



17th September

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We extend a warm welcome to all students and staff who have returned and are settling into the new academic year 2021-22 at Scoil Dara. The year ahead invites us all to develop further our positive learning habits setting achievable and motivating goals with regard our studies, to engage with others in an empathic and inclusive manner and to embrace the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead with hope and courage.

We congratulate our graduating class of 2021 who overcame the significant challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic as they progressed toward their Leaving Cert accreditation. The wonderful results awarded them have seen progression to their chosen further education courses and to the promise life-long learning, personal growth and positive citizenship. We urge our current 6th year students to place great value in each step of their journey toward graduation – working with their teachers, their peers and indeed positively motivating themselves to engage with all learning opportunities to the best of their ability.

Tutor Assembly at 9 am

Our focus on supporting student progress through a holistic pastoral system has led to the timetabling of tutor assemblies at 9am, Monday to Friday. Meeting with the tutor and tutor group each morning will promote student organisation and preparation for learning while nurturing the network of supporting relationships core to our school community. We ask parents/guardians to encourage students to be on time and prepared for school each day optimising student capacity for positive and wholehearted engagement. Students arriving late to school should present a note of explanation at Reception. Where a note is not presented students are required to attend morning detention from 8.15am at the next detention appointed to his/her year group. Where relevant absence texts will be sent after morning assembly.

Medical/Dental and other Appointments

We request that medical and dental appointments are made outside of school hours while understanding that this may not always be possible. On occasions where a student is being collected from school to attend an appointment, parents/guardians should email the relevant year head in advance detailing the appointment date and time of collection:

Year Group	Year Head	Email Address
First Year	Ms. T. Tighe	thersatighe@scoildara.ie
Second Year	Ms. P Keane	patriciakeane@scoildara.ie
Third Year	Ms. C. Finley	caronfinlay@scoildara.ie
Transition Year	Mr. E. Ryan	eamonryan@scoildara.ie
Fifth Year	Mr. J. Rattigan	jimrattigan@scoildara.ie
Sixth Year	Ms. I. Delgarno	isobeldelgarno@scoildara.ie

Agreed Uniform Policy

The Scoil Dara uniform is a traditional emblem of inclusion in the community of our school. The sense of community it evokes creates a consciousness of the values our school celebrates and advocates along with a pride in the unique culture and ethos of Scoil Dara. Our expectation for adherence to the uniform code reflects our shared values and creates a positive atmosphere for learning. The table below details the agreed PE uniform for all year groups -

Year Group(s)	PE Uniform
1 st Year students	New Scoil Dara PE top, white polo top, black track suit bottoms
2 nd & 3 rd Year students	Grey sweatshirt/hoodie, white polo top, black track suit bottoms
TY, 5 th & 6 th Year students	Dark coloured sweatshirt/hoodie and black track suit bottoms
<i>*Scoil Dara PE top can be ordered through Grants www.grantsclothing.ie</i>	

Mobile Phone Policy

While fully aware of the learning applications and supports technology affords our students, our agreed mobile phone policy requires the personal management of mobile devices. Students are not permitted to access or use mobile devices during the school day, unless under the supervision of a member of staff for a clearly defined research/learning purpose. Failure to comply with this policy will result in the confiscation of the device. The school accepts no liability for lost or damaged devices.

Stewardship of our Shared Environment

Students have responded positively to the guidelines regarding the disposal of food waste and wrappers and this sense of collective responsibility is having a very a positive impact of our school environment. All wrappers, peelings, etc. should be placed in a small plastic bag and brought home for disposal. Students are encouraged to utilise re-usable drinking containers only (re-usable plastic/ stainless steel bottles). Students have a shared responsibility for their base classrooms and are required to keep their workspace clean and tidy.

Covid-19 Response Plan

We remind students and parents/guardians that the school continues to follow the Covid-19 response plan procedures, to safeguard the health of staff, students and the wider community. We require that students wear an ear-looped face mask once in the building and recommend that students only remove the mask to eat and drink at the designated times. Students are required to carry two spare masks - stored in their school bag. Hand sanitising and managed movement procedures are operating effectively.

Student Services Charge

The student service charge allows us to provide our students with a range of services which, without the support of parents and guardians, we would simply not be able to provide. These services all play a valuable role in supporting our students to achieve their potential during their time in Scoil Dara. The services provided include:

· Scoil Dara Student Journal	· ICT Services and Maintenance	· SMS Messaging
· Extra- and co- curricular events and activities (school subsidised)	· Bus and student transfer subsidy	· Locker maintenance, rental and combination locks
· Photocopying	· Correspondence and Postage	· House exams and assessments
· Library services	· Parents Association	· VSware
· Microsoft/Teams licences	· Student induction booklet	

Community Activities and Events

We continue to adhere to current Covid-19, HSE guidelines and the advice of the Department of Education and Skills regarding sports team training and school gatherings and events. With regard our scheduled Open Evening and up-coming Parent and Teacher meetings we will share details of the format of these events in the coming weeks.

We are hopeful that in the next phase of the Government Covid-19 guidelines (October 22nd) will provide scope for student access to lockers. In the interim we request that all students avail of base room book storage using a “bag for life”. This storage method has proved effective during the 2020-21 academic year and will minimise school bag weight as well as wear and tear to textbooks.

VShare – Student Record Management System

Information regarding the roll-out of the new VShare system and parent and guardian access to student profiles has been posted to the school website in recent days (please refer to the Announcements section).

We look forward to the coming academic year, working with you in the support your sons and daughters. Our pillar values of Community, Respect, Wisdom and Growth guide our awareness that, in our engagements with others, in the opportunities for learning offered us, in our progress toward our goals and aspirations, in our honest reflections about choices we make, we are nurturing the richness of our human character.

Sincerely and with thanks,

David Mc Cormack

Principal