



Friday, 07th August 2026

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your families had an enjoyable and restful summer. As the holidays are coming to an end, I wish to outline several items for our academic year 2026-2027.

Timetable 2026-2027

We continue to operate a 1-hour class timetable and finish at 13:05 on Fridays. Buses run in accordance with this.

Lunch and Breaks

In school we stagger breaks and lunchtimes. 1st and 2nd Years remain on campus and are not allowed to leave the school grounds. We operate a hot food canteen which promotes healthy eating.

Calendar 2026/2027

To help with your planning for 2026-2027, the calendar is uploaded to our website. You can find it [here](#) also.

Incoming 1st Years 2026/2027

A special welcome to our first-year girls and boys joining us for the first time. An information evening will take place on **Thursday, 13th August 2026 at 8pm in our Assembly Area**. This is for parents only. We hope to issue Student Textbooks and Stationery on the night.

School Uniform

A new [Junior Cycle Uniform](#) was introduced with our change of status last year. All incoming students will purchase the crested quarter zip top in Fahy's Castlebar or O'Brien's Shop street, Westport. There is no change to the Rice College [Senior Uniform](#). The senior uniform can be purchased in O'Briens. Black footwear must be worn with either uniform so please DO NOT purchase footwear with other colours.

Lockers

The school has engaged the services of [LockerFix](#) to repair, maintain, administer and allocate lockers to students. Students wishing to rent a locker from this company may do so at a cost of €30 rental yearly. A way2pay link will be issued for this. Students who complied with locker instructions will receive a way2pay link.

Book Grant

Senior and Junior Students will receive all books and stationery on their return.

PE Uniform

McKeever Teamwear online shop portal was opened during the summer. The only item you need to purchase is the T-Shirt. This is mandatory for PE classes. The portal only opened for 2 weeks this summer and the link was sent out via the I-class App and emails. Items can still be purchased at any time on the McKeever website.



Certified Absences, late arrivals and Truancy

No student may absent themselves at any time from classes or from the school premises without the express permission of the school authorities in line with the National Educational Welfare Board. A student requiring permission to leave the school during the school day must present a note from his parent/guardian to the Year Head **in advance of their absence**. The school journal or email must be used for these purposes. The school is obliged to report prolonged absences to the **Educational Welfare Officer**. Students failing to adhere to this policy and responsibilities will incur student sanctions of infringements and Saturday detentions. **Juinoir Cycle students must be collected at the office by Parents/Guardians.**

Student and Staff return 2025

Resumption dates:	Year Group	Times
Monday, 31 st August 2026	Staff Return	08:50 – 15:45
Tuesday, 01 st September 2026	1 st Years & 5 th Years	08:50 – 15:45
Wednesday, 02 nd September 2026	All students return	

The coordinators of T.Y. and L.C.A. will issue specific instructions to their groups directly.

Registration for 2026-2027 and Student Support Services Fee (SSSF)

The registration process is completed on-line through a Google Forms which will be sent in due course. To provide the quality of education we currently offer, the Board of Management deems it necessary to request a **student support services fund** from **all** parents/guardians. This **fee is €100 per student or €150 per family** payable by Way2Pay. A receipt will automatically be issued once completed on way2pay. This is not voluntary, this is a fee which must be paid. I would like to thank you in advance for making this payment. If you cannot contribute all the money at once, we would happily accept two or three instalments of €50. This fee helps towards the cost of photocopying, house exams, I.T. supports, heating, water, lighting and general maintenance. This fee is used to pay the Pupil Personal Accident Insurance which covers your son/daughter 24 hours, 7 days a week all year round. Please note, we do not insist on students purchasing a personal device, however, the fee also covers student computers licenses for school and home use. Furthermore, we have enrolled our students on studyclix which will prove extremely beneficial academically.

Every good wish to you and your family over the next academic year and we look forward to working with you in creating a happy and rewarding year.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Rabbette
Principal

