



Newsletter

A Warm Welcome...

April 2016 Volume 3 - Issue 03

Welcome to the final newsletter of the 2015-2016 school year. I hope this finds you well and that all of you had a relaxing and enjoyable break. Easter arrived to us much earlier this year and consequently we now face into a much longer final term than normal. This term is a crucial period for both exam and non exam classes as tuition continues to cover both senior and junior curricula. It is vital that student attendance is maintained to the very last day of term so students benefit fully from class work and home work.

Finally I want to sincerely thank everyone – who has contributed to another very successful year in the Comprehensive School.

Richard Prendiville - Principal

Registration for '16-17

Preparation for the new school year has already begun. With this in mind all students returning to the Comprehensive School must complete the registration process. The yearly contribution of €60 (€100 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, school retreats, buses for all matches and other extracurricular outings, photocopies and upkeep of the library. 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 it is hoped will be concluded by mid May 2016.

State Examinations

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations begin on Wednesday June 8th 2016.

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 latest news blog. 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 should make sure they have all the necessary stationary e.g. biros, calculators, for their exams some days prior to the exam. Midnight before an exam is never a good time to look for the pencil case! Healthy eating is more important than ever at exam time. A breakfast is always a good start to the day and a good lunch for those with afternoon exams is just as important. It is difficult to concentrate on an empty stomach. Remember a little exercise and fresh air at exam time also helps.

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.

future planning 2016/17

Work on finalising courses on offer at junior and senior cycle from September 2016 is now complete. Going forward the school will have an unprecedented 3 Transition Year groups. 99 students are progressing into LC1 where the school continues to offer as wide a curriculum as possible. Unfortunately Leaving Certificate Applied year 1 will not go ahead for the coming year.

Complete School Calendar 2016/17

The layout of the 2016/17 school year including holiday, midterm and parent teacher meeting dates can now be downloaded under the 'Events Blog' 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 tab.

Summer Exams

Summer Exams run the week of May 30th (timetables will be available on the school website from mid May). Exam results will be posted home in mid June. 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. Can I remind parents that students do not need to leave school early or arrive late in order to study at home. They can study in school when they have no exams so that as much as possible disruption to the school day is kept to a minimum.

AWARDS NIGHT

The annual school awards will be held on Thursday May 19th. The ceremony will be streamed live via the school website.

Highlights on the night include Students of the Year, Sportspersons of the Year and Principals Award. 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.

In a change with previous years – the Awards will now be held in the school Gymnasium. There are a number of reasons for changing location but above all I feel that all Leaving Certificate students and their parents should have an opportunity to attend this unique event before the students graduate in late May. As you can appreciate, the change of venue will entail substantial organisation and strict guidelines will soon be sent to Leaving Cert. parents on how we would like to accommodate the numbers. We would ask for your cooperation in this matter so as to maintain the highest standards set in previous ceremonies.



Students of the Year 2015 Jack Egan & Erin Finucane with Mary Chute, Chairperson Parents Association and Mr. Prendiville

New Board of Management

The selection/election of nominees to the new Board of Management has been concluded and members of the new Board are listed hereunder.

Please note that the official time/date for the handover of Board responsibilities is 23.59 hours on **April 12th 2016**. The current Board will continue to operate until this time.

I want to congratulate Ms. Niamh Wall and Mr. Ted O'Connor on their election as parental representatives for the coming 5 year term.

The nominees/representatives to the new Board are as follows:

Mrs. Mary McGillicuddy
(Chairperson)
Ms. Ann Flavin
Cllr. Jim Finucane
Ms. Ann O'Dwyer
Ms. Niamh Wall
Mr. Ted O'Connor
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.

School Re-opening 16/17

Tarbert Comprehensive School will re-open (Staff only) on Thursday 25th of August 2016. For students a staggered return will operate as follows:

1st Years Only	Friday 26th August (9am to 12pm – Please note no buses will operate)
1st Years/3rd Years & LC2 mentors	Monday 29th August (full day – buses will fully operate)
1st Years/3rd Years/LC2	Tuesday 30th August (full day)
1st Years/3rd Years LC2/LC1/LCA1 Induction	Wednesday 31st August (full day)
1st Years/2nd Years 3rd Years/TY Induction	Thursday 1st September (full day) LCA1/LC1/LC2

PROCLAMATION DAY

The school marked the 1916 rising with a series of events on March 15th. A whole school flag raising ceremony was held in the morning followed by events throughout the day including information 'tours' of 1916 battle sites for Junior classes, poems, songs and compositions by students and staff and a Gaelic football match in the traditional rules at lunchtime. Students and staff also dressed in clothing of the era as well as the colours of the Tricolour. It was an exceptionally memorable day and I want to thank all involved for making it such a success.



Raising the Tricolour – March 15th 2016

PROCLAMATION DAY (CONTINUED)



L-R David Lynch, Mr. Trench and Denis Heaphy



TY Students with their 1916 styling



Members of staff enjoying the occasion

Concern

Tarbert Comprehensive School was recognised by Concern as the top school in Ireland again this year for its fundraising efforts on behalf of the charity. The CEO of Concern Worldwide Mr. Dominic MacSorley visited the school in March to acknowledge the schools unprecedented efforts in raising funds and awareness for this 3rd World charity. In all the school has raised almost €200,000 for the charity over the past three decades.



Mr. Dominic MacSorley, CEO Concern Worldwide presents Ms. Carroll a plaque to recognise Tarbert Comprehensive being named top fundraising school in Ireland

CONCERN
worldwide

School building Extension

The long awaited school extension project was concluded some weeks ago and the school has finally taken over the new area. The school can now benefit from 3 new modern and bright classrooms. These rooms will be used as general subject areas with one room dedicated entirely to special education needs.

The school fitness suite is also nearing completion. It is hoped it will be available for students from the beginning of the 2016/17 school year. I want to sincerely thank members of the Parents Association, parental body and general public for the ongoing support in fundraising for this project. The Association in particular are to be commended for their foresight and hard work in organising both a fashion show and bingo event this year so as to fund the purchase of equipment for the suite. On behalf of the school I humbly thank you.

Green Schools Update

Green Schools is well and truly underway here in Tarbert Comprehensive School. The committee are working hard trying to achieve our first Green Flag for reducing litter and waste.

We have completed 5 out of the 7 steps in the 2 year process.

As a group we have identified keys areas to combat litter and waste in our schools:

1. Set up a wormery for food waste
2. Keep our two bin system in place
3. Raise Awareness in our school and community
4. Reduce Paper by using Google Drive

So far we have:

- Successfully reduced our paper consumption by almost 50%
- Set up a wormery
- Made students aware- surveying a large sample of whole school and 1st years have designed posters for a competition
- ... and made new friends!
- LCA students have made a video to promote recycling and reducing our waste
- On February 8th we hosted a compost master class for our green schoolers and TY's.



As part of Tarbert Comprehensive School's Green Schools work, the Leaving Cert Applied class made a short film called Let's go Green. Lisa Fingleton, who is the Kerry County Council's Filmmaker in Residence at the present time, worked with Mrs. Carrig and the LCA class to produce an excellent short film about our work for the Green Schools Flag here at the Comprehensive. In the photograph, which was taken in our school's greenhouse, the students are pictured with Lisa as they were planning for their film. You may watch the film if you log on to YouTube and search for "Let's Go Green Tarbert," or find the link on the school website.



TCS Equestrian Victory

Twelve of our students recently participated in the interschools Munster show jumping event, which took place at Clonshire Equestrian Centre, Adare, Co. Limerick. Our school had three teams. Aoife O'Brien, Aine Enright, Aoife Foley, Eanna O'Connor, Siun Walsh, Niamh O'Carroll, Rachel Martin, Antoinette Murphy, Aodha Mulvihill, Sarah Murphy, Ciara Walsh, and Aobha Quinn represented our school with great skill and bravery. On his trusted horse Midnight, Eanna took first place in the individuals competition. Aoife Foley, on Mockass Dream, captured third place against stiff opposition. Both winners are pictured with Mrs. Carrig here in the photograph. All of our students displayed nerves of steel as they faced into the fences in the arenas, indoor and outdoor. We wish to acknowledge the assistance of Tracy Quinn, Rachel Dean, and Emily Vial, who were present with the students to support and tutor them. Thank you, too, to the parents who travelled. It was an interesting and excellent day.



Remembering Donal Walsh

Tarbert students attended the 3rd annual "Live Life Love" Day at the Brandon Conference Centre in Tralee recently, in honour of Donal Walsh - an amazing teenager. As part of our participation, our students made a film entitled Love the Lighthouse. It was submitted for the Live Life National Film Competition 2016. You can view this film on YouTube (search "Love the Lighthouse"), or find the link on the school website. The film was made with the assistance of Alison Lavery, who volunteered to work on camera and editing, and Maria Svensson, Kerry County Council Dancer in Residence, who tutored all the students in their dance routine. It was part of their Social, Personal, and Health Education Programme.



Pictured here are several students with Kerry footballers, Mark O'Shea and Aiden O'Mahony at the event in Tralee.

Best of luck in the exams ahead!