

April 29nd 2024



Tarbert Comprehensive School

Re: Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme for the 2024/25 school year

At Tarbert Comprehensive School

Dear Parents/Guardians,

For the 2024/25 school year all students in Junior Cycle (JC) years will receive free schoolbooks and certain other resources. This will be in place from September 2024. These schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the JC and are returned to the School at the end of 3rd Year. This new scheme is being introduced by Minister for Education Norma Foley TD, in recognition of the cost of preparing children and young people for the return to school. The new scheme eliminates the cost to parents/guardians of providing schoolbooks and certain core classroom resources.

"Schoolbooks" includes all relevant schoolbooks from 1st Year to 3rd Year. It also includes necessary additional texts such as novels and plays for English and/or JC examination papers (if required by the teacher) for all subjects. This scheme is ring-fenced for schoolbooks and classroom resources and is not for other school-based activities. A complete list of items that students will receive from Tarbert CS can be found in **Appendix 1** below. Please note that the scheme does not eliminate all costs associated with JC students and parents will still be required to purchase certain materials not included in Appendix 1 (A&B), uniforms, pencil cases, school bags, lunch boxes, additional copies etc.

Funding for the scheme in 2024/25 is being provided directly to Tarbert CS by the Department of Education. Therefore we will now be providing the items listed in Appendix 1 A & B to all JC students at the start of the forthcoming school year. Regrettably, the scheme does not extend to Senior Cycle students.

In Tarbert CS Parents/Guardians of students starting their 2nd or 3rd Years in September 2024 have already paid the full three year cost of renting schoolbooks. Unfortunately, as the scheme is effective from 1st September 2024, no reimbursement can be made for previous years. However, the items outlined in Appendix 1 (where relevant) will also be supplied to those year groups under the new scheme.

As is currently the case, all schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under the new scheme will remain the property of Tarbert CS, so that they can be reused in future years. Therefore schoolbooks will be provided on loan to students for the duration of the 2024/25 school year and must be returned to school at the end of the 3 years of Junior Cycle (JC exam time). Each book will be assigned a unique tracking number for traceability purposes. Any books lost or not returned at the end of 3rd year must be paid for or replaced. I am therefore asking Parents/Guardians to please remind your child(ren) to take care of their schoolbooks and classroom resources and keep them in good condition during the period that they are in their possession.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Richard Prendiville,
PRINCIPAL

Appendix 1

The following schoolbooks and resources will be provided by Tarbert Comprehensive School to all

- ✓ 1st Year,
- ✓ 2nd Year and
- ✓ 3rd Year

Students from September 2024:

A. What **will be** provided:

- Textbooks for all 1st Year subjects (2nd & 3rd Years already have theirs)
- 1 school journal per student per JC year
- 13 A4 manuscript copybooks per student per JC year (includes one A4 Project Maths Graph Copy and 1 Science manuscript copybook)
- 1 display A4 plastic folder per student per JC year
- 10 plastic zip A4 folder/carry cases per student per JC year
- Time for Business Activity Book (replacing accounting ledgers/journals/cash books required for Accounting/Business Studies) – (1st Year only)
- 1 Mathematics formulae & tables/log book
- 1 scientific calculator*
- French –English/English-French Dictionary*
- Collins Gem Irish Dictionary*

**Note that calculators, dictionaries etc. remain with the student for the duration of their secondary education and can be returned at the end of the Junior Cycle (French) and/or Leaving Certificate (Maths & Irish).*

B. Subject specific material provided **also includes**:

- Junior Cycle Success – Gaeilge – (1st Year only)
- Exam papers for each subject (provided in 3rd Year only)
- Maths Set (Mathematics – (1st Years only)
- Technical Graphics box (1st Years only)
- Technical Graphics Activity book (1st Years only)
- Merchant of Venice – English - textbook and portfolio book (3rd Years only)
- Novel – English – yet to be finalised – (2nd and 3rd Years)
- @Home Activities & Assessment book – Home Economics (1st Years only)
- @Home with the Practical – Home Economics (1st Years only)
- Sewing Kit – Home Economics (1st Years only)
- Laboratory key words textbook - Science – (1st Year only)
- Experiment Activity book - Science – (1st Year only)
- Hardback Science Copy – Engineering – (1st Years only)
- Graph copy – Engineering – (1st Years only)
- A4 Sketchpad – Art - (all JC Years – 1st Years after sampling)

C. What will **not be** provided:

- Items not listed in A and B above
- Additional copies throughout the year etc.
- Additional exam papers in the event a student changes level mid-year
- Workbooks (as these cannot be recycled),
- Uniforms,
- pencil cases,
- school bags,
- lunch boxes,
- Biro, pencils, colouring pencils etc.