WELCOME TO FIRST YEAR

DETSS

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School
2026-2027

INNOVATION • RESPECT • COMMUNITY • EXCELLENCE

A big change - with support built in

New

subjects, rooms, teachers, routines and friendships

Still familiar

kind adults, clear expectations, daily routines and a community that knows each child

Our shared goal: safe, happy and increasingly independent.

Your child has a team around them

TUTORS: Sophie Coyle, Amy Geraghty and Peter Butler	Daily check-in, wellbeing and first point of connection
PROGRESS LEADER – Ciara Campbell	Attendance, wellbeing, behaviour and progress
SUBJECT TEACHERS	Learning, feedback and classroom support
TY MENTORS	Friendly older students who help them settle
WIDER SCHOOL TEAM	Principal, Deputy Principal, SNAs and Guidance Counsellor supports

The four values students will hear every day

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.

The first three school days ease students in

THU 27 AUG

8.30-10.30

First short induction morning

FRI 28 AUG

8.30-10.30

A second supported morning

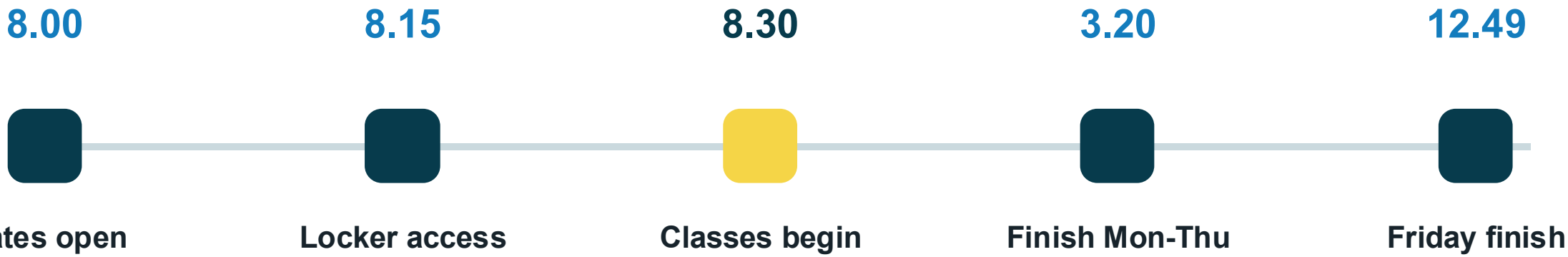
MON 31 AUG

8.30-3.20

First full school day

Short starts create time to learn rooms, lockers, routines and people.

A predictable school day helps students settle



Break: 15 minutes • Lunch: 35 minutes

Students explore before choosing option subjects

CORE SUBJECTS AND SHORT COURSES

A broad Junior Cycle foundation for every student

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Taster programme

Students sample each optional subject first, then select two to continue through Junior Cycle.

Encourage curiosity rather than pressure to “get the choice right” immediately.

The iPad is a managed learning tool

CHARGE IT

Bring it fully charged every day.

Use it for digital books, resources, assignments and feedback.

- Managed for educational use
- Digital citizenship and online safety
- Purposeful use across lessons
- Developing independent learning skills

Organisation is a skill - not a personality trait

1 CHECK

Look at tomorrow's timetable

2 PACK

Books, folders and extra items

3 CHARGE

iPad to 100%

4 RESET

Weekly bag and locker tidy

A calm 10-minute evening routine prevents a rushed 30-minute morning.

The journal connects school, student and home

EVERY CLASS

Write homework down before leaving.

EVERY EVENING

Complete, tick off and repack.

EVERY WEEK

A parent or guardian signs the journal.

Also check grade trackers regularly to notice progress early - and ask questions early.

Support starts with speaking up early

1	**Student notices a problem**	Friendship, learning, locker, worry
2	**Tells a trusted person**	Tutor, teacher, TY mentor or Progress Leader
3	**School responds**	Listens, checks in and agrees support
4	**Family partnership**	Share context and keep communication open

One activity can transform the sense of belonging

SPORT

Soccer • Basketball • GAA
Volleyball • Athletics

CREATE

Music • Lego • Green Schools

THINK

Debating • Chess • Coding
History • Maths

TRY ONE

The goal is connection, confidence and trying something new.

Tyro keeps families connected with school

CHECK TYRO REGULARLY

It is our main platform for day-to-day information and parent actions.

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.

Attendance and punctuality protect progress

8.30

IN CLASS

- After 8.30: report to the office and sign in
- Parent/guardian uploads the reason on Tyro
- Three late arrivals in a term lead to an afterschool Learning Opportunity, 3.20-4.20
- Regular attendance supports learning, friendships and wellbeing

Absence, late arrival and early collection: use Tyro first

PLANNED ABSENCE

Create an absence request: full day, multiple days or partial day

PARTIAL DAY

Enter the exact times or class periods

LATE ARRIVAL

Student signs in at the office

EARLY COLLECTION

Log it in advance; parent/guardian signs the student out in person

During the school day, home contact goes through the office

PHONES OFF

Powered off and stored in the schoolbag or locker until students leave the grounds.

SMARTWATCHES

Communication, internet or messaging functions are not permitted

FEELING UNWELL?

Tell the Tutor, Progress Leader or Deputy Principal. The office contacts home.

Small daily choices keep everyone safe and ready

LUNCH

Healthy food; no crisps, chocolate, sweets, fizzy or energy drinks

No canteen – pack a sufficient lunch

NUT-FREE

No nuts or nut products

CLOTHING

Suitable school clothing; sportswear and runners on PE days

Dress-Code Policy on website

TRAVEL

Under-16s cannot use e-scooters; cyclists dismount at the gate

First Year Bonding Trip

Trip Details:
Activity: Team building games including airsoft, archery and foosball
Date: Wednesday September 23rd
Departure Time: 8:00am (students will leave from the school)
Return Time: Approximately **4pm** (back to the school premises)
Location: Redhills Adventure Centre, Kildare
Cost: €50 per student (Payment made through Tyro)

Important Information:

- Students should wear comfortable clothing in accordance with our school dress code (arms and legs must be covered to participate in the airsoft activity and a raincoat is recommended).
- Students must bring a packed lunch and plenty of water.
- Any medications your child may need during the trip must be brought with them and remains their responsibility.
- Our Code of Positive Behaviour must be adhered to at all times during the trip. We expect all students to act responsibly and respectfully.

Key Date Update

Thursday 1st October - 1st Year Tutor morning - cancelled

Questions?