



Tarbert Comprehensive School



Welcome

'Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. I especially want to welcome parents and guardians who are new to the Tarbert Comprehensive School community.

What an incredibly challenging time it has been for everyone involved in education over the past few months. Students who missed out on schooling, parents who tried to support their children from home and school staff who tried to maintain teaching from afar. Thankfully we are all back at School and we hope that the half term from now until Christmas will run smoothly.

99 new first years joined us on September 1st. These students are beginning to settle into the School and are a welcome addition to our student body.

This summer break has brought some changes to staffing. I especially want to thank Ms Eleanor McSweeney, Ms Margaret Herlihy and Ms Grainne Henry for their commitment and contributions to the school over many years. We wish them well in their respective futures.

It is my hope to have a Newsletter like this sent to you 3 times a year. It is designed to keep you informed on various matters in our School. A more current and regular snapshot of our School can be gained by downloading the School app to your smartphone or by consulting the School website. I encourage all parents and guardians to regularly stay in touch through these outlets.

Richard Prendiville
Principal

Board of Management

The members of the school Board of Management are:

Mrs Mary McGillicuddy (Chairperson)

Ms Ann Flavin,

Cllr. Jim Finucane,

Ms Ann Marie Hassett

Ms Niamh Wall, (Parental Nominee)

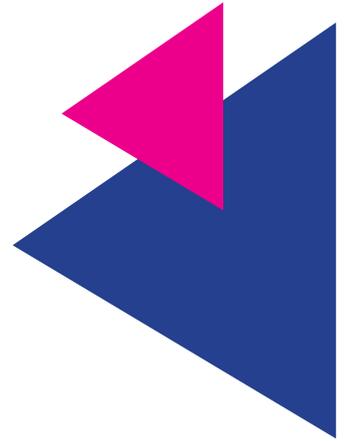
Mr Ted O'Connor, (Parental Nominee)

Sr Frances Day,

Ms Anne O'Sullivan,

Mr Andrew McNamara,

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.

Year Heads/Co-ordinators

Year Heads/Co-ordinators

If you have any concerns around your child then you should contact your child's Year Head in the first instance. 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.

The Year Heads for the academic year 2020-21 are:

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

Covid -19 and School Procedures



**All matters Covid related are available to Parents/Guardians on the School website.
Please visit www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie**

Actions by parents and students to minimise the Risk of Introduction of COVID-19 into Tarbert Comprehensive School (see full list on the school website):

- Symptoms of Covid-19 include: high temperature, cough, shortness of breath or breathing difficulties, loss of smell, of taste or distortion of taste. Any student that has Covid symptoms must not attend school – instead they are to phone their doctor and to follow HSE guidance on self-isolation;
- Any parent or student is not to attend school if they have been identified by the HSE as a close contact for a person with COVID-19 and to follow the HSE advice on restriction of movement;
- Any student that develops COVID symptoms at school are to bring this to the attention of one of the teaching staff who will send them to the office area where office staff will contact home. Under no circumstances are students to text home. No visitors are allowed to the school without a prior appointment or invitation from the school;
- All students who leave school with suspected Covid symptoms must immediately contact their GP and have a Covid test. Students can only return to School following a negative Covid test result;
- Students are asked to have at least 3 cloth masks available daily. This allows students to rotate the use of their mask every couple of hours;
- Reminder to anyone attending school who has travelled abroad - Government policy, which is based on official public health advice, continues to advise against non-essential travel overseas for everyone. It is a requirement for anyone coming into Ireland, from locations other than those with a rating of 'normal precautions' ("green"), to restrict their movements for 14 days, and this includes parents and children or other students coming from abroad to attend school in Ireland. Therefore no student is allowed into school until this 14 day period has elapsed.

These are but some of the measures put in place so as to ensure our school remains safe. Tarbert Comprehensive School will rise to this public health challenge, and the key themes of the Public Health Advice necessary to keep us all safe will permeate throughout the school community, with everyone:

- Applying common sense,
- Adopting a balanced approach,
- Doing everything practical to avoid the introduction of COVID-19 into the School,
- Being Aware of
 - i. what we can all do to protect ourselves and each other,
 - ii. how to recognise and report the symptoms of COVID-19, and
 - iii. the need to stay at home if we feel unwell, and
 - iv. Continuing to observe physical distancing, good hand hygiene and good respiratory etiquette

Remote Teaching and learning

Please be aware that the School has a remote teaching and learning policy available to view on the school website under the policies section that will engage in a full shutdown or partial shutdown scenario.

A form of 'remote teaching' using online live classes, pre-recorded demonstrations, emails and assignments will be sent home to your child using their student email. This form of communication is two-way – meaning students' link back to their teachers via technology and in turn teachers provide feedback to their students.

All students, including new 1st years have been shown how to use their student Gmail – accessible from home and any device. Needless to say – the ideal scenario is that students are at school in person – however a remote distance learning approach is very much a good backup in a lockdown situation.

School Calendar/Parent Teacher Meetings

The school calendar 20-21 is available to view and print from the school website under Policies & Publications. The calendar includes holidays, other school closures and important dates to remember. My advice is for parents to print it off and keep it nearby.

Parent Teacher meetings are unlikely to occur this year, given the current public health situation nationally. However parents & guardians will be issued a detailed report on their child(ren)'s progress in lieu of the meeting. Following this report, teachers may be contacted by phone, should any parent have a query. Please be aware that all teachers have teaching duties – so they may not be able to respond to calls immediately.

New Junior Cycle

Junior students now study the JCSA (Junior Cycle Student Award). The phasing in process is now complete and all students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year are completing the new Junior Cycle in all subjects with the exception of Technical Graphics, woodwork and Metalwork in 3rd year.

At the end of their exams students will get a certificate called the JCPA – Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

With new courses come new forms of assessment and new ways of teaching. Our 2nd year students will undertake their first CBAs (Classroom Based Assessments). The emphasis here is on continuous assessment. The assessment will take many forms, depending on the individual subjects, ranging from written work to oral or visual presentations/projects. The aim of the CBAs is to give the students an opportunity to showcase and get credit for skills developed in subjects outside of the traditional exam. The grading for the CBA's will be the following:

- Exceptional
- In Line with Expectations
- Above Expectations
- Yet to Meet Expectations

The assessment of these will appear in the summer reports along with end of year exam grades. They will also however appear on your child's JCPA which will be presented to the year group in the academic year following their Junior Cycle exams.

When in 3rd Year these students will also undertake a second CBA in each of these subjects. The following dates and Junior Cycle/CBA information for parents are all available on the school website, found under Junior Cycle section.

2nd Year CBA1

Subject	Window for completion (in Tarbert Comprehensive)
Business	November 23rd- December 18th
Visual Art	January 6th- May 7th
Home Economics	January 6th - April 1st
History	January 11th- January 29th
Geography	January 18th -February 6th
Engineering	January 25th- February 12th
Mathematics	February 22nd - March 12th
Graphics	February 22nd - March 12th
English	March 8th – March 25th
Wood Technology	March 8th – March 25th
Science	April 12th – April 29th
French	April 19th – May 7th

AT's or Assessment Tasks are also completed in 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 3rd year CBA so that students are comfortable and familiar with the topic. The AT is worth approximately 10% of the final grade in most subjects.

Due to Covid-19 this year's 3rd Years are not required to complete a second CBA or an Assessment Task. In some subjects they will complete CBA1 (may have been missed from last year) and in others they will complete CBA 2 instead. Regardless of which they complete the final date is March 12th.

Subject	CBA Window for completion
Business	November 2nd- November 20th
Science	November 23rd – December 11th
Irish	February 22nd – March 12th

All students in the new JCPA also have other areas of learning. 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.

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.

Finally 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:

GRADE	RANGE(%)
Distinction	≥90 to 100
Higher Merit	≥75 and <90
Merit	≥55 and <75
Achieved	≥40 and <55
Partially Achieved	≥20 and <40
(not graded)	≥0 and <20

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

New JC and subjects studied outside of School

Parents should be aware that students must study a minimum of 8 subjects and maximum of 10 for the new JC.

Where a student wishes to undertake a subject outside of the recognised school setting, then Parents need to be aware that:

- Students who choose to study a subject outside of their school cannot complete the requirements for the Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) and Assessment Task;
- Subjects undertaken outside of a school setting count as part of the maximum of 10 subjects for certification.

In other words it is now virtually impossible for students to take on an extra subject outside of their own school under the New JC.

Leaving Certificate Results

Congratulations to the class of 2020 who received their excellent results in early September. A statistical analysis shows that our school is yet again well above the national averages in the point's race. I am also really pleased with the high number of H1 grades achieved this year. On average students received almost 66 points more in Tarbert CS for their top 6 subjects than the national average. Overall 33% of students got over 500 points while 65% got over 400 points.

I am very proud of these results that are a remarkable testament to the comprehensive, mixed ability, co-educational ethos that infuses this school. I wish to congratulate the students and teachers on the quality of these results.

This year our highest achieving student was Orlaith McSweeney who achieved a H1 in all of her subjects and achieved the maximum 625 points. We wish Orlaith and indeed the entire class of 2020 well in their future studies and careers.



Pictured with Mr Prendiville is Orlaith McSweeney from Ballyhahill who received the top grade in all of her subjects. Well done Orlaith.

Child Safeguarding Statement

Parents are directed to the School website under the policies section in order to view the School Child Safeguarding Statement. All students, staff and students of the School should be aware that Mr Richard Prendiville is the Designated Liaison Person (DLP) for all child protection concerns in the School. Ms Leila Moloney is the Deputy Designated Liaison Person (DDL). The full Statement and Assessment is available on the School website.

School Visitors and Parental arrivals



Please be aware that walk-in parental visits to the School are prohibited. Visitors must come by prior appointment or from contact through the School office. Parents/Guardians of an ill student will be contacted via the School office.

Under no circumstances should students contact parents or vice versa by mobile phone. If necessary all critical messages can be routed through the secretary's office. It is equally unacceptable for students to text parents if they are ill. The school has procedures for dealing with illness that your son/daughter is aware of and this should be reinforced to them. Your co-operation is therefore vital in this regard.

Book Grant

The Book Grant is used to help those who experience financial difficulties with back to school costs. The money is distributed as equitably as possible. It is used primarily to support LC1 students and book grant forms were distributed to each LC1 student.

The grant is then used to pay for the Pre Examination fees for those families who hold medical cards. Any money then left remaining in the fund is used for families of 1st Year students who may be experiencing financial difficulties. It is hoped that these grant forms will be processed as soon as possible.

From time to time families can experience financial hardships. It is never our intention to add to those hardships. However by their nature schools will always have costs associated with them e.g. supervised study, book rental, pre exam fees, TY fees, school outings or field trips. However at Tarbert Comprehensive we try as much as possible to keep these fees as low as we can and we compare very favourably with other second level schools.

I would never want a situation to arise whereby a student is deprived an opportunity to participate in any activity or is embarrassed because of an inability to pay. So if this arises for you during the year please contact Mr Prendiville, Ms Moloney or Ms O'Connor, Chaplain, and the matter will be dealt with sensitively and in total confidence.

Student Insurance

Parents should be aware that we pay accident insurance for all our students. We pay this from the parental charge that we receive each year from parents. Students have 24 hour cover 365 days a year. This means that in the event of even a minor accident at school or at home, even during holiday times, that incurs any medical expense, then the money can be claimed through the Insurance Policy. Claim forms are available from the School Office.

Open Night 2020

Parents and prospective students had an Open Night with a difference this year. Tarbert Comprehensive deployed 3D technology to give viewers a graphic 360 degree indoor view of our School. Participants have the opportunity to view the school's excellent facilities, including the Fitness Suite. An opportunity is also afforded to learn about the comprehensive range of academic and practical subjects and extra-curricular activities on offer to in-coming students.

To view the Virtual Open Night simply log in to the School website. The closing date for receipt of 1st Year Admissions Applications for September 2021 is November 12th 2020. .

Guidance Department

The final year of school is one of the busiest and most challenging times in a young person's life. While studying, there is the added stress of having to decide the next step on the career journey. This year's Leaving Certs have had to quickly re-focus and re-engage to make up for lost tuition time. Policy decisions, curriculum changes with greater choices and fewer mandatory questions in next year's State exams have been taken to ensure they will get a fair opportunity to perform to the best of their ability. Students must work positively with teachers in the weeks and months ahead and they should take time to fully research all their options (check entry requirements, course content, possible careers etc) and always ensure they have a "Plan B".

The new Leaving Certificate Grading Scale with Revised Points is highlighted for your attention. Also listed are some very important websites and key dates. Colleges are hosting Virtual Open Days - (full calendar is available on Qualifax and the Careers and Education News website). The school will host a Virtual information evening for parents on the CAO application process ("Hear"/ "Dare" schemes, SUSI Maintenance Grant, other training options etc) later in the term. Students should consult the Guidance Notice Board, and the school app for up-to-date information. Covid-19 has not taken away dreams, career ambitions and potential, I look forward to working with students and offering every possible support and encouragement going forward. Success is 99% perspiration and 1% inspiration!

Best of Luck for the year ahead!

Jeanelle Griffin.

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 <u>LCVP</u> Points		
Distinction	66	Merit 46 Pass 28

25 Bonus Points will continue for Higher Level Maths (at grade H6 & above)

VIRTUAL COLLEGE OPEN DAYS:

23rd Oct	Tralee Institute of Technology Virtual Open Day
29th & 30th Oct	University of Limerick Virtual Open Day
4th & 5th Dec	UCC Virtual Open Day



CAO APPLICATION DATES:



CAO Online Application Facility Opens		5th Nov 2020
Early Application Online Discounted Rate	(€30)	20th January 2021
Normal Online Application	(€45)	1st February 2021
Change of Mind facility Opens	(free)	5th May 2021
Change of Mind facility Closes		1st July 2021
UCAS Application Closing Deadline		15th October 2020 (some courses) 15th January 2021 (all courses)
Post Leaving Cert Courses		Apply February 2021 – August 2021
SUSI Maintenance Grant		Apply April 2021 – July 2021
"HEAR" & "DARE" Schemes		Apply with CAO application (1st Feb 2021) Complete application (1st March 2021) Post Supporting Documents to CAO (15th March 2021)

IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

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



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

*Wishing all students well in the
upcoming Christmas Exams*