



20/05/2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We take this opportunity as a school community, to wish our Leaving and Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students the very best for the state examinations, which commence on Wednesday 5th 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.

We wish all other year groups the best for the up-coming Summer Assessments. Once again the class-based learning and guided revision you have been engaged with will draw you toward the goals that you have set for yourself and we encourage you to reflect on and learn from the experience of all assessments undertaken. Assessment outcomes and student reports will be available to parents/guardians on VSWare by Friday 21st June.

Beyond the end of year schedule of exams we wish you and your families well for the summer holidays ahead.

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 completion. The busy schedule of learning and assessment has been enriched and enlivened by our fantastic school Sports Day on the 16th May and we wish to acknowledge the positive, enthusiastic and fun-loving spirit with which students participated in these community events. The staff of Scoil Dara continue to volunteer their time and energy in support of extra and co-curricular sports and activities as well as community events and celebrations – our students and our community spirit continue to thrive because of that dedication.

The Graduation ceremony for the class of 2024 takes place on Thursday 23rd May in St. Cocoa's Church. We share with you in wishing our 6th years the very best for this important occasion and for the weeks ahead as they commence their state exams.

As we face into the final two weeks 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 9th August 2024 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:

• Photocopying and printing	• Locker rental, maintenance & combination lock
• Correspondence: SMS and Postage	• Extra and Co-Curricular learning and activities
• Community events and initiatives	• Bus and student transfer (subsidy)
• Library Services	• ICT Services: Office365 Academic Licencing, training and support (incl. MSWord, MSExcel, MSTeams etc.)
• House assessments	

Scoil Dara Uniform

Following a community wide review of our Scoil Dara uniform the Board of Management supported the selection of a black, school crested jumper for our in-coming first years in the coming academic year. 2024 also sees the introduction of a generic, plain, fully black jacket as winter wear with the school uniform.

Contact with School

From September 2024 we request that all correspondence regarding student attendance, punctuality and medical/dental appointments be notified to the school through the VSWare (student record) platform.

Confirmation of Student Place

Please complete the confirmation of student place form - available on the school website - For students moving into 2nd to 6th year groups in the coming academic year 2024.

<https://forms.office.com/e/DPDEbQs26Z>

Book Lists

Book lists for our Senior Cycle year groups will be made available on the Scoil Dara website www.scoildara.ie. The new Junior Cycle Schoolbooks Scheme, introduced for the 2024/25 school year, will remove the cost from families of funding schoolbooks and core classroom resources, including copies, calculators and examination papers for all 1st, 2nd and 3rd year students.

Student Awards

The annual Scoil Dara Student Awards represent one of the highlights 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 during these awards. 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/supporting events arranged by the Scoil Dara Parents Association for the academic year 2024-25 to attend a meeting on Wednesday 12th June at 7.15pm in the school.

Scoil Dara - Principal

We bid a fond farewell to Mr. Mc Cormack who will be leaving his role as Principal of Scoil Dara at the end of the summer. We acknowledge the commitment and leadership invested in the further development of Scoil Dara and the unwavering support given to students and staff. On behalf of the entire school community wish Mr. Mc Cormack the very best for the future.

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,

Scoil Dara