



Coláiste Dún Iascaigh

Bothar Caisil, An Chathair, Co. Thiobraid Árann

Cashel Road, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Guthán: **052 74 42828 / 74 42906.** Facs: **052 74 42233** Ríomhphost:

info@colaisteduniascaigh.ie



16th August 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we quickly approach the start of a new Academic Year I very much hope that you and your family had an enjoyable summer even allowing for the poor weather. I am looking forward to the new year and meeting all our students as they return over the course of the next two weeks.

The school infrastructure development plans have progressed well over the summer and in the coming weeks the existing school astro pitch will be lifted and replaced with a new multi-use games surface. Our existing outdoor basketball courts have also been upgraded. Full details and scale of our full project will be communicated once the Government announces this years sports capital grants. I want to thank our local County Council for providing us with a €60,000 grant through the Community Recognition Fund and all parents/guardians who have supported our fundraising efforts to date.

During the October Break building work will commence on a 200 seat auditorium in our school canteen. This will provide our students with a wonderful central social space in our school and will also provide a venue for talks, assemblies and other events.

Our school extension should be going for full planning in the new year and building is scheduled to start at the end of 2025. This is a €10m euro development and will add immensely to the excellent facilities that school has.

School re-opening schedule

The following are our return dates for the 2024/2025 academic year. **Once a Year Group returns their academic year begins.**

Dates:	Times:	Year Group Present:
Friday 23 rd August	8.50am to 1.05pm	1st Years <i>Note: parents/guardians invited to attend with son/daughter at 9am for induction meeting in PE hall for 30 minutes</i>
Monday 26 th August	8.50am to 1.05pm	6th Years (1 st Years)

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Tuesday 27 th August	8.50am to 1.05pm	3 rd Years (6 th years/1 st Years)
Wednesday 28 th August	8.50am to 1.15pm	5 th Years/LCA 1 (6 th Years/3 rd year/1 st year)
Thursday 29 th August	8.50am to 1.05pm	2 nd Years (6 th years/3 rd years/1 st years)
Friday 30 th August	8.50am to 3.45pm	Transition Years All year groups

Year Heads

Each year group have a Year Head assigned who should be parents/guardians first point of contact if you have concerns or questions about your son/daughter's progress in school. Each Junior Cycle class group will have Connect Teachers (Tutors) assigned who will meet with their class group weekly.

Ms. Tarrant (starrant@tipperaryetb.ie) will be the Deputy Principal with responsibility for the **Junior Cycle Year Groups** and Mr. Delahunty (ddelahunty@tipperaryetb.ie) will be the Deputy Principal with responsibility for our **Senior Cycle Year Groups**.

First Year	Mr Paul Ryan	pryan_2@tipperaryetb.ie
Second Year	Mr. Stephen O'Brien	sobrien@tipperaryetb.ie
Third Year	Ms Joanne Trehy	jtrehy@tipperaryetb.ie
Transition Year	Mr Gavin Berry	gberry@tipperaryetb.ie
Fifth Year	Ms. Norma Barry Hurley	nbarry_hurley@tipperaryetb.ie
Sixth Year and LCA	Ms Cara Shanahan	cshanahan@tipperaryetb.ie

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Return to School Costs

I want to thank everyone who has paid this fee already. It allows us as a school to provide services that otherwise could not be facilitated.

A reminder text will again issue to your mobile phone through our Way to Pay school [Parental Payment System](#).

Student Fee: €150

The school fee of **€150** per student goes towards covering the following items:

- School Insurance
- Phone Pouch
- School Locker
- Study-Clix
- Exam Revision
- VShare parent app
- Microsoft Office
- Internet usage
- Gym usage
- Visiting speakers and outside programs
- Psychometric Testing
- Subsidised extra-curricular activity
- Subsidised bus costs
- Printing and binding
- Senior cycle Student Learner Journal

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Collection Dates

Junior Cycle Book Rental Scheme Cost:

Incoming 1st years can collect their books and stationary on Monday 19th August. A text with times has already issued.

Stationary will be provided to 2nd and 3rd years on the days they return.

Senior Cycle Book rental Scheme €180

The cost of the book scheme for 5th year students will be €180 for the two years.

Books will be issued the day 5th years return but only once the fee above is paid.

School PE Tracksuit Gear:

School PE Tracksuit for 1st years will be distributed on Monday 19th August. Only items that have been paid for will be given out. Items ordered by other year groups will be distributed on Tuesday the 20th August.

School Jacket:

This will be distributed to all students in school and thanks to everyone for your support with this initiative.

[Link to School Jacket Information](#)

Mobile Phone Policy

The introduction of **Phone Pouches** aims to enhance students well-being by minimising phone dependency during the school day. These lockable pouches restrict access to mobile phones for all pupils, mitigating the negative impacts of social media and distractions.

Schools have observed improved concentration levels along with increased social interaction among students following the introduction of Phone Pouches. Schools have also witnessed reduced levels of anxiety and cyber-bullying. These Phone Pouches provide a practical solution to address the challenges posed by excessive phone use in educational settings.

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Therefore, the following procedures have been put in place to protect all within the school.

Daily Process:

- Students must bring their pouch to school with them each day. Once a student arrives on school grounds/building they are not permitted to use their mobile phones. All phones at this stage must be powered off and placed in phone pouch and locked.
- During Period 1, students will be asked by their teacher to show their locked phone pouch. During school day pouches may be checked by any staff member.
- If a student arrives late to school, it is their responsibility to ensure their phone is in their phone pouch and locked.
- If phones are needed during class time a teacher may unlock phone pouches. At the end of the class the phone is to be placed back into the phone pouch and locked under teacher supervision.
- If any student needs to leave school early (following correct sign out procedures) the phone pouch can be unlocked at the main office.
- At the end of school day students can unlock their phone pouch as they leave the school building using the unlocking stations.

Policy Breaches:

- If a student has forgotten their phone pouch the student must hand up their phone to the main office before classes begin. The phone will be held in main office and can be collected at the end of the school day. (-2 behaviour points)
- If a student is found to have a phone out of pouch/not locked the following process will apply:
 - Issued lunchtime detention (-5 behaviour points)
 - Second and each subsequent offences students will receive an automatic suspension
 - More serious sanctions will apply for repeated offences
- The sanction for having a second phone will automatically result in a student being suspended.

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Damaged or Lost Pouch Policy:

- Any loss or damage to the Pouch rendering it unusable will result in the student purchasing a new pouch at a cost of €30. If a student consistently forgets their pouch, it is considered lost.
Replacement pouches can be purchased from the main office

Communication with home:

- If a student needs to contact home urgently during the school day, they can do so by using landline phones in main office or Deputy Principal offices
- If parents/guardians need to contact their son/daughter urgently this can be done through the school office **052-7442828**

The school canteen can accept card and cash payments.

Afterschool Study

Mr. Damien Byrne (dbyrne@tipperaryetb.ie) will be overseeing afterschool study next year. This will run each day for Junior and Senior Cycle students with separate centres. Study runs from 4pm to 5.45 pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Study centers are open from 2pm to 5pm each Wednesday. The cost is **€150 per term**.

- Term 1 September to December
- Term 2 January to May

Note: A form will issue next week for evening study

Coláiste Dún Iascaigh also runs an activity/study afternoon every Monday for 1st year students called **Junior Dún**. This runs from 3.45pm to 5.45pm. It is great way for students to get to meet new friends, partake in an afterschool activity and be guided with homework and study.

Note: A form will issue during first week of school to apply for Junior Dun.

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Examinations

Leaving Certificate 2024:

Our 6th year students will receive their results next Friday 23rd of August. I want to wish the group well and hope that everyone will be proud of their achievements. As always our guidance team will be available to advise and support on the day.

VSware School Information Management System

It is essential that the VSware parent App is downloaded by parents to access information on the following:

- Attendance
- Assessment (Term Reports)
- Behaviour
- Timetable
- Personal Information
- VSmile Notifications (emails)
- If parents/guardians want siblings attending the school to be linked to one account, please contact the school.

Note:

- If both parents/guardians wish to receive communication through VSware please contact the school otherwise it defaults to the first parent/guardian's name on the application form.
- Parents/Guardians of incoming 1st year will receive set up details and log in details in August for VSware.

School Code of Behaviour

This will issue to all parents/guardians by link before returning to school. A Consent Form will also be attached and all parents/guardians will be required to confirm that they have read through the Code of Behaviour with their son/daughter and will adhere to the Code of Behaviour as outlined.

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Medical Form

Please complete link below to student health care plan form to update any new health or medical conditions.

[Medical Form](#)

Finally, I want to wish everyone well for the new Academic Year ahead and may the year bring many positive moments where we can all enjoy each other's company in doing the very best for each and every student that attends our school.

Yours Sincerely,

Peter Creedon

Darius Delahunty

Sinéad Tarrant

pcreedon@tipperaryetb.ie

ddelahunty@tipperaryetb.ie

starrant@tipperaryetb.ie

Appendix 1

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