

**Community School,
Mountmellick,
Co. Laois.
Tel: 057 8624220
E-Mail: office@mountmellickcs.ie**



Newsletter

August 2026

As we reflect on the 2025/2026 school year, we extend our sincere thanks to our students, staff, parents and wider community for their continued support and commitment to Mountmellick Community School. It has been a year of shared effort and achievement. As we look ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that the 2026/2027 school year will bring and are eager to build on the successes of the past year. Preparations for the new academic year are already well advanced and we look forward to welcoming all of our students back in late August for another positive and rewarding year.

Arrangements for the start of the academic year 2026/2027

Friday 28 th August:	School officially opens – 1 st Years only
Monday 31 st August:	1 st , 3 rd & 6 th Years (incl: LCA 2)
Tuesday 1 st September:	1 st , 2 nd , 3 rd , 5 th , Transition Years & 6 th Years.

NOTE: School times are as follows:

Monday and Thursday: 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. for all students.
Friday: 9.00 a.m. to 1.20 p.m. for all students.
First break will be from 11am to 11.20am.
Lunch break will be from 1.20pm to 2pm.
All students will have twenty-eight class contact hours weekly.

Recent Achievements of Students / Events in Mountmellick Community School

School of Sanctuary

Mountmellick Community School has been recognized as a School of Sanctuary. This means that the school is dedicated to creating a safe and inclusive environment where all students feel valued and supported. It's a place where diversity is celebrated, and every student is welcomed. The school's commitment to promoting equality, understanding, and compassion truly makes it a special place for all students to learn and grow.



Extra and Co-curricular Activities

Throughout the 2025/2026 school year, our students have engaged enthusiastically in a wide range of extra and co-curricular activities with the support and guidance of their teachers whom these activities would not be possible without. Engagement in extra and co-curricular enhances students overall school experience. These opportunities have played a vital role in supporting students personal development, helping to build confidence, teamwork, leadership skills and a sense of belonging within the school community. We commend the commitment of both students and staff in making these activities such a valuable and enjoyable part of school life.

Schoolbook Scheme for Post Primary Schools

The School Book Scheme removes the cost from families of funding schoolbooks and core classroom resources for all students in post-primary schools. Under this scheme all schoolbooks and core classroom resources for students in post-primary schools will be provided to students directly by their school with no charge to parents/guardians.

- School Books will be provided free to every student on loan at the start of the school year.
- Core classroom resources will also be provided free to students by the school.
- Funding under this scheme will not include the purchase of digital devices.
- The schoolbooks will be on loan to the students and must be returned at the end of each programme cycle or if a student leaves the school.
- It is important that school books are kept in good condition so they can be reused.
- Under the terms of the scheme, schools are permitted to charge a refundable deposit to cover lost, damaged and unreturned schoolbooks. The school will charge a refundable deposit of €50 per student. When school books are returned to school the deposit will be refunded.
- Parents/Guardians of students commencing 2nd, 3rd, 6th year and LCA 2 will already have a significant amount of the schoolbooks and classroom resources required. Any additional schoolbooks and core classroom resources required by students in 2nd, 3rd, 6th year and LCA 2 will now be covered under the new scheme.
- Please remind your children to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the period that they are in their possession.
- It is not permitted to write on school books. The school is under no obligation to replace an item that has been lost or damaged by a student.
- All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years (where applicable).
- There may be some additional classroom resources that are not covered by the scheme.

All items provided under the scheme are available on our school website for all year groups. The items supplied under the scheme will be available only once for the 2026/2027 school year. If additional classroom materials or replacements are needed, it is the responsibility of the individual student, parent/guardian to obtain them.

Payments for products & services for the school year 2026 / 2027

As a school community, we do not charge student registration fees of any kind.

However, we do provide various services to our students, often purchased at a bulk discount and collect payment for same from Parents / Guardians.

These products & services include:

- Provision of Lockers / padlock
- Student 24 / 7 insurance
- Photocopied materials
- In-house examinations
- Messaging services
- Guest speakers
- Awards programme
- Credits Trips
- Sports Days
- Student year group events

All of the above is available to all students at an annual cost of €100 per student with reductions for each sibling resulting in the following:

Cost for one student	-	€100
Cost for two siblings	-	€180
Cost for three or more siblings	-	€240

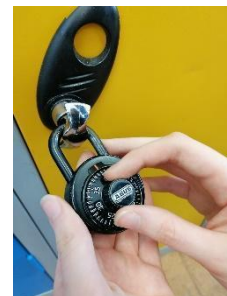
Parents / Guardians will receive a personalised email in the coming days including a link to make payment for their children. In line with previous years, payments are due by the 1st September '26.

Lockers

As you are aware, student lockers are available for rent. Access to lockers will be available during the 1st week of return to school once the above payments are made. This rental fee includes the supply of a combination lock. Students are allowed access to their lockers before school, at 11am break, at lunchtime and after school in an effort to minimise the weight of books they have bring with them from class to class during the year. Each student needs an individual locker as sharing is not possible. Please check out the links below, to know how to work and organise the locker.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKTYjj-z718&feature=youtu.be>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIKaUmF1ocU&feature=youtu.be>



Mobile Phones

As you are aware the current school policy on mobile phones is as follows:

The phone should never be turned on and / or used while on the premises, unless instructed by a member of staff. They must not be used for any purpose, e.g. phoning, texting, checking the time, using the calculator, taking photos, taking video / audio recordings, surfing the internet, accessing apps, creating Tik Tok videos etc. unless under the guidance and instruction of the teacher. (copy of policy available on www.mountmellickcs.ie)

As a progressive school that is constantly looking to improve all aspects of school life, we implemented a mobile phone management system in Mountmellick Community School from September 2025. This took place a year in advance of the Department of Education making this compulsory for all schools

As all Parents / Guardians are aware, teenagers are very attached to their phones and, if permitted, would in some instances avail of constant access to internet and all of the inherent associated challenges that it presents. We are currently looking to create an environment where students do not have access to their phones in our school other than limited access for Senior Cycle students at lunchtime or unless access is permitted by a member of staff.

- *This is achieved by all phones being placed by a student in a personally held pouch which they lock for the duration of the school day.*
- *As they leave the school at the end of the day, they can unlock the pouch at any one of 10 stations about the school (which will be accessible at that time) and access the phone. If a Parent needs to contact a student, they can contact the school office on 057 8624220 or email office@mountmellickcs.ie to facilitate such communication.*
- *Students with diagnosed and documented medical needs will be given an alternative pouch to facilitate their access as required.*
- *If required, with the aid of a hand held unlocking device, an individual teacher can facilitate student(s) access to a mobile phone during a class as part of the Teaching and learning process*

School Meals

We currently have a team of four in the kitchen area who prepare a range of school meals on a daily basis for our students. This service is funded by the state and additional services are also available if Parents and students wish to avail of them.

Some of the food options include;

- Roast dinners
- Pasta dishes with various meats below
- Rice dishes with various meats below
- Slow Cooked Creamy Chicken
- Chilli and Lime Chicken Taco's
- Spaghetti Bolognese
- Beef Lasagne
- Cottage Pie
- Tuscan Style Meatballs
- Chicken Katsu Curry
- Sweet and Sticky Honey Garlic Chicken
- Soups
- A variety of wraps, rolls and sandwiches
- Mixed fruit
- Porridge
- Freshly baked scones / Toast / Breads / Rolls

This service is currently under review for 2026 – 2027 with a view to improving the quality and service offered to our students.



Supervised Study

Mountmellick Community School provides supervised evening study sessions from Monday to Thursday, 4:20 pm to 6:15 pm, and on Fridays from 1:50 pm to 3:45 pm during each school term. Priority for study places is given to students in 6th, 5th, and 3rd Year. If additional places are available, they will be offered to other students in 1st and 2nd year. Supervised study for 2026/2027 will commence on *Thursday 4th September*. Further details will be circulated in due course.

Supervised study is also available for exam year groups during the October mid-term break and Easter break. Further details on supervised study will be provided upon return to school.

Attendance Communication with School:

- Please ensure that your son/daughter is in full attendance in school. A high level of attendance is essential to doing well in examinations both in house and in state examinations.
- All communications in relation to explaining attendance absences should be submitted through the VSWare Parents App.
- Please see the following link for support in downloading or logging in to the Parent App - **VSWare App and Log in Support**
- All parents/guardians should have their log in credentials for VSWare and can contact the office on 057-8624220 for assistance, if required.
- Be sure to enable notifications on the app.
- Please see **VSWare App Attendance Information** for further information on how to view and submit your students attendances through the app.
- All full days and partial days (where a student is late coming to school or signing out early) should be submitted using the 'Full' or 'Partial' day absence tab.
- If for some reason you unexpectedly need to take your son / daughter out of school during the course of the day, this must be submitted on app and collect at the school office.
- If your son / daughter is absent from the 9.00am class period without authorisation / explanation, you will receive a communication to advise you of the same.

If a student needs to leave during the course of the day, they must speak to their Year Head to get permission for same so that contact with Parents can be made through the school office. For obvious reasons, it is neither feasible nor within the school rules for students to contact Parents directly by mobile phone to arrange collection during the course of the school day.

The roll call is taken every hour to ensure that all students are in class (for a number of purposes including health and safety). In this regard, please ensure you submit attendance information on the VSWare app.

Students cannot leave the premises during the school day, without being collected by a parent/guardian or one of the named people on the Application Form for enrolment submitted when applying for enrolment.

In this regard please ensure that you inform the school office if your contact details have changed or if you wish to add to the list of people who can collect your son / daughter if the need arises.

Studyclix

We have set up Studyclix Plus access for all students. [Studyclix.ie](https://www.studyclix.ie) is Ireland's most popular study website and helps students revise using past exam questions, videos, notes, quizzes, flashcards and much more. To avail of the offer, students can create or login to their own account on Studyclix with their Mountmellick Community School email and the upgrade will already be available at no charge. For more information & useful resources, visit www.studyclix.ie/getting-started-for-parents. If you have any queries, you can contact the Studyclix support team at info@studyclix.ie who will be able to help.

Parking Arrangements / Road Safety:

Car parking facilities on the school grounds are for members of staff and visitors to the school only. Students are not permitted to park in this area. Students must be dropped / collected outside of school grounds.

Students are required to use the pedestrian traffic lights on all occasions when crossing the road in front of the school.



Medication

Reminder: If your son / daughter is on medication and needs to take some during the school day the medication must be handed into the school office and it can be accessed at the appropriate time by the student. Parents are required to contact the school office in this regard. Under no circumstances are students allowed to have any form of medication / tablets etc., with them as they go from class to class etc.

Uniforms:

The school uniform for 2026/2027 consists of a light blue school jumper for Junior student's / Navy blue jumper for Senior students. Trousers to be school grey with no turn-ups. Skirt to be the designated, pleated school skirt available in Shaw's and Cox's. Skirt must be knee length. Grey school shirts for all students at both Junior and Senior cycle.

While doing P.E., the school PE uniform or navy tracksuit (no leggings) and navy t-shirt must be worn. Junior Cycle students can wear their PE uniform for the full school day they have PE. This will eliminate them needing to carry PE gear along with their other school materials on that day.

Students have a choice of three school jackets;

- a navy crested school jacket,
- a plain navy school jacket
- plain black school jacket



All jackets are available from DS Sports, Emo and are available with/without hoods.

[ClubShop - Education - Mountmellick Community School – DSsports](#)

Footwear: Black shoes only.

P.E.: Runners must have non-marking soles.

Black tights or school grey socks may be worn.

Items of uniform may be purchased from any or all of the following suppliers:

Cox's, O'Connell Square, Mountmellick.

Phone 057 8624107.

Shaws, Portlaoise.

Phone 057 8621201.

DS Sports, Emo

Phone 085 8715311.

Change of Information

We ask all parents and guardians to inform the school office of any changes to contact details, including phone numbers, home addresses or emergency contact persons. Keeping this information up to date is essential to ensure we can communicate effectively with you. Please contact the office by email at office@mountmellickes.ie or by phone on (057) 862 4220 with any updates in this regard.

To Conclude

We look forward to working with you in 2026 / 2027 as we collectively ensure that your son / daughter can have a happy, enjoyable, developmental and highly educational journey during their time in our care.

Larry Curtin
Principal

Frances Kerry La Rosa
Deputy Principal

Eoin Doyle
Deputy Principal