

**Community School,
Mountmellick,
Co. Laois.**
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Incoming 1st Year Newsletter

August 2026

Preparations for the academic year 2026 / 2027 are almost complete and we look forward to welcoming each and every one of our incoming First year students to our school on Friday, 28th August at 9.00 am.

On the first day they will be working with our Student Leaders, the Chaplain and other staff members. You will recall from the information evening in May 2026 that the Student Leaders are the team of 6th year students who will be looking after our incoming 1st years. Lunch will be provided by our school caterers on the day. As it is a day of fun, games and getting to know others, the only items they need to bring with them on the day are a pen / pencil / copy. School will conclude on the first day at 1.20pm.

We are looking forward to helping our students settle into Mountmellick Community School not just on day one but on all subsequent days until each student is content, confident and comfortable in MCS.

While many other relevant details are included in the newsletter that will be issued by email to Parents / Guardians of all students (2nd year to 6th year) in the coming days, the following details relate to incoming 1st year students only.

Optional Subjects

As outlined at the information evening for incoming 1st year students / Parents on the 19th May 2026, all incoming 1st year students were allocated a place in their top three option subjects as requested by them.

Class Groupings

You will recall that all incoming students had the option of expressing a request to be in the same class as some of their friends. Following this consultation, the class groupings for 2026 – 2027 are complete. Details relating to the class to which your son / daughter was allocated are included in the email to which this newsletter is attached.

Open Night Prize Winners

You will recall that we conducted a quiz / competition on our open evening where students had the options of completing a quiz as they progressed their way around the school through the various classrooms and other facilities.

The winners are as follows:

- €100 DS Sports / Allbooks Voucher
- €50 DS Sports / Allbooks Voucher
- €50 DS Sports / Allbooks Voucher
- €50 DS Sports / Allbooks Voucher

Congratulations and well done, not only to all the winners but also to all who took part and got all the correct answers thereby gaining entry into the draw.

Questions that regularly arise with incoming 1st years

In MCS we call these the “what if’s”

‘What if my son/daughter is not settling in well/ is upset coming to/from school, who do I contact?’ – In this regard, you can let the Year Head know. The Year Head (Ms. Teehan) may refer them to the school Chaplain (Ms Shortall), the other Guidance Counsellor / Transition Coordinator (Ms O Sullivan).

‘What if my son/daughter misplaces an item of their uniform?’ – Please let the Year Head know (Ms Teehan)

‘What if my son/daughter cannot complete homework for whatever reason?’ – Please send a note in their school journal for the teacher/Year Head to view.

‘What if my son/daughter is struggling academically and I am concerned about their progress?’ – Please contact the Year Head who may refer the student to the other Guidance Counsellor or the SEN Coordinator (Mr Bacon).

‘What if my son/daughter is feeling unwell and needs to come home?’ – The student will let their Year Head (Ms Teehan) know, or in their absence, they will let the Principal or Deputy Principals know. They will inform the office and the office staff will phone home to have the student collected at reception.

‘What if my son/daughter is finding it difficult to make friends?’ – Please let the Year Head know and they may refer the student to the Chaplain (Ms Shortall), the other Guidance Counsellor / Transition Coordinator (Ms O Sullivan).

‘What if my son/daughter is not enjoying an option subject and/or finding a subject very difficult in the first number of weeks?’ - Please let the Year Head (Ms Teehan) know who may refer the student to the other Guidance Counsellor or one of the Deputy Principals (Ms Kerry / Mr Doyle) who will see what other subject at that time has availability. Should there be availability in another subject, we do our best to facilitate the student to swap subjects.

‘What if I am struggling to get my son/daughter to come to school/ get up in the mornings/ attend school?’ – Please let the Year Head know about your concerns and you are welcome to link up

with the HSCL Coordinator (Ms Harding). The Year Head may refer the student to the Chaplain (Ms Shortall), Guidance Counsellor / Transition Coordinator (Ms O Sullivan).

‘What if my son/daughter cannot operate the lock on their locker?’ – Please let the Year Head know who can have a member of staff show them how to operate the lock on a one to one and practice it until they can use it.

‘What if my son/daughter is found using their mobile phone without permission?’ – The relevant teacher will ask the student to put it away. Should they be found on the device again, they will be required to hand up their phone at reception where it will be stored safely until the end of the school day. The parent/guardian will be asked to come and collect the phone from reception at the end of the school day. As students will have a phone pouch for their mobile phones, we do not expect this scenario to happen very often!

‘What if my child is having a hard time with another student(s)?’ – Please let the Year Head (Ms Teehan) know. We have zero tolerance for bullying or any misconduct towards other students.

‘What if my son/daughter gets an after school detention?’ – Parents/Guardians will be notified of the day / date / length of time their son/daughter has an after school detention or is in breach of our school’s the Code of Behaviour.

Please be aware that your son/daughter received a Transition Work book from our Transition and HSCL Coordinators which has very relevant information about transitioning into school here in MCS.

To conclude:

Should you have any queries in advance of the 28th August, please do not hesitate to make contact at office@mountmellickcs.ie

*Larry Curtin
Principal*

*Frances Kerry La Rosa
Deputy Principal*

*Eoin Doyle
Deputy Principal*