



11/05/2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope that you and your families are well at this time. 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 sweetened and enriched by our fantastic school Sports Day on Thursday 5th May, and we wish to acknowledge the positive and fun-loving spirit with which students took part and supported each other on the day. On behalf of the students and our wider school community we would like to pay tribute to the team responsible for the planning and coordination of very special community celebration. As we face into the final 3 weeks of term (final day of term Friday 3rd June) we wish to bring your attention to some very important information. We ask that you review this information and discuss necessary aspects with your son/daughter so we can end this school year successfully and positively for all in Scoil Dara.

Punctuality & Uniform: Classes begin in Scoil Dara at 9am and we encourage all students to be present in class in a timely manner each morning. Please support your sons/daughters in being on time for school in these final weeks. If students are late, please provide a note in their school journal explaining this late attendance or send an e-mail explanation to the relevant year head. Students arriving late to school, without a note of explanation, must attend room 11 at 8.15am on the following school morning. We avail of this opportunity to remind parents of our uniform policy. Facial piercings are not permitted.

6th & 3rd Year Students

Teaching, Learning & Assessment: We urge all 6th year, LCA and 3rd year students to attend the full schedule of classes and avail of the expertise and guidance of their teachers in this final stage of exam preparation. These end of term classes are often the ones in which a key piece of revision, a particular revision approach and engagement with learning peers generates significant motivation and key insights to support student success. Progress toward and preparation for exam success informs the learning engagement and we encourage all students to access the support available to them. Our pastoral team of tutors, with Ms. Dalgarno and Ms. Finlay as Year Heads are conscious of the pressure students are feeling as they anticipate the commencement of the state exams and along with our guidance counsellors, we want to encourage students to come and chat about any concerns or apprehensions they may have.

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.

Graduating Class 2022

Plans are well advanced with regards the hosting of the 2022 Graduation for our 6th year group. Students and teachers are working together to ensure the evening is a celebration worthy of this rite of passage as well as representative of the unique spirit of our graduating class. The graduation will take place on Thursday 26th May, commencing at 7pm in the parish church. This is our first in person graduation in two years, so we are really looking forward to sharing this important celebration with students, parents/guardians and staff. Due to capacity guidelines, it will be possible only to accommodate 2 guests per graduate. We acknowledge the inspired role of our RE and Music departments in the design and planning of this evening.

Assessment Schedule: In House Assessments

5th Years: From the Tuesday 31st May 5th years will engage with their scheduled assessments. A timetable has been shared with all students. Students finish at 11.08 am on the Friday 3rd June for summer holidays.

Transition Years: The award of Transition Year credits, as part of the on-going formative assessment strategy, reaches its conclusion in the coming weeks. Our TY cohort will celebrate their graduation on 31st May.

2nd Years: From Tuesday 31st May 2nd years will engage with their scheduled assessments. A timetable has been shared with all students. 2nd years have been busy completing their schedule of CBA-1s during this term also. 2nd year students will finish at 1.00pm on Friday 3rd June for summer holidays.

1st Years: First year assessments take place in class in line with their established timetable across the week of May 30th to the 3rd June. All exams finish at 1.24 pm on Friday 3rd June and summer holidays begin.

We appreciate the support of parents/guardians encouraging and guiding the preparation for assessment. Please link in with teachers, tutors and Year Heads regarding any queries you might have.

Confirmation of Student Place Form

Confirmation of Student Place forms will be shared with all parents/guardians through the school website over the coming days. We appreciate the timely completion and submission of these forms as they assist the organisation of class groups and the completion of curricular planning and timetabling for the coming academic year. All payments relating to student services can be made through the Easy Payment Plus platform, accessed via the Scoil Dara website. Scoil Dara student services charge can be paid in 2 instalments with the initial payment due on or before the Friday 24th June. The total service charge is due for payment by Friday 19th August. Book lists for all year groups will be made available on the Scoil Dara website www.scoildara.ie.

School Calendar: 2022-2023

A detailed school calendar will be available on our website from the end of May.

Student Awards

The annual Scoil Dara Student Awards represent a highlight 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. 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. The schedule for our summer awards will be shared with students in the coming days.

PE Uniform

In September 2021 we introduced our school crested PE uniform top. This can be purchased through the Grants Clothing website at www.grantsclothing.ie. Grants will be holding a pop-up shop in the school on Thursday 16th June 2022 where tops can be purchased and online orders can be collected. Our PE uniform top is compulsory for all 1st and 2nd Year students for September 2022. The top is also available to purchase for all other year groups.

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 the Scoil Dara Parents Council for the academic year 2022-2023 to email an expression of interest to info@scoildara.ie on or before Friday 3rd June.

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 have as a community weathered a very difficult and challenging two years during which a global pandemic adversely impacted those community norms that we so value and rely upon in our daily work. In the face of this unprecedented challenge the team at Scoil Dara responded proactively and sensitively in support of student learning and wellbeing.

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,

David Mc Cormack

Principal