School Office is open daily (Monday – Friday) from 9am – 3.30pm.

Note: The School Office will be closed Monday 20th of July, reopening on the 27th of July 2026.

Important: If you have changed address or contact details can you please let the office know by email to info@ballymakennycollege.ie or reception@ballymakennycollege.ie

If possible, could parents please activate their mobile phone voicemail facility. Parents often receive missed calls from teachers throughout the day and subsequently ring the office unsure as to who was looking for them. If voice messages can be left, contact between the teacher and parent will be made more efficiently.



***The Staff & Management of
Ballymakenny College
want to wish you all an
enjoyable summer and
we look forward to seeing you all
back in August.***