

Uniform Reminder

The uniform jumper has been updated and the new school jumper will be introduced on a phased basis so as to allow for minimum financial impact on parents.

The new jumpers will be compulsory for:

- ↳ All new 1st years in September 2019
- ↳ All new 1st years in September 2020 and
- ↳ All students in September 2021

The Board have also instructed all future uniforms stocked in shops to be of a single high quality jumper type (70%/30% - acrylic/wool combination) so as to ensure they are long lasting.



New School Jumper

Awards Night

The annual school awards will be held on Thursday May 16th. The ceremony will be streamed live via the school website.

Highlights on the night include Students of the Year and Sportspersons of the Year. The school magazine will also be launched. Parents/students are asked to buy the magazine early to avoid disappointment. Special guests on the night will present certificates to all nominees. The Awards will be held in the school Gymnasium. This will allow all Leaving Certificate students and their parents the opportunity to attend this great event before the students graduate in late May. As you can appreciate, the organisation of the night is quite onerous on the school so we would ask for your cooperation so as to maintain the highest standards set in previous ceremonies.



Students and sports persons of the year 2018 with Ms Moloney



Tarbert Comprehensive School



Newsletter

Welcome Back....

May 2019 Volume 7 Issue 03

The end of the School year is almost here and while the clock ticks down I want to strongly emphasise the importance at this time of year of high rates of student attendance. All students should be here right up to the very last day of term so that they benefit fully from class work, revision work and home work. Finally I want to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to another very successful year in the School.

Richard Prendiville - Príomhoide

Summer Exams

Summer Exams run the week of May 27th (timetables will be available on the school website from mid-May). Exam results will not be posted home (similar to Christmas) but will be made available on VSWare in mid-June.

I also wish to remind parents that the attendance landing page on VSWare is a very useful tool in analysing your child's attendance and participation rates – please look at it just as carefully as the results section.

Students have been reminded about the importance of these exams as an important stepping stone in their State Exams preparation and as an indicator on their progress in school to date.

Registration for 2019-2020

Preparation for the new school year is already well underway. With this in mind all students returning to the Comprehensive School must complete registration for the year ahead.

The yearly charge of €70 (€120 per family) which we ask from parents is used as follows: student insurance providing 24hour cover all year round, Study Skills for Leaving and Junior Certificate students, texting service, School app, school reflection days, buses for all extra curricular outings including matches and other events, photocopied materials and hand-outs.

As you can see the money is put to very good use and allows us offer opportunities and resources to our students in a wide spectrum of areas. The registration process will be rolled out on a year group by year group basis and will be concluded by May 2019.

In an attempt to make matters more convenient for parents there will be an online payment option. This may be more appealing to parents who would prefer not sending cash to school. In order to avail of the facility please log on to VSWare with your user name and password.

The online fee will be applied to only one child per family under the 'Fees Management' tab. Please remember that the signed registration form must still be returned to school following online payment. Be aware that a transaction fee does apply for the facility. If there are any questions please contact the school office staff.

End of half days

I wish to remind parents that students will **not be permitted to arrive in late or go home early for the duration of the summer exams - instead all students will be expected to remain in school for the full school day and study at times when they are not sitting exams.**

Therefore students are required to be present in school for the full day when they have timetabled exams. Any student who disregards these instructions and feel they can arrive for part of a day - at a minimum - will not have examinations administered to at that time and may not have them administered within the school.

Child Safeguarding Statement

At a recent Board of Management meeting a Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment was completed.

All students, staff and students of the School should be aware that Mr Richard Prendiville is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for all child protection concerns in the School.

Ms Leila Moloney is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDLDP). The full Statement and Assessment is available on the School website.

Summer Works

Summer 2019 will see a considerable amount of work being undertaken in the School. New windows have already been installed in late April in the old extension. Painting and re-carpeting will be completed in certain rooms in the School.

The biggest project however involves the refurbishment of 2 Science labs. The rooms will be completely gutted and re-modelled for the 21st century. It is hoped the labs will be ready by the first week in September 2019.

State Examinations

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations begin on **Wednesday June 5th 2019**. A letter will be arriving to the parents of examination students in the coming weeks informing them of school procedures around the exams. Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with these school procedures for the duration of the exams.

Timetables for Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Certificate exams can be downloaded from the school website tarbertcomprehensive.ie (or www.examinations.ie) under the Guidance → Sixth Year/Third Year section. It is advisable to print off your son/daughter's timetable, highlight the exams relevant to him/her and keep it somewhere convenient for you to follow.

Students are reminded they are required to wear the school uniform during exams. The school polo shirt can be worn in place of the school shirt and tie. Uniforms will be provided for anyone who presents in any other clothing. As always, contact the school around any concerns you may have for your son/daughter around exam time. In the case of unexpected illness etc. on the day of an exam please make contact with us as soon as possible to allow arrangements to be put in place.

Good luck to all our students and their parents during the exams.



Board of Management

The members of the school Board of Management are:

Mrs Mary McGillicuddy (Chairperson)
Ms Ann Flavin
Cllr. Jim Finucane
Ms Ann O'Dwyer, Kerry RTB
Ms Niamh Wall
Mr Ted O'Connor
Sr Frances Day
Ms Anne O'Sullivan
Mr Andrew McNamara
Mr Richard Prendiville (Secretary)

Should you wish to communicate with the Board of Management you may do so by writing to the Secretary of the Board at the school address, or contacting either of the parent's nominees, again using the school address.

All correspondence addressed to members of the Board is treated as private and confidential and is not opened in the school.

Return of School Books

I wish to remind parents and students that as books are part of the rental system they must be returned at the end of 3rd year. During the June exams students are asked to return each rented book on the day the exam is held. A strict register is kept each day. In this way books can be recycled in time for the new 1st years to be ready in September. I am asking all students and parents to cooperate with this system to ensure a successful running of the book rental scheme.

New Junior Certificate Update

Junior students now study for the JCPA – Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. The JCSA phase in process will be complete next September when new 1st years will have all their subjects taught under the new programme. Currently students in 1st year to 3rd year are doing a combination of new courses and old.

The following year groups will have the new JCSA phased in as follows:

- 3rd years 2019/20 – English, Science and Business, Irish, French and Art
- 2nd Years 2019/20 – as above + Maths, Home Ec., History, Geography, Music
- 1st years 2019/20 – as above + Woodwork, Metalwork, Technical Graphics

With new courses come new forms of assessment and new ways of teaching. In 2nd year (around April/May) students will undertake a CBA – a classroom based assessment. This exam is set at a common level and is not worth any final marks but is still invaluable in that it makes students reflect on their own work and progress. CBA's are again completed in 3rd year around Christmas time. Overall students are graded according to – *Exceptional, Above expectations, In line with expectations, and Yet to meet expectations.*

AT's or Assessment Tasks are completed around April/May of 3rd year. It is a written task completed in class time (double class) and is sent away to the SEC for correction. The task is specifically linked to the Christmas CBA so that students are comfortable and familiar with the topic. The AT is worth approximately 10% of the final grade in most subjects.

All students in the new JCPA also have , traditionally not recognised in the JC before, now acknowledged. So the more your child is involved in School related activities the better – such as being involved on the School football team, choir, young scientist, student council etc. Students from 1st year will keep a log of what they do – by 3rd year this is verified and recorded by the School and acknowledged on the official results. Therefore the new JCPA will provide evidence of a broader range of learning and involvement for the student than was ever reflected before.

Finally all JCPA students must also study the area of **Wellbeing** – this is a combination of SPHE, CSPE, PE and other aspects of care that the School offers. In second year for example, Tarbert Comprehensive computer classes will also contribute to wellbeing as students will examine the notion of digital wellbeing – so that students are aware of appropriate online behaviour, dangers online etc. Mentioning technology, it should also be noted that a number of subjects are likely to see students increasingly use **ePortfolios** to demonstrate their learning. Students will have the normal sit down exams in June of 3rd year. All in all the changes are exciting and we will keep you up to date with developments. For further information please go to www.curriculumonline.ie or www.tarbert-comprehensive.ie – Policies – New Junior Cycle

School Re-opening 2019/2020

Tarbert Comprehensive School will re-open on Monday 26th of August 2019.

For students a staggered return will operate as follows:

- 1st Years Only - Monday 9am to 12pm
- 1st Years/3rd Years & LC2 mentors - Tuesday
- 1st Years/2nd Years/3rd Years/LC2 - Wednesday
- 1st Years/2nd Years/3rd Years/LC2/LC1/LCA1 Induction - Thursday
- 1st Years/2nd Years/3rd Years/TY Induction/LCA1/LC1/LC2/LCA2 - Friday

Complete School Calendar 2019/2020

The layout of the 2019/20 school year including holiday, midterm and parent teacher meeting dates can now be downloaded under the 'People' → 'Parents' section from the schools web page at www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie.

It may be advisable to print a hard copy of the calendar and keep it for consultation. School policies, plans and procedures can also be viewed under the 'Policies & Publications' section.

Please be aware that 2 days of student school closure (for staff in service) are not yet shown on the calendar as the dates are not currently finalised – parents will be informed as soon as possible.