



# Newsletter

## A Warm Welcome...

Welcome to the 3rd and final newsletter of the academic year. It's hard to imagine that we are now only weeks away from the state exams and the end of the 2013/14 year. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to speed on recent events in the Comprehensive School in what has been an eventful and hardworking term.

*Richard Prendiville - Principal*

May 2014 Issue 03

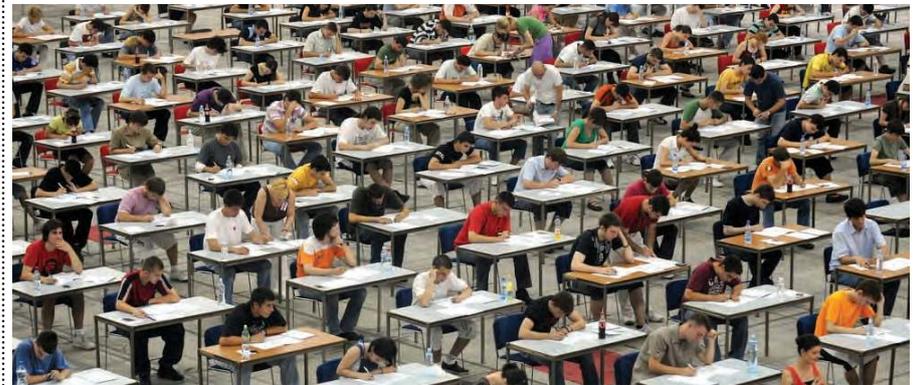
## State Examinations 2014

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations **begin** on **Wednesday June 4th 2014**.

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.

## 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Tarbert Comprehensive School continues its 40th anniversary celebrations by inviting members of the public, past pupils and staff as well as current parents and students to attend an evening of celebration on Tuesday May 20th at 7.30 pm. The Bishop of Kerry Ray Browne will celebrate a religious service in the school gym followed by some food and a chance to view the main school building after. Anyone interested in attending should simply give their name(s) to **Maureen** or **Bridget** in the main office on **068 36105**.



The full exams timetable is available on the school website at [www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie](http://www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie) or [www.examinations.ie](http://www.examinations.ie).

## School Examinations 2014

### Summer Exams run the week of May 26th.

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.*



## School Website

Please visit the schools new web page at

[www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie](http://www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie)

for up to date information on school news and events. The school calendar for 2014/15 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.



## School Awards

The annual school awards will be held on Thursday May 15th.

Highlights on the night include:

- Students of the Year,
- Sportspersons of the Year
- 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.

## School building

The Department of Education and Skills has granted Tarbert Comprehensive School funding for an additional 3 classrooms and 2 student bathrooms.

While the school had hoped for more accommodation it is nonetheless welcome funding on the schools 40th birthday that will enable us to cater for the school's student and staff into the future. I want to sincerely thank my predecessor, Mary McGillicuddy, for her foresight and hard work in putting much of the application together prior to her retirement. The support of the Parents Association is also to be commended. Tendering for the building will begin shortly. It would be hoped that the new classrooms would come online in September 2015.

This summer we are hoping to see a considerable amount of renovation work done across the school. The Board of Management has approved the creation of an additional computer lab within the existing building, at a substantial investment of school resources. Demand for the existing school computer labs continues to rise from many subject departments. It is hoped an additional lab will increase student access and reduce congestion.

Other changes planned include corridor painting, bathroom renovations and room extensions. The work is substantial and ambitious with support from the Board of Management as well as the Parents Association essential.

## School Uniform Poll Results

Following the release of circular 0063/2013 around the issue of school uniforms - a survey of parental attitudes to the current school uniform was posted to every family in the school and the closing date for returns was 21/1/14. Approximately 550 questionnaires were dispatched and 366 were returned.

The main outcomes to the questions posed were:

- 98% of parents feel that in general that school uniforms are a good idea.
- 99% feel that a school uniform gives a school its own identity.
- 97% of parents want a school uniform for Tarbert Comprehensive School.
- 74% of parents want the crest incorporated (pre stitched) on to the school jumper.
- Of the choices given 84% want no blazer, 6% want a blazer and 10% want a blazer and jumper.
- 30% want shoes as a compulsory part of the uniform while the remainder do not.

Overall this survey indicates that parents are generally satisfied with the status quo and compared with other schools our uniform is functional and cost effective.

Consequently the Board of Management will be making no alteration to the existing school uniform.

## Future Planning

Work on finalising courses on offer at senior cycle from September 2014 is well underway. Going forward the school has yet again seen a very high demand for Transition Year with 48 students entering the programme.

122 students are progressing into LC1 where the school continues to offer as wide a curriculum as possible.

**Unfortunately the LCA programme will not be running for the coming year.**

# Extra Curricular School Activities

I want to pay tribute to our extra-curricular mentors and coaches who continue to give of their own personal time in the provision of a wide range of sporting, musical and cultural activities on offer in the school to our students.

These activities add to the holistic growth of our young people who are given every opportunity to flourish in their chosen field. Success in winning competitions or events is only part of their story; many of these teachers pursue mentoring our students simply for the love of the activity and the enrichment of our young people. To those teachers and the students involved I offer a sincere 'Thank You'. You make our school a better place.

In recent weeks I want to especially acknowledge the work of both the schools Rugby and GAA coaches for their successes and hard work. One of our LC1 Students Ben Betts has made the Irish Rugby team U18 team and has represented his country in international matches including away games against France and England.

Ben has been playing rugby with Young Munster and the Comp. for many years now. His success is also a great tribute to Mr. Trench as recognition for his years of dedication to the schools rugby contingent. We applaud Ben's success and wish him well in the years ahead. We are very proud of him.

Can I also congratulate the U16 1/2 GAA team who recorded a memorable win in the Munster final in Tralee on April 11th. The team guided by Mr. O'Shea, Mr. Killeen, Mr. McNamara and Eamon McElligott had a famous victory in a competition last won in 2001. Well done to all concerned.

Not to be outdone – the Girls GAA team were the 1st to deliver silverware to the school this year. The final was played in Charleville against Carrigaline of Cork and at the final whistle the score was 3-10 to 2-9 in Tarbert Comprehensive's favour. A special word of thanks to Laura Lavery (former student) the girls coach who has given much of her time to training the Girls GAA teams in the school and also to Mary Carrig. Many thanks also to Maria Somers, Mary O'Connor and Aisling Culhane teachers who were involved in the girl's progress.



## Year Heads & Co-ordinators 2013 - 2014

### The Year Heads for the academic year 2013/14

- 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

## Contacting us..

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

The Transition Year students thanks to Adams of Glin have won an Early Driving Programme run by SEAT.

The event was being held at Mondello Park on Tuesday the 6th of May.

EARLY-DRIVE is a new concept in learning to drive, which gives young people the chance to drive before taking to the road for the first time. In the safe facility that is Mondello Park and under the expert guidance of Irish School of Motoring Trained Instructors, young drivers are taught the rudiments of driving in safety, as well as being introduced to a number of 'what if' scenarios.

We sincerely want to thank SEAT Ireland for their sponsorship of this initiative and Shane Adams of Adams of Glin, a former student of the school, for thinking of Tarbert Comprehensive School with this initiative.



Shane Adams of Adams of Glin with TY students Kate Moore, Niamh Trant, Sean Neville and John Scully.



## Parents Association

The annual Fashion Show was held in the Tinteán Theatre Ballybunion on Friday March 28th and was a tremendous success.

I want to sincerely thank the executive committee of the Parents Association for their Trojan work in organising the event. Profits raised from the event feed back into the school and it is hoped to use this funds in the coming months towards school renovations.

Well done to all!



## Academic Year 14/15

The calendar for 2014/15 has been finalised for the coming year. Tarbert Comprehensive will re-open (Staff only) on Monday 25th August 2014 with students returning as follows:

- 1st Years Only –Tuesday 26th August 2014  
(9am to 12pm only)
- 1st Years/3rd Years & LC2 mentors – Wednesday 27th August 2014  
(Full day)
- 1st Years/3rd Years/LC1/LC2/LCA2- Thursday 28th of August 2014  
(Full day)
- All students/TY Induction – Friday 29th of August 2014  
(Full day)

## Board of Management

The members of the school Board of management are:

- Ms. Mary McGillicuddy – Chairperson**
- Ms. Ann O'Dwyer – Kerry ETB Nominee**
- Clr. 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.