



Ballymakenny College Summer Bulletin 2026 Senior Classes



1. Back to School Details

Start-Up Dates 2026/2027

Thursday 27 th of August	11am-1pm (LCA Class)	LCA Class- Students to meet Phil and Caroline at 11am in the HUB.
Friday 28 th of August	8:30am- 10:45am (4 th & 6 th Year) 8:30am-12 noon (5 th Year)	4 th Year- Students to meet tutors and House Leader in Sports Hall 5 th Year- Students remain in the yard at 8:30am to meet tutors and House Leader 6 th Year- Students to go to base rooms at 8:30am to meet tutors
Monday 31 st of August	8:30am- 10:45am (2 nd & 3 rd Years) 8:30am-3:30pm (1 st Years) 8:30am-1pm (Cú Chulainn)	1 st Year- Students to meet tutors and House Leader in the yard at 8:30am(1 st Year induction day) Cú Chulainn- Students to meet tutors at 8:30am in Cú Chulainn 2 nd & 3 rd Year- Students go to base rooms at 8:30 am to meet tutors
Tuesday 1 st of September	Full classes commence	Normal classes commence for ALL years. Proceed to base rooms for Treoir at 8:30am when bell signals

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 VSware 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 VSware 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 VSware app – <https://support.vsware.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. Summer Reports



The Summer reports for current TY and 5th year classes will be available for viewing online mid-late June. We will send an alert through the VS App to all parents when they are available for viewing.

5. Senior Option Subjects

All incoming 5th year students will, at this stage have received their senior cycle options. Any changes to these subjects will not be made until we return in September so, please do not call the office in relation to this.



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.

Incoming 5th years can collect their school books on the 19th and 20th of August 2026, from 9am to 3pm. Their stationery will be available in August when they start back in school.

Any additional books/eBooks and stationery for all other year groups will be available for those students in August when they start back in school.

Note: Pencil cases and pens, pencils, markers etc are not included under this scheme.

Specialist materials for certain subjects will come under this scheme. Your teachers will inform you of this in the new academic year.



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7. Student Support Service 2026-2028 for incoming 5th years

Ballymakenny College offers a Student Support Service for students at a fee of €200. (This covers both 5th and 6th year). €50 will be given back on return of the textbooks after the Leaving Certificate examinations in 2028 and every effort must be made to maintain all books in excellent condition. 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 these costs, please contact the Principal before your child returns to school in August. We feel this scheme represents very good value money and we have made every effort to keep the costs down for parent(s)/guardian(s).

Students will not be allowed to enter classes after Monday 21st of September 2026 without textbooks if no contact is made.

The Student Support Services fee covers the following items:

- Locker
- VS App
- Athena Tracker
- Pupil Insurance for 2 years
- Mock Examinations in 6th year
- Career Guidance Trips
- Curricular Trips arranged to support Classroom Learning.
- Buses for school games and matches (excluding supporter buses).



8. 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.

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.

9. Exam Revision.ie

Great news for all our 5th and 6th year students !!! You will all have unlimited access to Exam Revision to aid you in your study. This includes H1 notes for subjects, quizzes on topics, presentations, and video tutorials. This is an invaluable tool to help you reach your academic potential. All students will be provided with a login when school returns in August.

10. Athena Tracking



5th and 6th year students will have access to Athena Tracker. Parents/guardians, please take a look at this portal with your child as it gives an insight into how they are progressing academically and if they are reaching their potential. All term exam results will be uploaded; you can set targets for each of your subjects and monitor your own progress. More details under the curriculum tab on our website.

There will be a Parents/Guardians/Student information session next year, giving an overview of Exam Revision and Athena Tracker, and how these resources can be used to support your child's learning. More information will be available on our return to school.



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11. 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.

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.



12. Office 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.***