



31/05/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We take this opportunity as a school community, to wish our Leaving and Junior Certificate students the very best for the state examinations, which commence on Wednesday 7th June. We urge them to be brave and to trust in the work that has been done and the learning that has been achieved over the course of their preparation.

For all other year groups we extend good wishes for the summer holidays, especially after the focused effort and learning engagement involved in CBAs and assessments recently.

The recent term has been a busy one across the board with the advent of practical exams, orals and project submissions for our examination students, as well as CBA deadlines for our Junior Cycle cohort, not to mention TY project completions and summer house exam preparation. The busy schedule of learning and assessment has been enriched and enlivened by our fantastic school Sports Day and our wonderful "Scoil Dara's Got Talent" and we wish to acknowledge the positive, enthusiastic and fun-loving spirit with which students participated in these community events.

As we face into the final few days of term we remind students to collect all text books and materials, clearing out lockers and bringing their belongings home with them.

State Examinations

The SEC exam schedule for the June exams will be posted to our school website. We advise that all students become familiar with and regularly refer to the schedule of exams and exam commencement times. We ask that parents support the punctual arrival to and attendance for relevant examinations. All students are required to wear their full school uniform for the duration of their examinations.

Student Services Charge

Scoil Dara continues the commitment to maintain the cost of the annual student services charge, with no increase over the past number of years. Though the overall costs of maintaining and running the school - heating, lighting, maintenance and upkeep - have increased significantly in the past two years, we are retaining the service charge at € 95.00, aware of the current economic challenges faced by families everywhere. All payments relating to student services can be made through the Easy Payment Plus platform, accessed via the Scoil Dara website. The deadline for submission of the student services charge is Friday 18th August. We appreciate the support of parents in the provision of the highest quality of education and student support for the next academic year.

Our student services charge covers the following costs:

- Correspondence: SMS and Postage
- Locker rental, maintenance & combination lock
- Extra and Co-Curricular learning and activities
- Community events and initiatives
- Bus and student transfer (subsidy)
- ICT Services: Office365 Academic Licencing, training and support (incl. MSWord, MSEXcel, MSTeams etc.)
- VShare - Student Information and Records Management System with parent interface
- Library Services
- Photocopying and printing
- House Exams and assessments
- Student Journal

Book lists for all year groups will be made available on the Scoil Dara website www.scoildara.ie.

Student Awards

The annual Scoil Dara Student Awards represent a highlight of our school calendar as it is an opportunity for us to review and reflect on the endeavour, commitment, achievement and resilience of the students as they work toward their goals and ambitions. We also consider and honour the generative human principles, represented in our pillar values: Community, Growth, Wisdom and Respect. We celebrate our daily witness and experience of those moments of kindness, support, respect and care which are so much a feature of our school culture. Well done to all students on the efforts made to progress and grow in their learning and skill development over the past year.

Parents Council

The Parents' Council is a central part and partner in all school development, school events and celebrations and members are valued collaborators in the development of school policy, curriculum, protocols and student care and fundraising. We would like to invite parents interested in becoming involved in the Scoil Dara Parents Council for the academic year 2023-2024 to email an expression of interest to info@scoildara.ie or clodaghward@scoildara.ie in the coming weeks.

School Staff

We would like to pay tribute to the continued dedication, professional commitment and student-centred focus of our wonderful teaching staff, SNAs, administration and ancillary staff at Scoil Dara.

We appreciate and are grateful for the continuing support of our community of parents. The work of the school, our ambition for the young people in our care, realises its full promise when we work together.

Sincerely and with best wishes for the Summer ahead,

David Mc Cormack

Principal