



Newsletter

Welcome Note...

MAY 2017 Volume 4 - Issue 03

Welcome to the final newsletter of the school year. I hope that you and your family had a relaxing and enjoyable break. The Easter arrived somewhat later this year meaning that we now face a relatively short half term.

That said this is an exceptionally busy period and is a crucial time for both exam and non-exam students as tuition continues apace. I want to strenuously emphasise the importance at this time of year of high rates of student attendance. It is my firm belief that 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 Comprehensive School.

Richard Prendiville - Principal

Registration for 2017-18

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 contribution of €65 (€110 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 extracurricular outings including matches and other events, photocopied materials and the general 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 will be concluded by May 2017.

In a change to previous years the school now offers 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 to return the signed registration form to school following payment. Be aware that a transaction fee does apply for the facility. If there are any questions please contact the school office.

Summer Exams

Summer Exams run the week of May 29th (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.



State Examinations

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations begin on Wednesday June 7th 2017.

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.

End of Half Days

I wish to remind parents that in a change to previous practice, 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 from now on 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 them within the school.

School Webiste

The school's web page has been re-designed to keep you up to date with school information. Please visit

www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie for school news and events. Other useful information such as subject specific links can be found there. It is our hope that the new website format will make information far more accessible to all.

Awards Night

The annual school awards will be held on **Thursday May 18th**. 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.

As with last year, the Awards will now 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 of the Year 2016 Colm McSweeney and Maggie Flavin with Mary Chute, Chairperson Parents Association and Mr. Prendiville.

Future Planning 2016/17

Work on finalising courses on offer at senior cycle from September 2016 is now complete. Going forward the school will have 2 Transition Year groups.

Approximately 97 students are progressing into LC1 where the school continues to offer as wide a curriculum as possible. I am also pleased to say that Leaving Certificate Applied year 1 will also go ahead for the coming year.

Complete School Calendar 2017/18

The layout of the 2017/18 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.



Guidance Department

Students should have fully researched their first choice option for next year and always ensure they have a "Plan B".

The new Leaving Certificate Grading Scale and Revised Points will operate for 2017 and is highlighted for your attention.

School Re-opening 17/18

Tarbert Comprehensive School will re-open on Monday 28th of August 2017. 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 - Friday

School Library

The school library recently received hundreds of new books kindly donated on behalf of the Coolahan family.

The late Vincent Coolahan RIP from Tarbert was a great friend of the Comprehensive School and as a former teacher in Dublin kindly gave assistance to exam students in preparation for the oral French exams. Vincent passed away in 2015 but his family donated this highly valuable collection, in Vincent's memory, for the benefit of all the students in Tarbert Comprehensive.

The collection covers a myriad of topics and interests and no doubt will add to the reading pleasure of our students and staff for years to come.



Members of the Coolahan family including Professor Johnny Coolahan, NUI Maynooth, Mr. George Cunningham, book collector, Mary McGillicuddy (Chairperson of the Board of Management) and members of staff with the newly donated collection in memory of Vincent Coolahan RIP.

Leaving Certificate Point System

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

Revised LCVP Points

Distinction: 66 Points

Merit: 46 Points

Pass: 28 Points

Important Closing Dates

NAME	DATE	DEADLINE
CAO Application Deadline	Change of Mind facility opens 5th May 2017 Change of Mind facility closes 1st July 2017	
SUSI Maintenance Grant	Apply April - July 2017 Apply online at www.susi.ie	
Post Leaving Cert Courses	Apply Mid Feb. to August 2017	

Best of Luck for the remainder of this term!

Keep up to date with all the latest news and events by going online to www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie