

## Parents Association

Sincere thanks to the Parents Association for all their hard work and support to the school in the past year. Recent initiatives by the Association include sponsorship of the Students of the Year watches to the value of €300. The Association have also funded the purchase of specialised sound curtains that will allow various functions to be held in the school gym in future years. Finally the Association have kindly provided €2,000 to help towards the continued regeneration and re-stocking of the school library.

Mrs. Niamh Wall, Treasurer of the Parents Association recently presenting a cheque of €2000 to Ms. Gerardine O'Callaghan and Ms. Marianne Anderson for the school library.



## Sponsorship from Fitzpatrick's Buses'

**New Jerseys:** Fitzpatrick's buses Listowel have generously sponsored new rugby jerseys in Tarbert Comprehensive School for the coming year. Rugby continues to be one of the major sporting activities in the school with both male and female teams active at Junior and Senior levels.



Mr. Tim Fitzpatrick presenting Mr. Richard Prendiville with a new set of school rugby jerseys. Also in the photo are Colm McSweeney (Ballyhahill), Ben Betts (Ballyhahill), Seán Horan (Glin) and Jamie Diggins (Tarbert)



Tarbert Comprehensive School



# Newsletter

Welcome Back....

May 2015 Issue 04

Welcome to the 4th and final newsletter of the academic year 2014/15. We are now into the final run in of the last term and I hope that this finds you and your family well.

This newsletter is designed to keep you up to speed on recent and upcoming events in the Comprehensive School in what has been an eventful and hardworking term. Can I sincerely thank everyone – who has contributed to yet another very successful year in the Comprehensive School.

Richard Prendiville - Príomhoide

## State Examinations

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations begin on Wednesday June 3rd 2015. **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](http://tarbertcomprehensive.ie) (or [www.examinations.ie](http://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.**

## Summer Exams

Summer Exam run the week of May 25th (timetables will be available on the school website). 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 Re-opening 15/16

Tarbert Comprehensive School will re-open (**Staff only**) on Friday 28th August 2015.

For students a staggered return will operate from the week of Monday August 31st 2015 as follows:

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

## Future Planning 2015-2016

Work on finalising courses on offer at junior and senior cycle from September 2015 is now complete.

Going forward the school will have 4 incoming 1st Year classes. Yet again there is a very high demand for Transition Year with 2 classes entering the programme.

98 students are progressing into LC1 where the school continues to offer as wide a curriculum as possible. I am also pleased to mention that Leaving Certificate Applied will also go ahead for the coming year.

## Awards Night



The annual school awards will be held on Thursday May 14th.

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.

## School Building Extension

After considerable delay the beginning of the approved extension sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills is imminent. Tarbert Comprehensive School's initial funding for 3 classrooms and 2 student bathrooms was insufficient but additional funding has since been sought and approved to allow the project proceed. The work will not impact on the State Examinations. Work on building the long awaited school Fitness Suite joined to the main gym will also begin shortly.

As like last summer, we are again hoping to see a considerable amount of investment and renovation work be completed across the school. The computers in the DCG room are going to be replaced with brand new equipment as well as work on upgrading the school Wi-Fi network.

Other changes hoping to be completed include replacing of carpets on some/all the school corridors.



## Complete School Calendar 2015/16

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 layout of the 2015/16 school year including holiday, midterm and parent teacher meeting dates 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.

## Concern



Many thanks to all in our school community and catchment areas who contributed so generously to our Christmas Concern appeal.

Well done to those who fasted, held screen-free days, sponsored silences, sponsored chatter and collected outside churches etc. From all these efforts we raised €6,551.

The contribution of Tarbert Comprehensive School was recognised by Claire O'Carroll, Schools Programme Officer, Concern Worldwide Tarbert Comprehensive School, "you make the difference for the world's poorest people.

Thanks for participating once again in this year's Concern Fast. You and your wonderful students have provided help where it is needed most. Thank you so much".

## Saturday Morning Study

Saturday morning study will commence in Tarbert Comprehensive School on Saturday May 9th and will run for the following 5 Saturdays until June 6th.

It will last from 9.30 am until 1pm with a 15 minute break at 11 am. The cost of the service is €25.

Any interested student or parent can request an application form from Mr. Trench.



## S.P.H.E. FOCUS WEEK 2015

by Ms. Brid Carroll

This year our S.P.H.E. focus week ran from March 2nd to 6th. Our theme was our school motto "Mens Sano in Corpore Sana", "A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body". Throughout the week we promoted various aspects of physical, mental and emotional health.

Monday began with the Breakfast Club for 1st and 2nd years. Full tummies put us in good form for our 'Random Act of Kindness Day'. Mind you, that pretty much disappeared during the students versus teachers dodgeball at lunchtime!! Great fun was had and thankfully nobody was injured!!

Tuesday was 'Gratitude Day' and we encouraged students and teachers to 'post' their reasons to be grateful on boards around the school. Some classes began keeping a Gratitude journal. Hopefully this will be something we continue to do long-term.

Wednesday was 'Make Someone Smile Day'. The T.Y. students made us all smile with their 'Happy Hats'.

Thursday we promoted 'Mindfulness'. In conjunction with World Book Day we encouraged students to use the library and enjoy the benefits of getting 'lost' in a good book. Lunch time Thursday saw the senior girls and female staff engage in a serious game of hockey!! The students narrowly won. A great laugh was had by all!

Friday was 'Tracksuit Day' and everybody made an effort at least to look sporty!! We certainly appeared terribly fit! Our third years enjoyed a fruit feast and TY 1&2 enjoyed positive Mental health input (and output) at the Bridewell Theatre performance day. All students participated actively.

All in all it was a great week. There was a genuine air of positivity around Tarbert Comprehensive School. Our notice boards were full of upbeat slogans, pictures and inspirational quotes. Our first year students provided a 'Thought for the Day' and we had assemblies that encouraged kindness, gratitude, good manners and a healthy work ethic.

Congratulations and well done to everybody in Tarbert Comprehensive School.