



# WELCOME

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
Welcome to the final newsletter of 2019.  
We are on the cusp of a well-earned Christmas break and I feel it important to fill you in on a number of developments since the last newsletter.

Regards,  
Mr Prendiville



## Tarbert Comprehensive School

*Newsletter*  
DECEMBER  
2019

### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Kerry ETB has nominated a new member to the School Board. We welcome Mrs Anne-Marie Hassett to her new position. The members of the school Board of management are:

Mrs Mary McGillicuddy (Chairperson)  
Cllr. Jim Finucane  
Sr Frances Day  
Mr Ted O'Connor  
Mr Andrew McNamara

Ms Ann Flavin  
Mrs Anne-Marie Hassett, Kerry RTB  
Ms Niamh Wall  
Ms Anne O'Sullivan  
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.

## PE AS A LC EXAM SUBJECT

Leaving Certificate Physical Education is an optional subject that students study and are examined in, as part of the Leaving Certificate, with CAO points allocated accordingly. Following the Phase 1 introduction of the subject in September 2018, I am pleased to announce that Tarbert CS will be offering the new exam subject at LC level from August 2020 to new LC1 students. The subject will be offered at both Higher and Ordinary level for examination and contains three assessment components:

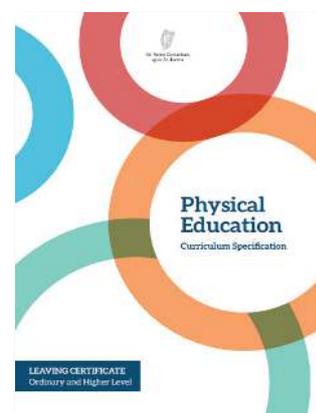
Assessment Component	Weighting	Level
Physical Activity Project	20%	Higher and Ordinary
Performance Assessment	30%	Common
Written Examination	50%	Higher and Ordinary

It is important to stress that the subject has a strong theoretical and scientific foundation and is not simply about games – like all subjects the School will make specific information available to parents in the new year at an options information evening and students will also be informed regarding the course content in early 2020.

## CHRISTMAS EXAMS, SCHOOL REPORTS & VS WARE

Christmas/Autumn Exams ran from Tuesday November 26th to Friday November 29th. Students have been reminded about the importance of these Christmas exams as a key stepping stone in their State Exams preparation and as an indicator on their progress in school to date. Exam results will not be posted home – instead they can be retrieved online through VSware. By now all parents have been issued their VSware login details. VSware is the schools computerised administration system. All school reports are available to view online on VSware for your child or your children. Please feel free to contact the school if there are any issues concerning access or viewing these reports. Naturally the onus is on parents to keep their login details secure. In no way should login or password details be shared with other families. The school will text home all parents to alert them as to the availability of the results online. It is my hope results will be available to view from mid-December 2019.

If you have difficulty going online or have internet problems at home and cannot view these results – then please contact the School and we will make alternative arrangements for you.



## PRE EXAMS 2020

Pre Exams for Junior and Leaving Cert students begin on 4/2/20. The cost of the exams will be made known to you in January. The cost will be capped if you have more than one child doing pre exams this year. The money is being collected by the secretaries in the main office whereby a receipt will be issued and is due before Friday January 24th 2020.

Please be aware that the actual cost of Pre Exams is higher than the amount charged. However the school will subsidise this exam fee for all parents and for those parents who are medical card holders or currently unemployed and in receipt of social welfare.

The Pre Exam form will be given to students of exam classes in early January with full details. As with all matters financial, please feel free to contact myself or Ms Moloney around any concerns or difficulties you may have and the matter will be dealt with the utmost of sensitivity and discretion.

## BAD WEATHER AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SCHOOL CLOSURES

Any decision, by the Board of Management, to close the school is not taken lightly. In recent years this has mainly occurred as a consequence of severe winter weather conditions or power loss. The school tries to strike a balance between, on the one hand, ensuring the health, safety and wellbeing of both students and staff to the best of its ability while on the other hand, preventing the unnecessary disruption to teaching and learning of its students.

As with recent years when a Red alert is issued by Met Éireann for our area the school bus services will not operate. This policy is available on [www.buseireann.ie/statusred](http://www.buseireann.ie/statusred). In such an event the School will close and a text message sent by the School. Parents should only accept text messages with the 'TarbertCS' username.

## YEAR HEADS/CO-ORDINATORS

Naturally from time to time there will be settling problems at school, indeed there may equally be issues at home affecting your child, in any year group, therefore it is vital that we are let know if there are any concerns or difficulties; no matter how small they may appear. So if you have any concerns at all then you should contact your child's Year Head in the first instance.

The Year Heads for the academic year 2019/20 are:

1st Years – Mr J. Dore  
2nd Years – R. O'Donoghue  
3rd Years – Ms S. Fitzgerald  
LC1 & LCA1 – Mr J. Connolly  
LC2 & LCA2 – Ms E Fitzgerald  
TY Co-ordinator – Ms M. Hogan  
LCVP Co-ordinator – Mr P. McElligott

You may contact any of the above by telephoning the school office. All members of staff have their own 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. Equally the Guidance Counsellor (Ms Griffin), School Chaplain (Ms Yvonne O'Connor), Deputy Principal and Principal may be contacted.

If you require a face to face meeting with any staff member then it is vital a pre-arranged appointment is made through the office. Unfortunately arriving at school without a pre-planned appointment in the hope of meeting a staff member cannot be accommodated

## JC RESULTS 2019

The Junior Certificate results were distributed to students on Friday October 4th in the assembly hall to great excitement. Mr Prendiville, Principal, congratulated all the students on their outstanding results – he praised the students themselves for their hard work, their supportive parents and the teachers who encouraged, coaxed, and helped them along the way. Mr Prendiville also attributed their exam success to the co-educational, mixed ability, comprehensive ethos that creates a warm and caring atmosphere in the Tarbert CS community.

A special word of praise must go to Camilla Bunce from Moyvane who sat 10 subjects for her Junior Certificate 2019. Camilla is one of a very select number of students nationwide who successfully achieved the top grade in each one of her subjects. Camilla is pictured here being congratulated by School Principal, Mr Richard Prendiville.



*Pictured above with Mr Prendiville are the top students from the Junior Cert. 2019, Seated L-R, Hazel Langan, (Tarbert), Liam O'Connor (Asdee), Xiao Ying (Listowel), Megan Kelly (Ballyhahill).*

*Standing L-R, Martin McNamara (Glin), Amy White (Tarbert), Michael Treacy (Ballylongford), Camilla Bunce (Moyvane), Adam Hayes (Lisselton), Katie Keane (Moyvane) and Adam Finucane (Ballylongford).*

*These students recorded 65 top grades between them. Well done to all and congratulations to the entire 3rd Year group of 2019.*

## RECENT TY TRIPS

Our French Exchange journey began on Saturday 23rd November when 45 students and 4 teachers made their way to Dublin Airport to board a flight to Nantes in North West France. The day was spent exploring the Christmas markets of this beautiful French city before we set off for Mur-de-Bretagne. Here at Collège Saint Joseph we met the French students and teachers who would be hosting us for the coming week. Our students headed off with their French pen pals and new families and got a well needed night of sleep. Each morning we all met at the school and each day was filled with activities that immersed our students in French culture and language. We visited the Abbey of Bon Repos and the French Resistance museum. We got a guided tour of the beautiful historic city of Dinan and managed to do plenty of shopping. Students experienced class time in France, canteen lunches and having "the craic" in the yard, French style. There was also lots of family time, a buffet and music in a local community centre and a visit to a steel factory. The last day was spent playing basketball, learning Judo and Breton dancing. We returned to Tarbert on Friday night just in time to catch some of the Late Late toy show!!!! A wonderful week full of new and different experiences was had by all on this our 9th year of the French Exchange Programme. We look forward to the return visit of the French students in March.



## PARENTS ASSOCIATION URGENT APPEAL

The Parents Association have been a vital support to the School since its foundation in 1973. The Association organises guest speakers, fundraising events and supports a variety of school initiatives for our students. Over the years the support of the Association has led to the setup of the Book Rental Scheme, fundraised for the school Counselling service and Fitness Suite as well as sponsoring and assisting at Awards Night – to name but a few initiatives!

This year the Association has seen a low turnout of parents at its meetings who come forward to volunteer. I am therefore appealing to parents to please volunteer for the Association – ultimately it is to the benefit for all children in the School.

If you have not attended a meeting before then please try and do so in 2020 and you will be hugely welcomed. The next meeting of the Association will be in January 2020 and a reminder text will be sent in advance. All parents in the School are automatically members of the Association – now we need new parents to step up and continue the work of the Association as has been done for nearly 50 years – we need you. Your help and support is vital from 2020 onward.



## STUDENT AWARDS

Congratulations to Leona Sheehy and Elijah Behan, receiving Certificates of Distinction for their Junior Cert Metalwork Projects from the Engineering Technology Teachers Association (ETTA).

Leona and Elijah produced projects that placed in the top 8 students in counties Kerry, Limerick and Clare.

## GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

“*Learning is not attained by chance. It must be sought for with ardour and attended with diligence.*”

(Abigail Adams – wife and mother of two former American presidents)

Tarbert Comp. has undertaken a number of initiatives this term to support and underline the importance of student learning.

Organisational skills have been identified as an essential prerequisite for learning. To this end, we launched a poster campaign in the corridors reminding students to organise their books for their next three classes, in order to avoid unnecessary trips to the locker between classes.

We also placed a poster in every classroom, alerting students to take out their journals, books, pencil-case and homework at the beginning of every class. This is a simple, yet highly effective, practice that promotes organisation and avoids time wasting in class. Teachers have endeavoured to implement this routine in their respective classes, especially with Junior Cycle year groups.

Parents (especially of first year students) are strongly encouraged to help their child organise their schoolbag, books and copies at night. An organised mind is more receptive to new information and learning. A little practice can imbed the routine.

Also, a sample study timetable and study

skills hand out was given to every first year student prior to November exams and this was explained in more detail in SPHE classes. The importance of a study routine every night and especially in the weeks leading up to exams was emphasised. It is expected that students will continue to avail of the template for future study.

Students who attend after school study were addressed on two occasions and their attention brought to two study skills in particular for tackling reading comprehensions and for general learning. Along with techniques to avoid distractions, these skills have been pinned to the Study Skills board outside the staffroom. Further study skills will be shared next term. Students are encouraged to visit this board and to adopt the advice / techniques into their study routine.

It is important to remember that learning requires work and effort. No learning is possible without the desire and motivation to learn and without parental support and supervision. This is particularly necessary for subjects that cause difficulty for students. It is imperative that parents help children to discover how best they learn and to encourage and expect effort and work at home.

After school study is available 4 evenings a week, at a very reasonable rate, and is strongly recommended to students.

## SCIENCE LABS OPEN

After much work over the summer and autumn months, the renovated science labs finally opened in November. The labs have been completely revamped and now offer state of the art facilities to our students.

Sincere thanks must go to Carey Architects, Tarbert and Scanlon Construction, Athea for the design and completion of the Project. Pictured below is one of the new labs.





Pictured above, at the official opening of the new labs with this year's Young Scientist students and members of the Science Department are Dr. Pat Kiely, Tarbert, Dr. John Mulvihill, Glin and Professor Michael Walsh, Glin. All three are University of Limerick researchers and lecturers and are also former students of Tarbert Comprehensive School.

## GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

LC2 Students should apply to the CAO in the next few weeks. They should fully research all their options (check "qualifax.ie" for entry requirements, course content, possible careers, previous points etc.) and always ensure they have a "Plan B". Students can avail of the "Change of Mind" facility at a later stage so the only courses that have to be applied for before February 1st are the "RESTRICTED" courses. "HEAR" and "DARE" Schemes are applied for online as part of the CAO application -



\*\*\*Please note the earlier date for submitting supporting documents for these schemes is March 15th\*\*\*

There are a number of valuable resources on the CAO website, including video guides and answers to frequently asked questions.

Students are also reminded to book student accommodation and apply for Scholarships as soon as possible.

PLC applications open from February onwards and the SUSI Maintenance Grant may be applied for in April 2020.

Highlighted are key dates and very useful websites to assist students and parents.

Best of luck in upcoming Mock Exams.

*Jeanelle Griffin*



# IMPORTANT NOTICE

## IMPORTANT CLOSING DATES!

UCAS	15th January 2020 (all courses)
CAO	Early Application Online Discounted Rate (€30) 20th January 2020 Normal Application (€45) 1st February 2020 Change of Mind facility opens 4th May 2020..... Closes 1st July 2020
	"HEAR" & "DARE" Schemes Apply <u>ONLINE</u> as part of your CAO application 1st Feb 2020 (Complete application by 1ST March 2020)

\*Send "HEAR" and "DARE" Supporting Documents to CAO by 15th March 2020

Post Leaving Cert Courses.....Apply Mid February 2020 – August 2020

SUSI Maintenance Grant.....Apply April 2020 – July 2020



## IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

<a href="http://www.qualifax.ie">www.qualifax.ie</a>	(Essential Course Search Engine)
<a href="http://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a>	(CAO information and Application)
<a href="http://www.accesscollege.ie">www.accesscollege.ie</a>	("Hear" & "Dare" Schemes)
<a href="http://www.careersportal.ie">www.careersportal.ie</a>	(Essential Course and Career website)
<a href="http://www.ucas.com">www.ucas.com</a>	(Study in England)
<a href="http://www.studentfinance.ie">www.studentfinance.ie</a>	(Grant Information)
<a href="http://www.susi.ie">www.susi.ie</a>	(Maintenance Grant Application)
<a href="http://www.apprenticeships.ie">www.apprenticeships.ie</a>	(Apprenticeship Information)
<a href="http://www.fetchcourses.ie">www.fetchcourses.ie</a>	(PLC / Further Education courses)

All College Websites e.g. U.L., UCC, LIT etc

*Wishing you all a  
very happy Christmas*