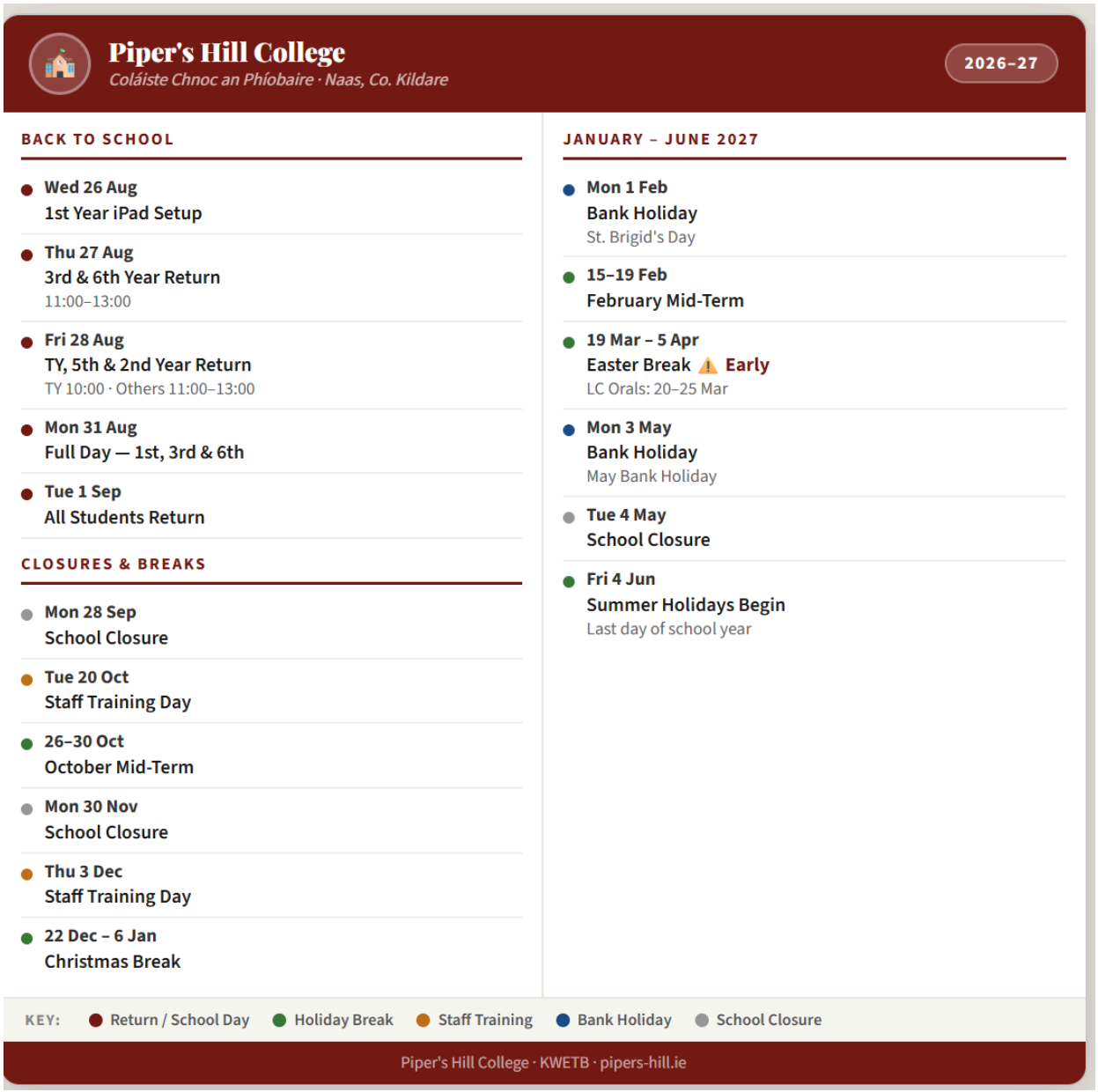
Piper’s Hill College: Summer 2026 Progress Report

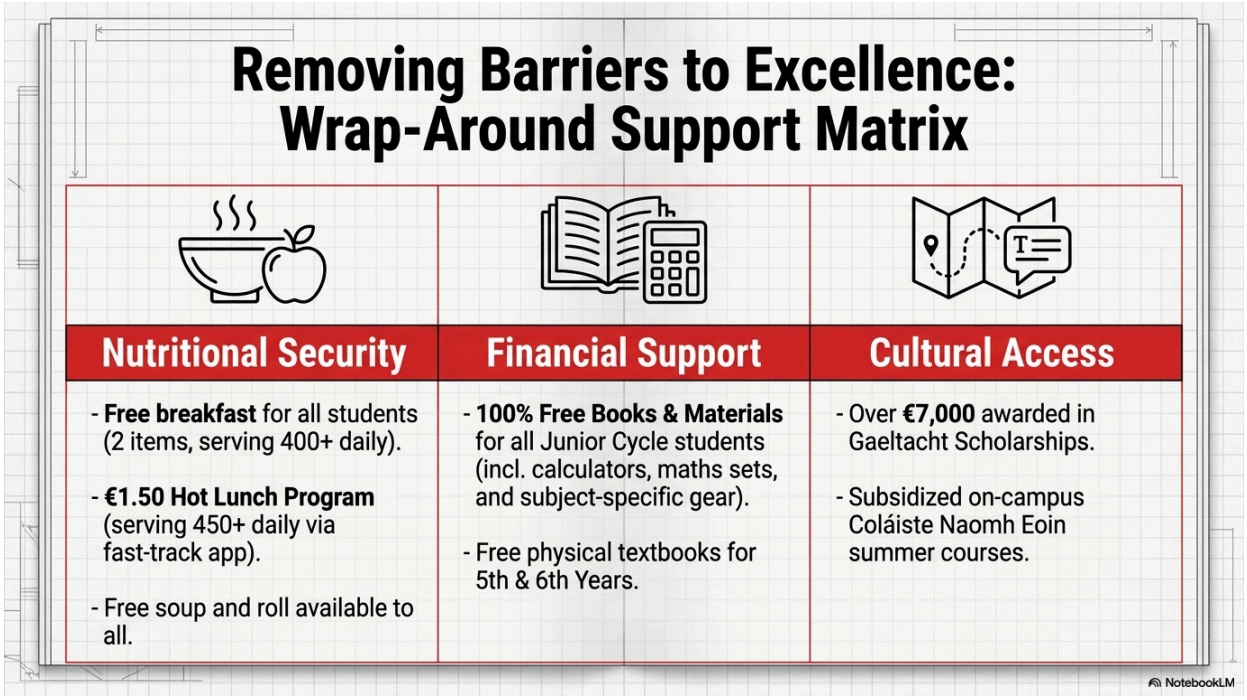
Introduction: Living the "3 R's"

As the 2025/26 academic year draws to a close, we reflect on a year defined by significant progression and student achievement. At Piper’s Hill College, our mission statement is anchored in the "3 R's": being Ready, Responsible, and Respectful. These core values are more than just a code of behaviour and learning ; they are the principles that guide our decision-making and foster an environment where academic excellence meets inclusion. Our success this year is a testament to the balance we strike between high expectations and trying to create a supportive culture where every student feels they belong. We are immensely proud of how our community has lived these values. We thank you for your ongoing support and entrusting your young person's education to our school.

Key Dates- Please plan holidays appointments around these dates. Remember school is open for 166 of the 365 days in a year.



Removing Barriers: Student Support



We try to overcome barriers to achievement that are outside our students' control. We are lucky that our DEIS funding means we can support families with school meals. We also recognise that students can find it hard to organise and get lunches ready. We continue to improve our canteen service to support our students.

* School Meal Scheme: We provide a free, two-item breakfast to over 400 students every morning (8:10–8:40 AM).
* Hot Lunch Program: Over 450 students avail of our €1.50 hot lunch daily, utilizing a fast-track app to minimize queuing and maximize social time. Free soup and rolls are also available to all students.

Financial & Cultural Support

* Free Book Scheme: For Junior Cycle, we provide 100% of ebooks, and essential stationery (calculators, maths sets, folders). Free physical textbooks are also provided for 5th and 6th-year students.
If you want more information on school book scheme from Govt see here

* Cultural Access: We have awarded over €8,000 in Gaeltacht Scholarships, ensuring that cultural immersion and the Irish language remain accessible to all, regardless of financial background.

2. Academic Excellence & Curriculum Innovation

We remain steadfast in our commitment to maintaining high academic standards, ensuring our curriculum remains diverse and responsive to the needs of the 21st-century learner. By providing varied educational pathways, we empower every student to find a route that leads to a viable and fulfilling future.

Recent Academic Successes

* Record-Breaking Results: The Class of 2025 achieved historic Leaving Certificate results, outperforming previous cohorts and bucking the national trend of grade deflation. We particularly celebrate RM Bazar and Vilte Siziute, who secured prestigious scholarships to UCD and Trinity College.
* Junior Cycle Distinctions: Our Junior Cycle students demonstrated exceptional merit, with many receiving four or more Distinctions, including two students who achieved the maximum of seven Distinctions.
* STEM & Innovation: We have recently implemented a €25,000 STEM investment in state-of-the-art science equipment.
Our TYs continue to take part in the Maynooth university STEM project in which we were awarded a school of distinction award. This gives students opportunities to gain experience in Microsoft and also make links with universities.
Our role as a pilot school for the new "Climate Action and Sustainable Development" Leaving Certificate subject, ensures our students are equipped to solve complex global challenges. We also have students accessing LC Computer Science through a partnership with Trinity College.

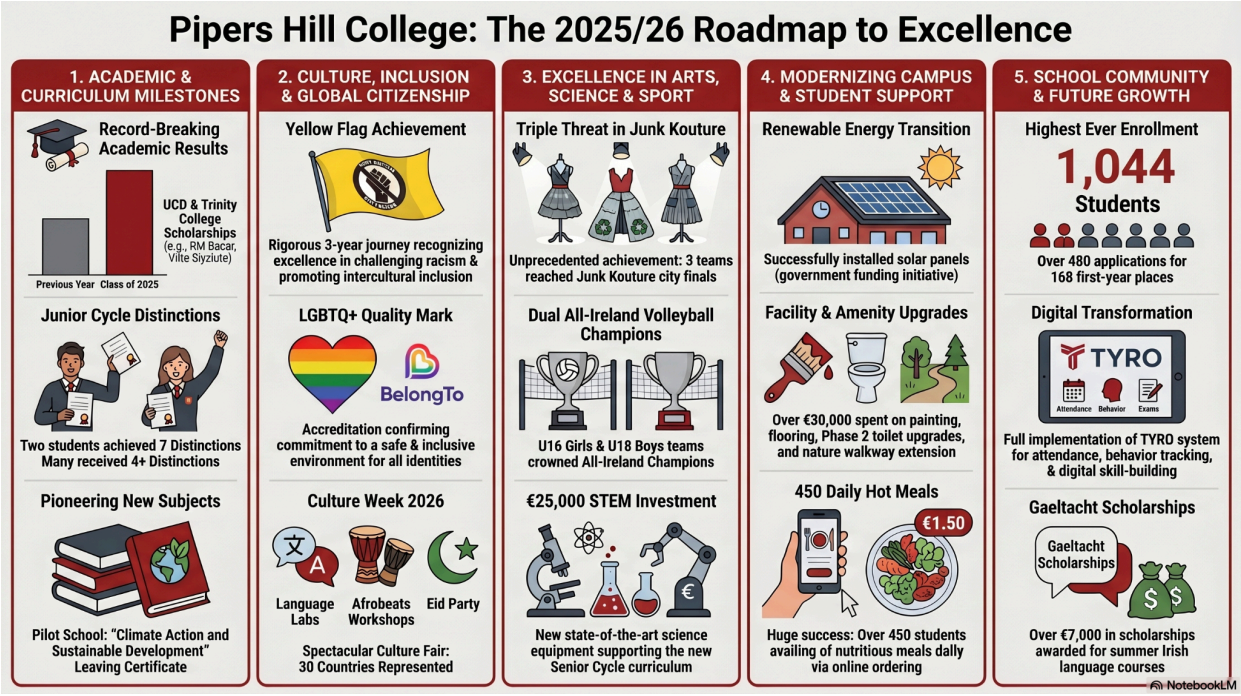
Academic Support Systems

To sustain this excellence, we utilize a suite of digital and pedagogical supports:

* ExamRevision.ie: Targeted exam support for 3rd, 5th, and 6th-year classes.
* IXL Mathematics: A gamified platform to boost numeracy for Junior Cycle and AEN students.
* Digital Integration: Continued use of Google Classroom and the TYRO system for seamless learning management.

We also have 4 Guidance teachers on site. We will be rolling our further developments using CAT 4 testing to help students pick subjects and encourage students reach potential,

3. Beyond the Classroom: Arts, Innovation, and Sporting Triumphs



Engaging in extracurricular activities is essential for building student resilience and leadership. These programs provide the "soft skills" that are often the hardest to teach but the most vital for future success.

Pinnacle Successes of the Term

Arts & Innovation Junk Kouture: 3 national teams reached city finals. Empowers creative problem-solving and environmental advocacy

Sport All-Ireland Volleyball Champions: U16 Girls & U18 Boys A Teams.

Gaisce- Continued success in encouraging students to take on Gaisce programmes at Bronze, Silver and Gold level.

Inclusion Yellow Flag Award & Culture Fair: 30 countries represented.

Social Change Young Social Innovators (YSI): 5 groups at national "Speak Outs." A

We had another really successful year in terms of sport and extra curricular with a focus on a wide choice of sports and activities. When success comes we celebrate it but our key focus is creating a sense of belonging and community.

4. Investing in the Learner Experience: Campus Upgrades

Modernising our infrastructure is a direct investment in the safety and wellbeing of our students. A high-quality environment reduces stress and signals to our learners that they are valued. This year, we have overseen over €50,000 in total facilities investment to ensure Piper's Hill continues to develop.

* Sanitation & Safety (€20,000+): We have completed a total overhaul of the main student toilets and Phase 2 of the Junior Toilets. Based on direct student feedback, these feature a modern "line of sight" open-plan design that maximizes safety and hygiene.
* Aesthetics & Comfort (€30,000): Summer works included comprehensive painting, new carpeting, and electrical upgrades to modernize our primary learning spaces.Similar programme this summer.
* Sustainability: Through a government-funded initiative, we have successfully upgraded solar panels across our roof structure to decrease our carbon footprint.
* Wellbeing Infrastructure: We have finalized an outdoor campus walkway and refurbished PE areas to provide students with nature-focused social spaces during lunch breaks.

Our Key Priorities 2026/27

1. **Anseo Programme-**

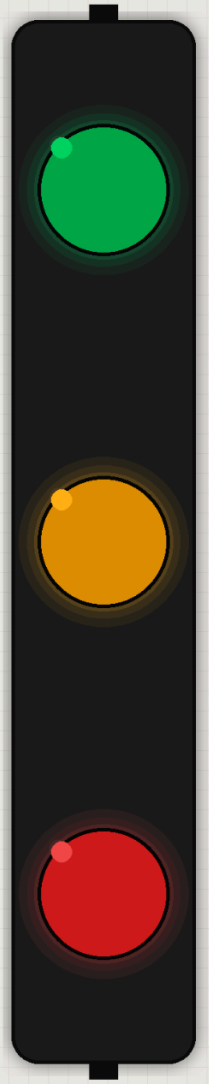
Anseo Programme to reduce student absences. We are part of an exciting programme to decrease student absences and promote school attendance. We will be promoting efforts to help students stay in the Green zone.

The school year is 166 days out of 365. Research has shown that chronic absenteeism can affect student outcomes significantly in terms of future opportunities and wellbeing. We will be trying to support young people to come to school on time everyday.

PIPER'S HILL COLLEGE

Colaiste Chnoc an Phiobaire

STAY IN THE GREEN ZONE



GREEN ZONE

STAY HERE

95% – 100%

Fewer than 9 days absent

You are getting the most from your education. Keep it up! Every day in school is an investment in your future.

Aim for all 166 school days

AMBER ZONE

TAKE ACTION

90% – 95%

9 to 18 days absent

You are missing key lessons.
Are you getting enough sleep?
Aim to do 5 days in a row.
Talk to your year head.

Small changes make a big difference

RED ZONE

GET SUPPORT

Below 90%

19 or more days absent

Serious concern. You are at risk of falling significantly behind. Please speak to your year head or a parent today.

Ask for help - we are here for you

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Taking Responsibility | Ready to Learn | Respecting your Future

Academic Excellence: The college aims to support students to achieve a pathway to their chosen next step. For many this is third level education.. We will continue to offer a wide curriculum that promotes student engagement and finding the areas they are strong in . We pride ourselves on creating a system where the students pick a wide range of options that suit the students.

We also are building links with Training and Apprenticeship pathways and links with local businesses.

We support students with excellent teaching along with tools such as access to Google classroom, Examrevision amongst others..

Senior Cycle Reform: Preparing for changes to the Senior Cycle is a major priority. This includes introducing a **Digital Skills subject in TY** to prepare students for new assessment components that will account for 40% of future exam marks. Partaking in TY is now all the more important in helping prepare students for Senior Cycle

Policy development School Planning

Please see here for new procedures on Child Protection(including Child Protection Risk assessment) and our Policies on Bullying.
https://www.phcol.ie/page/School-Policies/51221/Index.html

Parent Survey

Please help us improve our school. We will not collect names unless you want to give it. We will have a draw for 2 cinema vouchers for those who complete surveys and enter names. (We would ask that incoming first year parents do not complete survey as it is not relevant, thanks)

https://forms.gle/u6qb537rreSyagVA7

7. The Parent Partnership: Parent contribution

The cost of providing an elite educational experience continues to rise. We are currently navigating a €50,000 funding gap due to the loss of government "cost of living" packages and soaring utility costs. To put this in perspective, the cost of a single double-decker bus for a

school trip is now c 450 to 600 per day, and our annual transport deficit alone exceeds €50,000. Our energy costs top €100000. We obviously get Government support to cover the basics but we want to provide a lot more than the basics.

A huge thank you to all parents for your ongoing support especially financially. We made the decision to go 1:1 digital devices 12 years ago now most other schools have followed.

To sustain our extracurricular, educational innovations and facility standards, we request a School Contribution of €100 per student (capped at €175 per family), payable via the Way2Pay app.

Why your contribution matters: State funding is restricted and does not cover the extras.
Your contribution directly funds:
* Locker maintenance and high-grade digital infrastructure (Wi-Fi and iPad management).
* Specialized cleaning and the facility upgrades that ensure a modern learning environment.
* Items not covered in school Book scheme
*Personal insurance for all students
* Access to management systems such as Tyro and Athena and schoolwise- to help support students.
* CAT 4 testing

Changes 2026/27
We will be asking those going on trips to contribute via a link sent from the front office to pay€5 per trip to help pay for the bus. If we hire a bus it can cost up to €500 per trip on average and if we use our school bus it will cost €150 to €200.

The strength of Piper's Hill College lies in our collective commitment to our students. By working together—school, student, and parent—we will ensure that the 2026/27 year is defined by the same excellence, and commitment to progress that we continually strive for. Once again a huge thanks to all students and parents/guardians.

Regards

Tom McDonald and the Pipers Hill College Team.