



13/05/2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been a challenging school year and we are very proud in Scoil Dara of our students and school community for their commitment to and support of one another over this past academic year. As we face into the final 2 weeks of term (28th May is the final day of term) we wish to bring your attention to some very important things of note. We ask that you review this information and discuss necessary aspects with your son/daughter so we can end this school year safely and positively for all in Scoil Dara.

Health & Safety: As the summer term nears its close, we continue to urge caution around our individual and community response to the continuing threat of Covid-19. We ask parents/guardians to support us in keeping all in our school community safe as we proceed towards the commencement of the state exams for our 6th year students. We ask you to continue to discuss health and safety protocols with your sons/daughters – mask wearing, hand sanitising and social distancing. These protocols are essential to keep all of us safe.

Punctuality & Uniforms: Classes begin in Scoil Dara at 9am and we encourage all students to be present in class in a timely manner each morning. Please support your sons/daughters in being on time for school in these final weeks. If students are late, please provide a note in their school journal explaining this late attendance or send an e-mail explanation to the relevant year head. We ask for your support in this as we try and manage and record entry to the building to assist contact tracing as required.

Students are required to present to school in full school uniform every day unless they have PE, in which case they may wear their school PE uniform. We encourage all students to avail of the new Scoil Dara PE top which can be ordered through www.grantsclothing.ie. To ensure a delivery before the new school year (August 2021) we request that orders are placed before 1st of June. We remind parents/guardians that the PE top is compulsory for all in-coming first years and optional for all other year groups.

Leaving Certificate Students are required to wear the school uniform attending the state exams in June.

6th Year Students

Teaching, Learning & Assessment:

The period for accredited grades is drawing to a close on the 14th May. From the 17th to 28th May, timetabled, in-class teaching will continue supporting student progress toward and preparation for the state exams. We urge all 6th year students to attend the full schedule of classes and avail of the expertise and guidance of their teachers in this final stage of exam preparation. Those students who have opted not to sit state exams in certain subjects, need still attend all classes with facilitation of independent study where required.

Our commitment to the Covid-19 guidelines thus far has safeguarded student attendance of on-site classes and we urge parents/guardians to support consistent attendance in the coming weeks. Any 6th year student leaving school early must follow the established protocol of a parent/guardian e-mailing Mr. Rattigan (jimrattigan@scoildara.ie) explaining the early departure from school. Late arrival to school needs to be notified to Mr. Rattigan also and 6th year students arriving late must sign in through reception before proceeding to class. As a school community we are required to maintain precise records of student movement for the purposes of contact tracing. Regard for fellow

students and teachers in this period of preparation for exams implies minimum disruption to the focused flow of the school day and the progress of all scheduled classes. Students will be addressed regarding attendance and punctuality should a pattern of selective attendance emerge.

Graduating Class 2021

In line with Dept of Education guidelines we will not be in a position to organise the traditional 6th year graduation. We acknowledge the disappointment this has caused and we will endeavour to celebrate and mark the end of your sons/daughters post primary education, celebrating the achievement of all 6th year students while continuing to keep them as safe as we possibly can. Details of the unique celebration being planned for the graduating class of 2021 will be shared with students once finalised in the coming days.

Teaching, Learning & Assessment:

5th Years: From the 26th May 5th years will engage with their scheduled assessments. A timetable has been shared with all students. Students finish at 11am on the Friday 28th May for Summer holidays.

Transition Years: The award of Transition Year credits, as part of the on-going formative assessment strategy, reaches its conclusion in the coming weeks. Our TY cohort will finish for their annual summer holidays on Thursday 27th May.

3rd Years: In line with Department of Education and Skills guidelines our third-year students have been busy in the final term, with a schedule of in-class assessments, coursework completion and CBA submissions. The agreed strategy for assessment and reporting emphasises the learning achievements, skills and competencies developed in the course of the 2 year Junior Cycle with a proportional assessment frame focused on the final term of in-class teaching and learning. Third year students will finish for their summer break on Friday 28th May at 1.20pm.

2nd Years: From the 24th May 2nd years will engage with their scheduled assessments. A timetable has been shared with all students. 2nd years have been busy completing their schedule of CBA-1s during this term also. 2nd year students will finish at 1.20pm on the 28th May for summer holidays.

1st Years: From the 24th May 1st years will engage with their scheduled assessments. A timetable has been shared with all students. Students will finish at 12.20pm on the 28th May for summer holidays.

Confirmation of Student Place Form (CSPF)

Confirmation of Student Place forms will be shared with all parents/guardians through an SMS (text message) in the course of this coming week. We appreciate the timely completion and submission of these forms as they assist the organisation of class groups and the completion of curricular planning and timetabling for the coming academic year. All payments relating to student services can be made through the Easy Payment Plus platform, accessed via the Scoil Dara website. Scoil Dara student services charge can be paid in 2 instalments with the initial payment due on or before the 4th of June. The total service charge is due for payment by August 20th. Book lists for all year groups will be made available in the coming days on the Scoil Dara website www.scoildara.ie.

Academic Year 2021-2022:

- 2nd Year 2021- 2022: Confirmation of Student Place Form (click here) <https://forms.office.com/r/F74KBzpdbt>
- 3rd Year 2021-2022: Confirmation of Student Place Form (click here) <https://forms.office.com/r/gZyPcfzAyr>
- 5th Year 2021-2022: Confirmation of Student Place Form (click here) <https://forms.office.com/r/GSXJnJXUD4>
- 6th Year 2021-2022: Confirmation of Student Place From (click here) <https://forms.office.com/r/B6LJq0Byk5>

School Calendar - 2021

A detailed school calendar will be available on our website by the end of June 2021.

Student Awards

The annual Student Awards represent a highlight of our school calendar as it is an opportunity for us to review and reflect on the endeavour, commitment, cooperation and resilience of the students we work with on a daily basis. We also consider and honour the generative human values we witness and experience in those moments of kindness, support, respect and care, so much a feature of our school culture. The schedule for our summer awards will be shared with students in the coming days.

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 2021-2022 to email an expression of interest to clodaghward@scoildara.ie on or before Friday 28th May 2021.

School Staff

We would like to pay tribute to the continued dedication, professional commitment and student-centred focus of our teaching staff, SNAs and support staff at Scoil Dara. This was a remarkable year where in the face of significant and often relentless challenge the team at Scoil Dara responded proactively and concertedly in response to student need and in support of student learning.

We appreciate and are grateful for the continuing support of our community of parents/guardians. 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