

New Junior Certificate condit.

Old Grading System for Junior Certificate

Junior Certificate			Junior Cycle	
Level	Percentage	Grade Descriptor	Percentage	Grade Descriptor
Higher, Ordinary, Foundation/ Ard, Gnath, Bonn	≥ 85 to 100	A	≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
	≥ 70 and < 85	B	≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
	≥ 55 and < 70	C	≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
	≥ 40 and < 55	D	≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
	≥ 25 and < 40	E	≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
	≥ 10 and < 25	F	≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded (NG)
	≥ 0 and < 10	NG		

New Grading System for Junior Cycle

All in all the changes are exciting and we will keep you up to date with developments. For further information please go to www.curriculumonline.ie

Awards Night

The annual school awards will be held on Thursday May 17th. 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.

The Awards will 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 and sports persons of the year 2017 with Ms Moloney

End of Half Days

I wish to remind parents that 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 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 at that time and may have them administered at home instead!



Tarbert Comprehensive School



Newsletter

Welcome Back....

May 2018 Volume 6 Issue 03

It is hard to believe that the School Year 17/18 is nearly at a close. Time has simply flown by since Christmas and the final few weeks of this term will be the busiest term of the year and is a crucial time for both exam and non-exam students. 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 - Príomhoide

Summer Exams

Summer Exams run the week of May 28th (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 2018

This year's Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations begin on **Wednesday June 6th 2018**. 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.

Return of School books

I wish to remind parents and students that as books are part of the rental system they must be returned at the end of 3rd year.

During the June exams students are asked to return each rented book on the day the exam is held. A strict register is kept each day. In this way books can be recycled in time for the new 1st years to be ready in September. I am asking all students and parents to cooperate with this system to ensure a successful running of the book rental scheme.

Child Protection

At a recent meeting of the Board of Management, a Child Safeguarding Statement was ratified. This is a written statement that specifies the principles and procedures to be observed to ensure, as far as practicable, that a child attending our School is safe from 'harm'. It also includes an assessment of risk of 'harm' to a child while at School and specifies the procedures in place to manage any identified risks. Our School ensures that our Child Safeguarding Statement has due regard to the Children First: National Guidance as well as adhering to Tusla advice.

The Child Safeguarding Statement is on display publicly at the School entrance and is available to parents and guardians, Tusla and members of the public upon request. The Statement is also available on the School website.

In matters of Child Protection within our School any and all concerns should be expressed to the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) – Mr Richard Prendiville or in his absence the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL) – Ms Leila Moloney.

Future Planning

Work on finalising courses on offer at senior cycle from September 2018 is now complete. Going forward the school will have 3 Transition Year groups. I am also pleased to say that Leaving Certificate Applied year 1 will also go ahead for the coming year.

Registration for 2018-19

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, texting service, School app, school retreats, buses for all extracurricular outings including matches and other events, photocopied materials and hand-outs.

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 2018.**

In an attempt to make matters more convenient for parents there will be 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 staff.



Complete School Calendar 2018/19

The layout of the 2018/19 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.

School Re-opening

Tarbert Comprehensive School will re-open on Monday 27th of August 2018. 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/LCA2 - Friday

New Junior Certificate

Roll out and staff training for the new Junior Cert continues. Junior students now study for the JCPA – Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement. I am aware that with the new course comes new terminology and methods of assessment – so in this section I want to fill you in as much as possible on what you need to know.

The JCSA will be phased in over the coming years. Currently students in 1st year to 3rd year are doing a combination of new courses and old. Current students in Primary School will be studying more and more subjects in line with the new courses as those students enter the Comprehensive School. By 2022 all courses will be in place and recorded on the JCPA for every child.

The following year groups will have the new JCSA in the subjects listed:

- 3rd years 2018/19 – English, Science and Business
- 2nd Years 2018/19 – as above + Irish, French and Art
- 1st Years 2018/19 – as above + Maths, Home Ec., History, Geography, Music
- 1st years 2019/20 – as above + Woodwork, Metalwork, Technical Graphics

With new courses come new forms of assessment and new ways of teaching. More and more classes will move towards active learning methodologies within the classroom so that students learn by doing and become more and more aware of how they learn.

Here are a few new terms you will hear your child mention in the coming months that you may not have heard previously.

In 2nd year (around April/May) students will undertake a CBA – a classroom based assessment. This exam is set at a common level and is not worth any final marks but is still invaluable in that it makes students reflect on their own work and progress and allows them demonstrate what they have learnt in a topic to date. Equally parents get to check in on how their child is progressing in that subject through a CBA. CBAs are again completed in 3rd year around Christmas time. Teachers will assess the level of student achievement in a CBA by using 'on-balance' judgement from features of Quality that are set out. Overall students are graded according to – Exceptional, Above expectations, In line with expectations, and Yet to meet expectations.

AT's or Assessment Tasks are completed around April/May of 3rd year. It is a written task completed in class time (double class) and is sent away to the SEC for correction. The task is specifically linked to the Christmas CBA so that students are comfortable and familiar with the topic. The AT is worth approximately 10% of the final grade in most subjects.

All students in the new JCPA also have other areas of learning, traditionally not recognised in the JC before, now acknowledged. So the more your child is involved in School related activities the better – such as being involved on the School football team, choir, young scientist, student council etc. Students from 1st year will keep a log of what they do – by 3rd year this is verified and recorded by the School and acknowledged on the official results. Therefore the new JCPA will provide evidence of a broader range of learning and involvement for the student than was ever reflected before.

Finally all JCPA students must also study the area of Wellbeing – this is a combination of SPHE, CSPE, PE and other aspects of care that the School offers. In second year for example, Tarbert Comprehensive computer classes will also contribute to wellbeing as students will examine the notion of digital wellbeing – so that students are aware of appropriate online behaviour, dangers online etc. Mentioning technology, it should also be noted that a number of subjects are likely to see students increasingly use ePortfolios to demonstrate their learning.

Students will have the normal sit down exams in June of 3rd year. However the final grades have also been changed. A, B and C grades are being phased out. From now on students will have the following descriptors: