



Sept 19th, 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to the entire Scoil Dara community for the generous welcome I have received since assuming responsibility as Principal over the summer period. It has been a whirlwind start to life in Kilcock, a beginning full of promise and vibrancy. I am proud to lead this community forward, tackling the challenges we face while embracing all opportunities for growth and development. Seeing our students walk through the gates with smiles on their faces and seeing those same smiles leave our school at the end of the school day brings me great joy. It instils belief that Scoil Dara has, and will continue to have, a profound positive impact on the lives of all our students.

I come to Kilcock after a number of great years as Deputy Principal of St. Joseph's Secondary School, Tulla, Co. Clare. I will now endeavour to bring my experience to Scoil Dara and hope to emulate the feats of outgoing Principal David McCormack. David has led Scoil Dara to great heights. His leadership, strength, personable nature, approachability and kindness, has left a lifelong impact on all members of the Scoil Dara community. We thank David for his dedication to the school and wish him the best in his new role as Principal in St. Joseph's Mercy, Navan.

As we look forward, we are humbled by our school's ethos. Each day, it is our responsibility to live out the ethos of our trustees CEIST and our former patrons, The Presentation Sisters. Traditions will always be respected in Scoil Dara. The legacy of both the Presentation Sisters and the Christian Brothers who once joined to form Scoil Dara, lives on each day. I am determined, however, to ensure we continue to strive forward and stay apace with current developments in education. Our staff are committed to providing the highest standards of learning and teaching.

With our new school crest embodying the values of Community, Wisdom, Growth and Respect, I can firmly say that all values are evident when you step inside our school. Students look after one another, extend their friendship groups and include others. Our students make informed decisions in their quest to develop as learners. They think critically and work diligently to reach their potential. Students and staff work side by side to promote personal, educational and spiritual growth. Most importantly, we all respect our school and those who live out the ethos within it. Our goal in Scoil Dara is to continue to form strong bonds and relationships with the wider Kilcock community. I would encourage all parents to approach the school with ideas on how we can further strengthen the school's relationship with the local community.

As we move forward, I take this opportunity to deliver the expectations of Scoil Dara.

We expect:

- All school members to show respect to one another, every day
- Everyone to try their best in class and outside of it
- Full engagement with the school's ethos
- A whole school approach to Learning and Teaching
- Full cooperation with the school's Code of Behaviour and school policies
- High standards of communication and collaboration
- Teamwork from all members of our school community
- A community approach to school improvement
- The fostering of friendships and life-long relationships
- The promotion of Scoil Dara as a hub of innovation and creativity
- A firm emphasis on personal development and growth
- Students to wear their full uniform with pride, as ambassadors for Scoil Dara

These expectations become reality when we work together. My hope going forward, is that 2-way lines of communication between home and school are open and respectful. Our doors are always open to you.

Scoil Dara will continuously 'Shine a Light' on the many activities that happen in our school each day. Daily updates on school activities can be seen on our school's Social Media forums (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) and our website.

I wish to thank all parents/guardians who have paid the school's registration fees and voluntary contributions. Without this, our school would not be able to provide the educational opportunities that it does. We are a proud community, and your support is never taken for granted. We remind those who have not yet accessed the fees, that they can be accessed online through EasyPayments portal on our website.

Upcoming events:

- School Closure, September 23rd.
- Open Night, September 26th @5.30pm, all welcome.

Our Open Night will be an opportunity for Scoil Dara to showcase all that is good about our school. We look forward to welcoming prospective students and their families on the night. All are welcome.

Yours sincerely,



Michael McDonagh, Principal