

Scoil Dara, Kilcock



Dear Parents/Guardians,

We continue to wish the best for all of you during these very challenging times. Over the past 12 weeks our team of teachers, guidance counsellors, year heads has endeavoured to maintain contact and continue learning with all students, offering support and encouragement throughout that time. We appreciate the work done to facilitate on-line learning from home, as parents and guardians your role in encouraging and assisting with that engagement has been invaluable.

We are delighted to say that the vast majority of students have been able to continue learning from home while also being aware of circumstances where student engagement faced significant challenges. With high levels of quality engagement the decision was made to hold end of year assessments for our 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th year classes, in order to continue providing learning opportunities, to maintain some semblance of normality in our schoolwork and also to acknowledge the wonderful work students have produced in recent weeks. We also wish to give positive guidance and feedback to our students about their progress across this academic cycle.

Planning for the coming academic year continues also and we wish to set out a road-map with parents/guardians regarding the framework of progress into the coming school year. Though so much of the detail is still unclear, we are proceeding to formalise arrangements for the coming academic year.

School Services:

In support of a range of school services provided at Scoil Dara for all students a charge of €95 applies. This is required to support the provision of the following key services to all students:

<i>Student Lockers and combination locks</i>	<i>Scoil Dara Student Journal</i>	<i>ICT Services</i>	<i>Extra- and co- curricular events and activities</i>
<i>Correspondence and Postage</i>	<i>SMS Messaging</i>	<i>House exams and assessments</i>	<i>Locker Maintenance and rental</i>
<i>Photocopying</i>	<i>Bus and Student transfer subsidy</i>	<i>Library services</i>	<i>Parents Association</i>

Conscious of the economic impact of the current Covid -19 restrictions for all families we have reviewed the scheduling of an instalment plan for this charge over 3 stages as laid out below:

Payment Type	Amount	Scheduled payment due by:
Single Payment Option	€95.00	August 21 st 2020
Recurring Instalments Plan x 3 equal payments	Inclusion in the Instalment Plan closes June 25 th 2020	

Voluntary Contribution:

Our community of parents and guardians are aware that Department of Education and Skills funding available to Scoil Dara - a voluntary secondary school – is insufficient in meeting the school's financial needs. We therefore rely on the goodwill of parents and guardians to further support our school community through the voluntary contribution of €50. We invite parents to consider supporting this contribution at any time during the coming school year.

Student Insurance:

Student Insurance/ Pupil Personal Accident Cover is an Allianz package used by the school. Key features include: 24 - hour cover over 365 days a year for school activities, social, domestic and leisure activities (including school holidays). Cost of Cover €13 per student.

Please note that all school payments inclusive of Student Insurance are made through our [Easy Payments Plus](#) platform accessible via our [school website](#).

Booklists and Junior Cycle Book Rental:

Booklists are available on the [Scoil Dara](#) website for all year groups and details of the Scoil Dara Book Rental scheme for Junior cycle students are also outlined there. Ahead of purchasing any text book please check the titles already acquired in previous years. Students progressing into 2nd and 3rd year, already signed up to the scheme, are due to make payment as part of the instalment arrangements of book rental. These instalment payments should be made through our [Easy Payments Plus](#) platform accessible via our [school website](#). Senior Cycle texts are not included in the book rental scheme.

School Uniform:

Delays in provision to our suppliers is an inevitable consequence of recent restrictions we encourage parents/guardians to contact/access the websites of our uniform suppliers for up-dates:

Uniform Suppliers:

Books & Gifts - Kilcock Book Shop, Church St. Kilcock, Co. Kildare	Tel: 01-6287106
Uniform Warehouse - 4 Finnerty House Dublin Road Maynooth, Co. Kildare	Tel: 01-6289758
Ted Murtagh - Haggard St., Trim, Co. Meath	Tel: 046-9431792

A Greener and Safer School Environment:

Looking forward to the return of students to the school environment we are inevitably undertaking a review of community practices and behaviours to ensure the optimum adherence to best practice regarding health and safety for all. We are also committed as a school community to a Green-Schools, sustainable solution for our community moving forward. With these considerations we wish to advise that from the commencement of the coming academic year that all wrappings and waste from lunches and snacks **must** be brought home (in a small bag or container) by all students. The cleaning/caretaking team of Scoil Dara will be re-directed and committed to ensuring that strict HSE regulations are complied within the school so we will rely on the engendering of responsible citizenship to support health and safety and sustainable goals regarding waste within our school. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Hand sanitizers are being installed within the school building during the summer period. We recommend that all students have access to their own hand sanitizers (small containers of gel/cream) when coming to school.

We take this opportunity to thank our community of students, parents and guardians for their support, commitment and adaptability over the recent weeks. We look forward to meeting with you all again in the near future and especially to welcoming you into your school community once again or perhaps for the first time!

Yours sincerely,

David Mc Cormack – Principal