PROGRESS LEADER INFORMATION SESSION

# Fifth Year

Parents' Zoom — 2026–2027

INNOVATION • RESPECT • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

**Jason Campbell**
Progress Leader, Fifth Year — Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School

# The Team Around Your Child

### PROGRESS LEADER — Jason Campbell

Attendance, wellbeing, behaviour and progress

### TUTORS

5A — Paul (5 Dóchas) · 5B — Tina (5 Misneach) · 5C — Megan (5 Saoirse). Daily check-in and first point of contact.

### SUBJECT TEACHERS

Learning, feedback and classroom support

### GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR & WIDER SCHOOL TEAM

Principal, Deputy Principal and wider supports

# Tyro: Staying Connected

*Our new platform for day-to-day information and parent actions. Please check it regularly.*

### BEHAVIOUR

Positive behaviour, concerns and relevant follow-up

### MAIL

Messages and important updates sent to parents and guardians

### PERMISSION

Consent for trips, visits and school activities

### ATTENDANCE

Absences, late arrivals and partial-day requests

*Please keep notifications switched on and contact the office if you need help accessing your account.*

# This Is Not Another TY

### TRANSITION YEAR

- Exploration and sampling
- A lighter academic workload
- Room to try, fail safely and grow



### FIFTH YEAR

- Two years of Senior Cycle begin now
- A real academic gear-change
- Effort and pace set the standard for the Leaving Cert

*3rd Year and TY are gone — fresh slate. Time to increase the work rate.*

# The Values Every Student Lives By



**INNOVATION**

## Be curious

Try, create and adapt



**RESPECT**

## Be kind

Value yourself and others



**COMMUNITY**

## Belong

Join in and contribute



**EXCELLENCE**

## Keep growing

Effort, resilience and progress

*Excellence is not perfection — it is doing your best and learning from setbacks.*

# When You Start Studying Changes Everything

*The NCSE recommends 8 hours of personal study a week outside class. Here is what that adds up to by the Leaving Cert — depending on when the clock starts.*

| START THIS WEEK | START AT XMAS | START IN SEPT | START AT XMAS | START AFTER MOCKS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **528** | **424** | **272** | **152** | **104** |
| STUDY HOURS | STUDY HOURS | STUDY HOURS | STUDY HOURS | STUDY HOURS |
| 66 weeks · Sept 2026 · 5th Year | 53 weeks · Jan 2027 · 5th Year | 34 weeks · Sept 2027 · 6th Year | 19 weeks · Jan 2028 · 6th Year | 13 weeks · Feb midterm · 6th Year |

***Starting this week banks 424 more study hours than waiting until after the mocks.***

*Estimates: Fifth and Sixth Year each modelled as a standard 34-week academic year (two weeks of Fifth Year already gone); 8 hours/week is the NCSE-recommended personal study time.*

# Exam Revision & Study Skills

*Study Skills, After-School Study and Exam Revision all build the same working routine.*

Exam Revision

## All Students have access to Exam Revision

Excellent resource for revision/catching up if content is missed through illness etc

Has a bank of resources like quizzes, exam questions, quizzes, summaries, notes and more

### STUDENT WORKSHOP

- In school — Tuesday 6th October
- During school time
- Paid for by the school

***Important: all students must attend and make the most of the session.***

### PARENTS' WORKSHOP

- Via Zoom — 6pm, Thursday 8th October
- Zoom link shared with parents the week before
- Paid for by the school

***Important: please attend and bring your questions on how you can support your child.***

# Evening Study in School

*A supervised, quiet environment in which students can study effectively and independently — running in two blocks this year.*

### OCTOBER – FEBRUARY

16-week block

- 4 evenings a week · Monday to Thursday
- 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- **€128 per student for this block**

### FEBRUARY – SUMMER

12-week block

- 4 evenings a week · Monday to Thursday
- 3:30pm – 5:30pm
- **€96 per student for this block**

### KEY INFORMATION

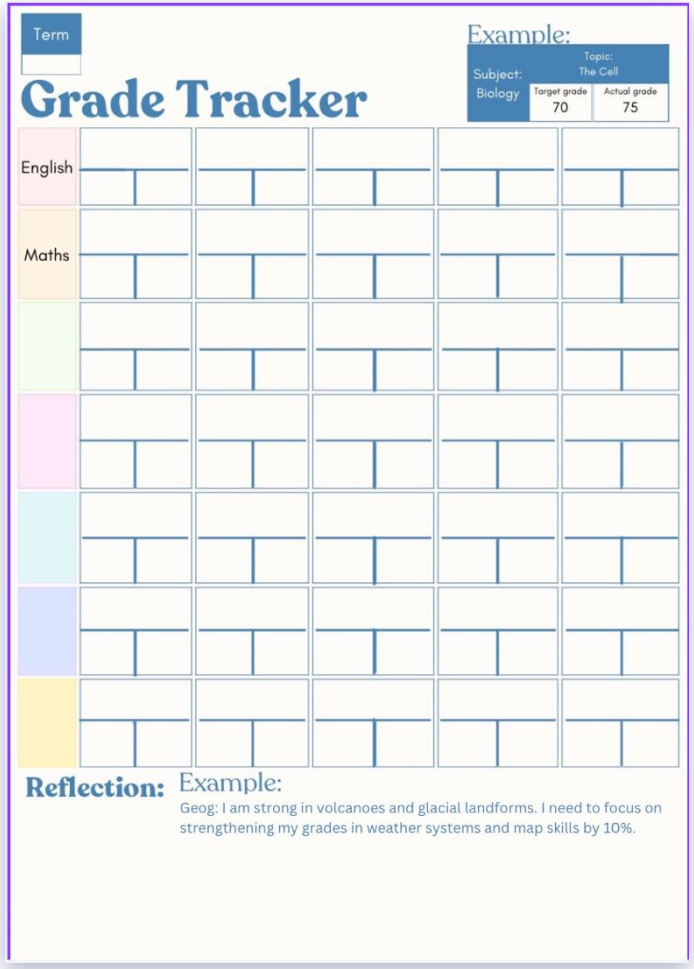
- Open to 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students only.
- Facilities and supervision provided in a quiet, supportive environment.
- Payment through Tyro, in two instalments — one per block. Brendan will be in contact with details through Tyro.

# Grade Tracker: What/Where Is It?

*Every test result, in one place — so progress is easy to see and easy to talk about.*

## WHAT IS IT?

- Created with students in mind.
- A simple tool where students record every test result.
- Gives a clear, quick overview of how a student is progressing in each subject.
- We encourage parents and guardians to monitor it too.
- Found on pages 35–37 of the Journal.




*Sample page from the Journal*

# Attendance & Punctuality



**8:30–8:40**

Sign-in window

- Arriving 8:30–8:40am: sign in at the office, straight to class — no locker stop.
- Three unexplained lates in a term lead to an after-school Learning Opportunity.
- Need to miss class for an appointment? Arrange it through Tyro in advance.

*Why it matters: attendance and grades go hand in hand — there is no substitute for time in class with your teachers.*

# Leaving Early, Signing Out & Feeling Unwell

## LEAVING EARLY

- Recorded by the parent/guardian on Tyro in advance.
- Under 16: collected from the office by a parent/guardian.
- Over 16: with permission, can walk out to meet parents in the car park.
- Students may not leave the building without signing out.

## FEELING UNWELL

- Report to your Tutor — always the first port of call.
- Tutor unavailable? Report to Jason or Michelle instead.
- No personal calls home — contacting home always goes through the office.

# Mobile Phones & Smartwatches

*Phones must be switched off and left in the bag. The same rules apply to smartwatches.*

### 1ST OFFENCE

- Phone confiscated and left in the office.
- Student may collect it themselves at the end of the school day.
- An after-school Learning Opportunity is given.

### 2ND OFFENCE

- Phone confiscated and left in the office.
- A parent/guardian must come and collect it.
- An after-school Learning Opportunity is given.

Further noncompliance is dealt with very seriously by the Progress Leader and Deputy Principal. Need to contact home? Go to the office — students cannot contact home on their own mobile. On trips, Yonder pouches will be used.

# Behaviour & Leadership Expectations

## BEHAVIOUR

- Senior students set the tone for the rest of the school.
- Zero tolerance for behaviour that disrupts learning.

## LEADERSHIP

- Prefects and Head Students are selected from this year group.
- Selection takes place before Easter in Fifth Year.

# Dress Code & Lunch-Room Conduct

## DRESS CODE

- Clean, comfortable clothes that fit properly and allow free movement.
- No unsafe rips, tears or loose parts; secure footwear for stairs and activities.
- PE and practical subjects: sportswear, PPE or safety gear as instructed.
- No hoods. Hats: beanie or wooly hat only — no peaks or caps.

## LUNCH — ROOMS 3 & 4

- No fizzy or energy drinks, no chocolate or crisps.
- Use only the lunch room assigned to Fifth Years.
- Put rubbish in the bin and push chairs in before leaving.

Respect the room — repeated misuse means losing access to it.

# Key Dates

FIFTH YEAR BONDING TRIP

## Tanagh Adventure Centre, Monaghan · Tuesday 15 September

Depart 8:15 · Return approx. 5:15–5:30

Please ensure students have everything they need with them

Follow the school behaviour code throughout the day.

**Assessment Week**

*23rd - 27th November & 24th - 28th May*

**Parent-Teacher Meeting**

*Thursday 14th January*

**Prefect & Head Student selection**

*Before Easter*

# How Parents Can Support Students

### BUILD A ROUTINE & SPACE

A quiet, consistent spot and a regular time each evening — small daily habits beat cramming.

### PROTECT SLEEP & HEALTH

Good sleep, meals and some exercise do more for focus and memory than extra hours awake.

### TALK AND LISTEN

Ask about their day and subjects, not just results — make it safe to say when something's hard.

### ENCOURAGE, DON'T PRESSURE

Praise effort over grades. Your support isn't conditional on results, and they need to hear that.

### STAY CONNECTED WITH SCHOOL

Check Tyro and the Grade Tracker regularly, come to information sessions, and contact the Tutor or Progress Leader early if you're concerned.

### MODEL CALM

How you cope with the pressure of these two years shapes how your child copes with it too.

*Adapted from The Irish Times' guidance for parents of exam students and the Department of Education's wellbeing supports for Leaving Certificate students and parents.*

# Supports for Parents and Guardians

*NEART is the national mental health and wellbeing programme for post-primary schools, delivered by Jigsaw and the National Educational Psychological Service (NEPS).*

### WHAT IS NEART?

- Offers resources, training and support for students, teachers and parents/guardians.
- Aims to foster resilience and positive mental health across the school community.
- See the parent email for live links to all resources.

### TOPICS INCLUDE

- Managing anxiety.
- Supporting young people who are struggling to attend school.
- Social media and young people's mental health.
- Supporting your own self-care.



# Let's Make This Year Count.

Any questions? Speak to your Tutor or Progress Leader.

**Jason Campbell · Progress Leader, Fifth Year**