



Tarbert Comprehensive School

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Newsletter

Welcome back...

Welcome to the second newsletter of the year. As 2013 draws to a close it's important we keep you up to date with developments within the school over the past few weeks.

Firstly thank you for your patience and understanding around the recent cancellation of Open Night and postponement of both the LC2 and JC3 parent teacher meetings. Both parent teacher meetings were postponed in the hope that industrial action by the ASTI would be resolved and so allow us to minimise disruption of the school day to students. It is important that the school day is preserved as much as possible and disruption to tuition time is kept to a minimum.

The revised dates for the parent teacher meetings are as follows. If the ASTI dispute is resolved (after going to print) then the meetings will occur in the evening time and students will have classes as normal for the entire day. However if the dispute continues as it has done then the meeting will occur within school time. School will close at 1pm and buses would run as normal at this time. A text message will be sent a week prior to the following dates confirming the times

Richard Prendiville - Principal

November 2013 Issue 02

Upcoming Parent Teacher Meetings

LC2 and LCA2 Parent Teacher Meeting
on Thursday December 12th
(either 1.50pm to 3.50pm or 4.15pm to 7.45pm)

JC3 Parent Teacher Meeting
on Tuesday December 17th
(either 1.50pm to 3.50pm or 4.15pm to 7.45pm)

A similar rearrangement of parent teacher meeting in the new year may be necessary. Parents will be advised by text closer to the time.

Attending a Parent Teacher Meeting...

Ideally separated parents are asked to come to an agreement on which one of them attends a parent teacher meeting. Where both parents may wish to attend then we would ask that they would do so together or divide the teachers/subjects amongst themselves. Unfortunately it is not possible to accommodate both parents attending separately as it duplicates work and time at parent teacher meetings is already limited.

Christmas / Autumn Exams



Exam Time...

Christmas / Autumn Exams run from **Tuesday November 26th to Friday November 29th**. Exam results will be posted home before Christmas.

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.

School Website...

Please visit the schools new web page at www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie for up to date information on school news and events.

The school calendar can be downloaded under the 'Events Blog'. It may be advisable to print the calendar and keep it for consultation. School policies, plans and procedures can also be viewed under the policies tab.

Board of Management

The members of the school Board of Management are:

Ms. Mary McGillicuddy
Chairperson

Ms. Ann O'Dwyer
Kerry ETB Nominee

Cllr. Jim Finucane
Kerry ETB Nominee

Ms. Ann Flavin
Bishop's Nominee

Ms. Ciara O'Connor
Staff Nominee

Mr. Noel Keenan
Staff Nominee

Ms. Ann Woods
Parents Nominee

Mr. Ted O'Connor
Parents Nominee

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.

Communication...

Given that a lot of communication between school and home occurs by text can I remind you that if it is a case that you change your mobile number or feel you are not receiving such messages then please contact the school office and we will rectify the problem.

It is at all times vital that home and school are communicating. Use the journal, check the journal and telephone whenever you have an issue that needs more than a note. Please be sure to make an appointment before coming to the school. We welcome parents but school is a very busy place and we need advance notice of all meetings and appointments. Naturally, when there is anything urgent, no such formalities apply.

Please remember to check the school journal at least once a week. From time to time notes and signatures may be forged by students. This not only breaks the home-school communication but can lead to problems being undetected and consequently unresolved.



Whole School Evaluation - Management, Leadership and Learning (WSE-MLL)

The WSE-MLL inspection report by the Department of Education Inspectorate has been published on the DES website. The report is a positive affirmation of the excellent work that goes on in the school. It can be viewed under the inspection reports section of the DES website at www.education.ie or on our school website under the 'Policies' tab.

Child Protection

Please find enclosed with this newsletter a leaflet to inform parents/guardians about the responsibilities and duties we have as a school in relation to child protection and dealing with allegations or suspicions of abuse. The schools child protection policy and the '**National Child Protection Procedures**' are available to view on the school website. The schools child protection policy is currently under review. The schools **Anti Bullying Policy** is also under review. In particular the issues around cyber bullying will be looked at.

School drop off and collection

Can I remind parents that the front gate of the school is not an appropriate area to turn in the mornings and evenings. Instead it is advised to use the upper bus gate to turn. Students can then be dropped at the bottom of the steps.

The main gate needs to be kept free as an entrance and exit point – the risk of an accident is greatly reduced by using the upper gate to turn.

...Keep up to date...

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE LATEST NEWS & EVENTS ONLINE
SIMPLY CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT
www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie

JC3 Results 2013

Congratulations to our students who achieved wonderful Junior Cert results. Statistics again show considerable success. Nationally 55.7% of students got an A, B or C grade at higher level in their exams. In Tarbert Comprehensive School this was 61%.

When you consider that our school is non selective, non fee paying, unstreamed and totally mixed ability then the results are even more impressive. There are a number of reasons for this higher level of achievement but ultimately it comes down to the hard work of the students and staff as well as the value parents in our school community place on education. Long may this success continue. Again I congratulate students and teachers alike.



Year Heads / Co-Ordinators

A reminder that if you have any concerns regarding your son / daughter then you should contact their Year Head in the first instance. The Year Heads for the academic year 2013/14 are:

1st Years – Ms. R. O Donoghue

2nd Years – Ms. B. Neligan

3rd Years – Mr. K. O Keeffe

LC1 – Ms. C. O Connor

LC2 – Mr. T. Culhane

LCA Co-ordinator – Ms. L. Moloney

TY Co-ordinator – Ms. M. Hogan

LCVP Co-ordinator – Mr. P. McElligott

You may contact any of the above by telephoning the school in the first instance. Naturally all staff have formal timetabled classes and so may not be in a position to speak to you instantly but they will get back to you at their earliest convenience. Please also note that it is vital appointments are made through the office should you wish to meet any of the above in person.

Transition Year

Having begun with an induction day way back at the end of August our 43 Transition Year students are now well used to the demands of the TY programme. November assessments are currently underway in the main subject areas and we are all looking forward to the exchange trip to France at the end of the month. This will be the third year of the exchange, an experience which is of huge benefit to all students not just in improving their French but also in terms of building confidence and gaining maturity.

This year as well as studying the core subjects in preparation for LC1, students are also sampling Leaving Cert option subjects in detail especially the science subjects. This will not only give them a good foundation for next year but will also help them make an informed decision in the coming months when they have to pick their Leaving Cert options. So far this term our TY students have had several surf lessons as well as doing hill walking and kickboxing. They completed a two week work placement at the end of October where many students received outstanding reports.

Young Social Innovator projects this year include the topics of rural isolation , climate and the cost of living .Enterprise projects are also up and running and include making swim hats , Christmas wreaths , nail art, slurry safety, Christmas cards , TY treats and cakes, and many more besides . Dragons Den had better watch out !!! So less than 3 months into the year and already a lot has been achieved. Roll on the next 6 months.

Christmas Holidays December 21st, 2013 - January 6th, 2014