

Incoming First Years

Parent Information Meeting



Welcome

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► **Mr Roger Doyle**
School Book Coordinator
roger.doyle@ballinteercs.ie



► **Ms Dervla Mulgrew**
First Year Resource Teacher
dervla.mulgrew@ballinteercs.ie



► **Ms Rachel Garland**
First Year Year Head
rachel.garland@ballinteercs.ie



Class Structure

Three class groups — mixed ability & gender balance.

▶ **Assessments/Entrance Exam?**

Will take place in the first term when students are settled. €20 administration fee applies.

▶ **Purpose?**

- 🌐 It helps teacher to tailor their lessons to the needs of the learners in their class.
- 🌐 It allows us to put adequate supports in place should there be an area of concern.

▶ **Class Tutor**

▶ **Student Development Officer**

▶ Shared SNA access where needed/possible

▶ Resource Teacher

Students will settle, forge friendships & feel comfortable.

Key Communication



Ballinteer Community School

admin@ballinteercs.ie 01 298 8195



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VSware

- ▶ Provides **key information** on **attendance, behaviour** and **assessment**.
- ▶ This is an app we will be asking you to **download now**.
- ▶ The school will write to you & send you a text with your unique access code for VSware.

Key Calendar Dates



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Key Calendar Dates

► **Return to School Calendar** will be posted home to you in June.

First Year Induction Day

► **Thursday 27th of August**

Any School Related Payments & Essential Items Fee €100

► **Pay in person or via the VSware app.**

BCS School Book Scheme

Roger Doyle

School Book Co-Ordinator





What is included in the Textbook Scheme?

All Junior Cycle students receive their textbooks for all of their subjects from the school.

Option Subjects: Home Economics, Music, Business, Graphics, Wood Technology, Engineering, Visual Art

English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Science, Religious Education, French, CSPE, SPHE and 2 Option Subjects.

Due to the tasters the 1st Years do at the beginning of the year for 3 weeks, students will not receive the books for these subjects until they have been confirmed (after their tasters).

The students will receive either new or second hand books over their first few days in August. They will keep these for the duration of the Junior Cycle.

No payment is required as this is part of the Government's new Book Grant Scheme.



What is included in the Textbook Scheme?

Stationery

All Junior Cycle students will receive some stationery for their subjects from the school.

These include:

Copies (1 per subject),
Folder x 2, Maths
Formulae book,
Calculator and
Dictionaries

When will my child receive their textbooks?

- Parents/Guardians and students will be asked to sign a contract, agreeing to take care of the books as they will remain the property of the school.
- Once this is returned, I will distribute the books and stationery.



You can contact me via email:

roger.doyle@ballinteercs.ie





Parents Evening First Year 2026

BALLINTEER COMMUNITY SCHOOL 2026

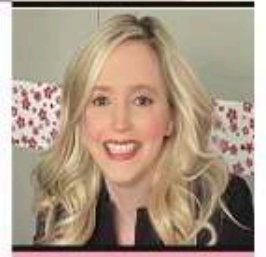


Welcome
Parents
and
Guardians

Introductions- Student Supports



Principal – Ms. Amy Doherty



Deputy Principal – Mr. Chris Doyle



Year Head & Chaplain - Ms. Rachel Garland



Guidance Counsellor – Ms. Aoife Mannion



First Year Tutors

Mr. John Cawley: 1 JCW

Ms. Dervla Mulgrew: 1DM

Mr. Cathal O Dwyer: 1COD

Meet with Tutors
each morning at
8.28 for Pastoral
Care/Wellness

An assembly will
take place each
Monday at 8.28 led
by the Year Head

First Year SEN Team

Mr. Mark Iveagh – SNA

Ms. Sheelagh Shorthall – SNA

Ms. Dervla Mulgrew – Lead 1st Year
Resource Teacher

Ms. Katherine Coleman – SEN
Coordinator





Home Room

Niamh in Homeroom: If a student has an appointment and need to leave early, they go to Homeroom. Niamh will ring home for them and sign them out.

If a student arrives to school late, they go to Homeroom so that Niamh can sign them in.

If a student is feeling sick during the school day, they get a note from their Tutor or Year Head to allow them to go to Niamh in Homeroom. Niamh will mind them and ring home.

Extra Support- Tiered Leadership Programme



Peer Leaders

- ❖ Work with First Years during wellbeing activities' such as walks, seminars and sports activities.
- ❖ Assists in delivering the CPR programme.

Mentors

- ❖ Buddy System
- ❖ Help run the First-Year induction programme
- ❖ Work with First Years to help them settle in
- ❖ Perform weekly check ins
- ❖ Organise regular wellbeing/bonding activities for their classes
- ❖ Ratio of 1:8

Prefects

- ❖ Assist in the supervision of First years during lunch/locker areas
- ❖ Assist in delivering CPR training to First Years

Overview of School Day

- Everyday starts at 8:28
- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday finish at 3:35
- Wednesday finish at 12:55
- Friday finish at 14:25
- One hour classes
- Two breaks; Morning break for 15 minutes and lunch for 40 minutes.

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Time	Fri
08:28-08.40	1st Yr Assembly Tutor Time	2nd Yr Assembly Tutor Time	3rd Yr Assembly Tutor Time	5th Yr Assembly Tutor Time	08:28-08.40	6th Yr Assembly Tutor Time
08:40-09.40					08:40-09.40	
09.40-10.40					09.40-10.40	
10.40-10.55	Break	Break	Break	Break	10.40-10.55	Break
10.55-11.55					10.55-11.55	
11.55-12.55					11.55-12.25	Lunch
12.55-13.35	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	12.25-13.25	
13.35-14.35					13.25-14.25	

School Uniform

Regular Uniform

The official supplier of the BCS school uniform and PE uniform is

School Wearhouse
Unit D7, Ballymount Industrial Estate
Ballymount, Dublin 24.
Tel: 014604371
Email: info@schoolwearhouse.ie

❖ Worn daily except for PE days

❖ Black crested jumper, white shirt/blouse, grey trousers/green skirt

❖ Fully black shoes

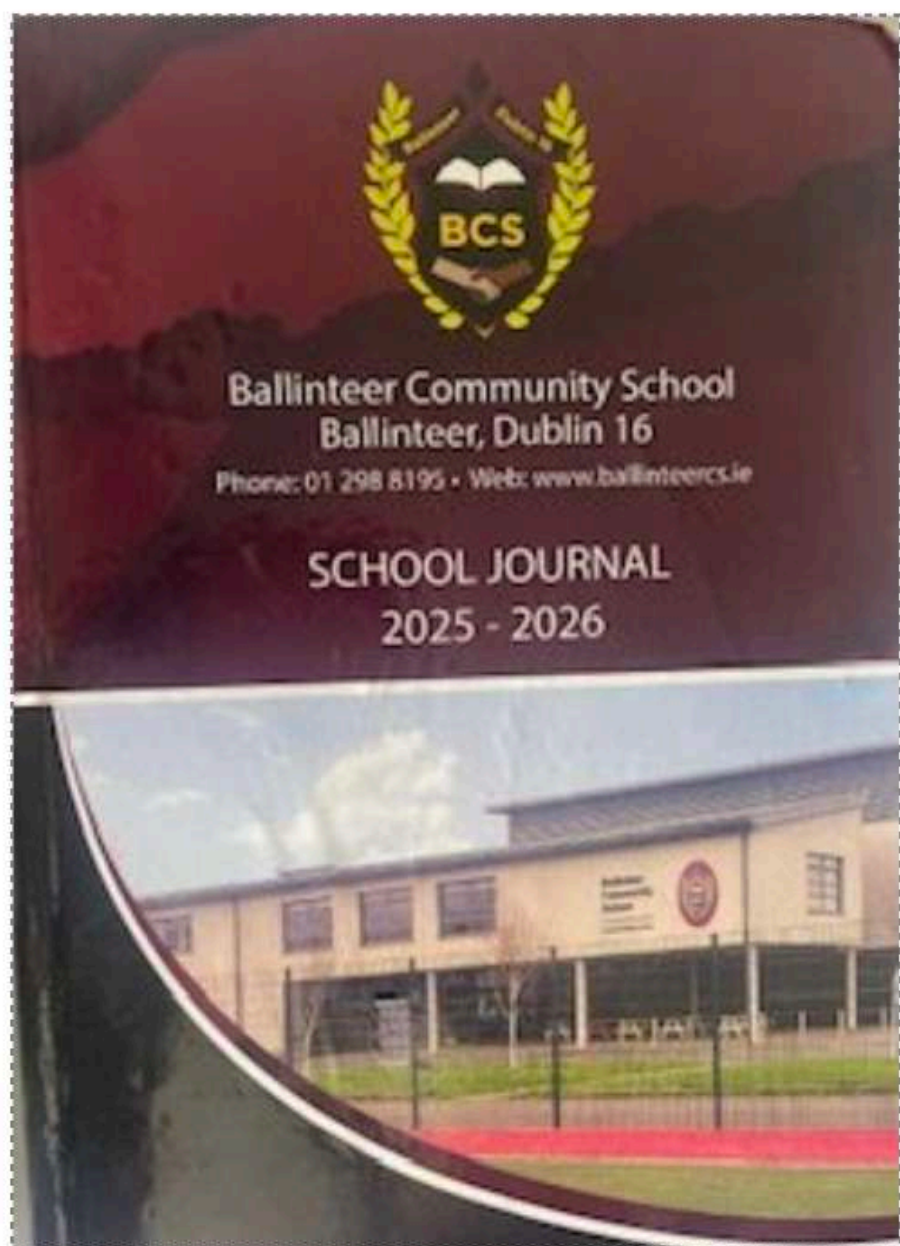


PE Uniform

❖ Worn only on PE days

❖ Full crested tracksuit: Tracksuit bottoms, quarter zip and t-shirt.





The School Journal

Parents/Guardians must check and sign the journal each week. This ensures an extra line of communication between you and teachers/First Year support team.

- ✓ Homework
- ✓ Notes
- ✓ Results
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ General Information
- ✓ Recording absences/Lates

All students are expected to study/learn the work that has been completed in every subject each day. It is also expected that all written assignments are completed to the best of their ability

Homework

Purpose of Homework

- To ensure that each student understands the content that has been covered that day – or attempts to improve their understanding
- To complete assignments and to prepare for coursework or projects.
- To revise the work learnt that week/month.

HOMEWORK/STUDY TIMES

YEAR	<u>WEEK NIGHT</u>	WEEKEND
1 st Years	1- 1 ½ hours	2- 2 ½ hours

Types of Homework

- Written work
- Reading/studying/oral work/researching/revision
- Project or coursework

1st Year Homework Club



We run a homework club on Tuesday and Thursday for 1 hour after school for 1st years. Snacks are provided.



This is run by the School Completion Team and it is free of charge.



This is a more informal space to get help and support with homework and schoolwork in comparison to regular supervised “After School Study”



The school run a supervised After-School Study service for all year groups.



It runs four days a week from Monday-Thursday for 2 hours after school.



1st and 2nd years have the option of doing the first hour of study only.



The cost is 100 euro for the year.

Supervised After School Study

Curriculum – Core & Option Subjects

Gaeilge

English

Maths

History

Geography

Religious Education (Exam)

CSPE/SPHE

PE

Science

French

Select Two Subjects From:

❖ Wood Technology

❖ Engineering

❖ Art

❖ Home Economics

❖ Graphics

❖ Music

❖ Business Studies

Each of the above will be offered in a taster programme before selection.

Each taster lasts 2 weeks (approx 3-4 hours).

Current and New Grade Bands

Grade Descriptor	Current Grade Bands	New Grade Bands
Distinction	≥ 90 to 100	≥ 85 to 100
Higher Merit	≥ 75 and < 90	≥ 70 and < 85
Merit	≥ 55 and < 75	≥ 55 and < 70
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40	≥ 20 and < 40
Not Graded	≥ 0 and < 20	≥ 0 and < 20

Junior Cycle

- ❖ Over the next 3 years, your son/daughter will work towards their JCPA (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) based on their core and optional subjects.
- ❖ Two Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) which are teacher graded, and an Assessment Task which is corrected by the SEC.
- ❖ Final state exam at end of Third Year



Government Funded Lunches & Snacks

Fresh Today supply snacks and hot lunches for all students free of charge in school every day of the week.

A menu for the week is printed and posted around the school on a Monday morning.

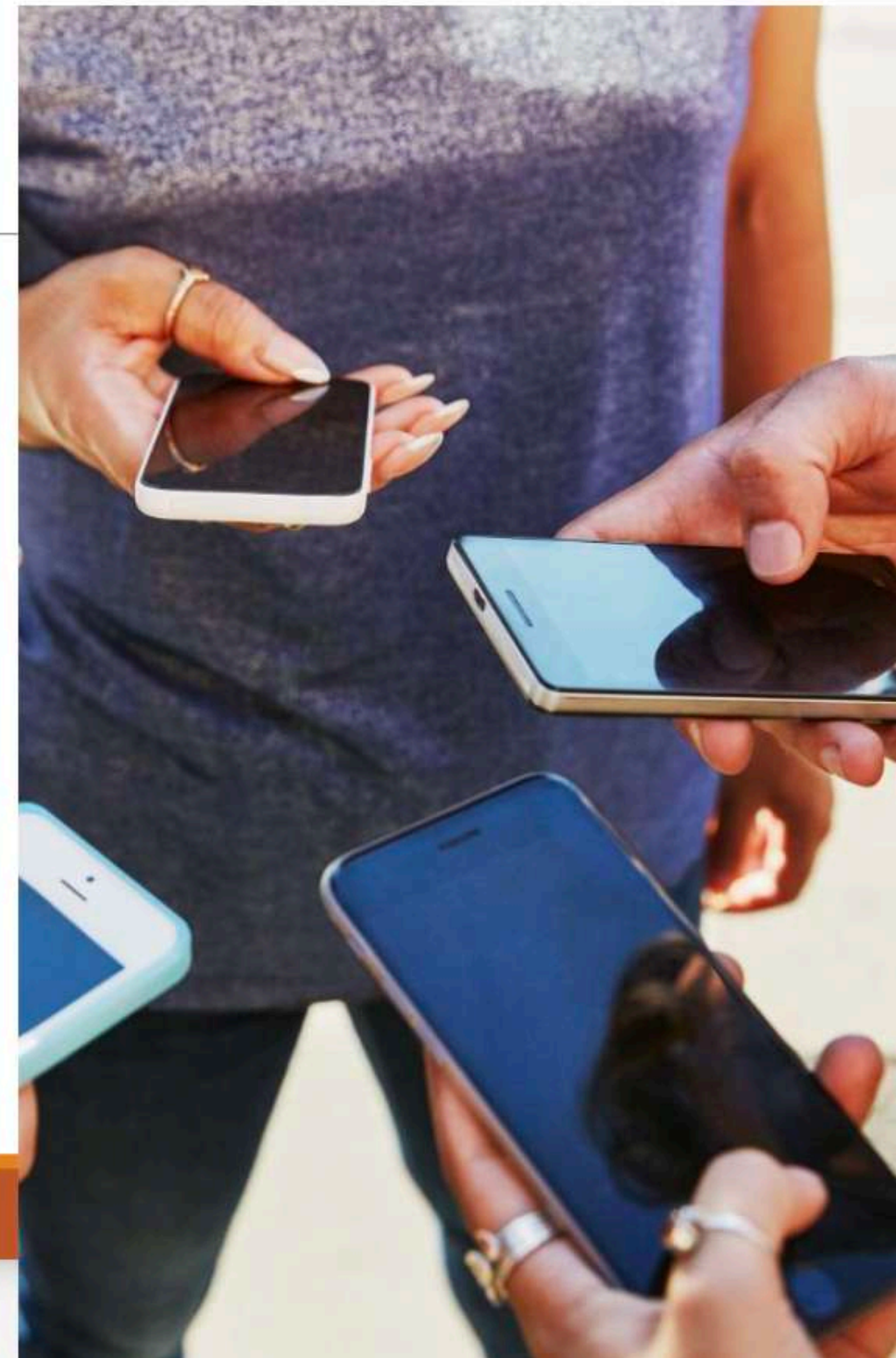
Snacks at break range from fresh fruit to rice cakes.

Hot lunches range from chicken and pasta carbonara to bangers and mash with vegetables. Vegetarian and Vegan options are also available for students.

BCS Mobile Phone Policy

Students are not permitted to use a mobile phone at any stage of the school day inside or outside of the classroom.

Phones are to be left in bags and powered off. Year Head will contact home if/when needed.



VShare

VShare is the software system the school uses to track attendance, academic reports and behaviour.

This app notifies you with a text when your child is absent from school.

You will have a login for this to view reports and input a message into the app if you want to notify the school of an absence on a certain day or explain why your child has been absent previously.



Extra-Curricular Opportunities

- ❖ Football
- ❖ Basketball
- ❖ Athletics
- ❖ Badminton
- ❖ Swimming
- ❖ Lunch-time Chess Club
- ❖ Music Club
- ❖ Lego/Robotics Club
- ❖ Green Schools



Transition to First Year

The transition to Secondary School will come with varying levels of excitement and/or stress

Class Structure will be mixed ability in First Year

Students will move classroom every hour

Each subject has different assessments

Students will get more homework

Students will explore new subjects

Our task as the support team is to ensure that we make it as smooth and enjoyable a process as possible for them

What's Next?

First Year Induction
2026 will be held on
Thursday 27st August.

Information letters have
been sent to you. A
follow up letter will be
sent in June

VSware is now open for
essential items
payments such as
photocopying, student
insurance etc.

Visit the school website
for the most up to date
information at
www.ballinteercs.ie



Any further questions – rachel.garland@ballinteerics.ie



THANK
YOU