



09/06/2025

**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. 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 Wellbeing week in May, and we wish to acknowledge the positive, enthusiastic and fun-loving spirit with which students participated in all community events.

In the final few days of term all students were reminded to collect all textbooks and materials, clearing out lockers and bringing their belongings home with them.

**State Examinations**

The SEC exam schedule for the June exams has been posted to our school website. We advise that all students remain 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.

We request that all students remain mindful of other students sitting the examinations and on exiting the school building do so as quickly and quietly in support of their peers who may still be in the examination centre

**Student Services Charge**

Scoil Dara continues the commitment to maintain a reasonable cost of the annual student services charge. This academic year, pupil first insurance will be included in our services charge, increasing the charge to €110. 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 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025. 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:

- VSWare Correspondence, SMS and Postage
- Locker rental, maintenance & combination lock
- Extra and Co-Curricular learning and activities
- Community events and initiatives
- Bus and student transfer to extra-curricular events (subsidy)

- ICT Services: Office365 Academic Licencing, training and support (incl. MSWord, MSEXcel, MSTeams etc.)
- VSware - Student Information and Records Management System with parent interface
- Library Services
- Photocopying and printing
- House Exams and assessments
- Pupil First Insurance

### DES Free Book Scheme 2025-2026

The Department of Education Free Book Scheme provides free schoolbooks and core classroom resources thus eliminating the cost to parents to provide schoolbooks, copybooks and workbooks. As specified in the scheme guidance, schools must provide free schoolbooks and core classroom resources to all Junior Cycle students. **The scheme is now extended to Senior Cycle students for 2025-2026.** Core classroom resources include items like hardback notebooks, journals, calculators as well as subject-specific items like lab copybooks and dictionaries.

Schoolbooks remain the property of the school and are on loan to students. Parents will be notified in August with a date and time as to when schoolbooks and resources must be collected from the school in advance of return for the new academic year.

### Return to school dates 2025-2026

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Years:

Our 1<sup>st</sup> year Meitheal camps will take place on Monday and Tuesday, **August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Group induction sessions, led by our Senior Meitheal leaders, are crucial in the continued transition of students from Primary to Post-Primary. The times for these camps will be communicated to 1<sup>st</sup> year parents in due course.

| Year Group   | Return to school date   |
|--|---|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Years, 6 <sup>th</sup> Years and LCA2s | Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> August 2025<br><br>9am – 11am <b>induction</b>                      |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> years and LCA1s      | Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> August 2025<br><br>9am – 11am <b>induction</b>                        |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Years and Transition Years             | Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2025<br><br>9am – 11am <b>induction</b>                       |
| All Year Groups  | Classes as per normal timetable for all Year groups on Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2025 |

Induction sessions will involve meetings with Year Heads and tutors, distribution of timetables and locations of base rooms. These induction sessions are from 9am until 11am. All students are to present in full school uniform. No materials are required for these induction sessions.

Please note: **School buses may not be in operation for induction sessions. Please ensure alternative transport arrangements are made for these days.**

### **School Policies**

Our key pillar values are reflected in all our school policies. All policies are developed in collaboration with all school stakeholders. Please familiarise yourself with our school policies prior to your child's return to school in August. We ask particular attention to be paid to the following:

- Uniform Code/Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Code of Positive Behaviour
- Bí Cineálta Anti-Bullying Guidelines/Policy
- Acceptable Use Policy

### **Scoil Dara Uniform**

We request that all students present every day in full and proper uniform as per our agreed policy.

We ask for full compliance with the wearing of plain all black shoes and plain all black jackets.

No other colours/logos are acceptable.

Students are also required to adhere to our PE uniform. This consists of black bottoms, a white t-shirt and our Scoil Dara crested PE top.

### **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 wish to thank our Parents Council for all their hard work and support this past year. They have been a tremendous support to the school and have been a significant driver of positive change. They have acted as an important link to the community. We would like to invite parents interested in becoming involved in the Scoil Dara Parents Council for the academic year 2025-2026 to email an expression of interest to [info@scoildara.ie](mailto:info@scoildara.ie) or [lisalynch@scoildara.ie](mailto:lisalynch@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,

**Michael Mc Donagh**

Principal

