

December 2024

Nóta ón bPríomhoide / Principal's Note

I want to thank all families and guardians for your loyal support and commitment to school and your student's education.

Our vision is Success For All. These bulletins give us a chance to celebrate and take stock of all the work that we are doing.

Our school is at the heart of the community. Sporting, cultural, youth, support services all make use of our school throughout the year. This is because Coláiste Chú Chulainn is a thriving school in a thriving town and has great ambitions. It is important that the ambitions of families are part of everything that we do in school.

In this bulletin, you will see that we work hard to achieve academic success and also emphasis a Zero Tolerance approach to bullying, cyber-bullying.

A resource for parents in Louth has been launched on <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/> It is a great website and I strongly recommend you review it.

Please, read this document and always discuss school with your student. We also want to wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year.

Le Meas

Thomas Sharkey

Principal



Contacting School	
Note in the Student Journal	www.colaiстеcc.ie
colaistecc@lmetb.ie	042 9354553
Twitter @ColChuChulainn	Parent Teacher Meetings
Home School Liaison Mr Cumiskey	086 1287719



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Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Date	Time	Event
Monday 6th January		School returns.
Thursday 16th January	4:15-6:45	2 nd Year Parent Teacher Meeting.
Monday 27th January – February 7th February.		6 th Year Mocks.
Thursday 6th February	4:15-6:45	4 th and 5 th Year Parent Teacher Meeting.
Tuesday 11th February	4:15-6:15	6 th Year Parent Teacher Meeting.
Thursday 27th February	4:15-6:15	3 rd Year Parent Teacher Meeting.

School Activities/Events

Excellent Attendance Certificates

Over 240 students received excellent attendance certificates. The importance of school attendance helps our students to achieve positive educational outcomes. Attendance is the core to success in school.



1st Year students with their excellent attendance certificates



5th Year students with their excellent attendance certificates

National Concert Hall (NCH) Trip

Our music students attended the National Concert Hall on the 3rd of December for Music in the Classroom: Leaving Certificate Music Guide. The dynamic National Concert Hall Learning and Participation Artist-in-Residence Jessie Grimes



and the National Symphony Orchestra presented a step-by-step guide to Tchaikovsky's Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture. It highlighted key themes and sections and presented with musical illustrations, this concluded with a full orchestral performance. Thank you to Ms Murphy for organising this.

Student Enterprise Programme

Francis Verling working on behalf of the Student Enterprise Awards presented the third enterprise workshop on the 5th of December to our 4th Year students on getting their business ideas up and running. The 4th Year students had their trade fair on Thursday, 12th of December. Throughout the day we had around 160 primary school children who visited the school to attend the trade fair. We had three judges coming in to decide the winners on the day. The judges were from local businesses and Dundalk Credit Union.



Along with this we had each year group coming down at a set period. Below is a selection of photographs taken on the day of the trade fair. Thank you to Mr Curran, Mr Byrne, and Mr Rafferty for organising this.





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Architect Showcase Event - Architects In Schools programme

Our 4th Years attended day 2 of Architect In Schools Showcase Event on Monday, 9th of December in the school. This was organised by the Art Department. The Architects in Schools programme runs from September to May each academic year, with the main workshop activity taking place between October and March. The workshop schedule is agreed locally between the assigned architect and each individual school. Thank you to Ms Thornton for organising this.

Charity Christmas Movie Night

5th Year Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) students hosted a charity Christmas movie night in school on Thursday the 12th of December in aid of Save Our Homeless Dundalk. They raised nearly €500. Thank you to Mr McCabe for organising this.



Dundalk Soup Kitchen

Our 5th Year Head, Bean Uí Ríodal, organised a squad of volunteers for Dundalk Soup Kitchen collection on Friday. The Soup Kitchen help those in need every day of the year and rely on the support of the community.



4th Year Engineering Workshop

Our 4th Year Engineering students participated in a workshop on the 10th of December. Thank you to Mr Corrigan for organising this.

Debating Team

Our students were in a debate on Friday, 13th December and continue to work hard in the competition. Thank you to Ms Henning for organising this.



Maths Week

We also had Maths week in December. Students were encouraged to get involved in a variety of activities including: the daily countdown numbers game, our junior and senior problem of the day, Maths bingo, Maths orienteering as well as learning some interesting Maths facts from displays around the school.



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Every School Day Counts Week

We had our Every School Day Counts Week in December. There are 166 school days in the year. All of our teachers take the roll call in each class, our Year Head's, Ms McLaughlin, Mr McKeever, Mr Fisher, Ms Nic Eochaidh, Bean Uí Riodal, Mr Slowey, our Deputy Principals, Mr Melaniphy and Ms O'Neill and our Principal Mr Sharkey monitors and checks students attendance on a daily basis, so it is important that your student is in school every day to take part in school life and events and to do well in their classes and in their exams. Parents/Guardians also have access to the Compass App which allows parents/guardians to check their student's attendance every day. A link was sent to all parents/guardians email to access the Compass App.

The 'Every School Day Counts' week aims to highlight the importance of school attendance with regard to achieving positive educational outcomes for students. As we all know, attendance is the core to success in school.

There were two random prizes every day for students who were in school called 'If You're Not In You Can't Win'. An announcement was made each day announcing the winners of the competition. There was a poster and an English poetry competition entitled: 'Every School Day Counts'. The picture below shows some of the winners during the week.





Sports

U16 Boys Basketball into All-Ireland Final 2025

Our U16 team played on the 3rd of December and won, and they made it to the All-Ireland Semi-Final on Thursday, 12th December which they also won 47-43 against Ballymakenny to book their place in the All-Ireland B Cup Final in January. Congratulations to the team and thank you to their coaches Mr Slowey and Mr Murray.



Boys Soccer

Our U17 team played games on the 6th and 13th of December and our 1st Year player the Dundalk Grammar School also. Thank you to their coaches Mr Nicks, Mr Rafferty, Mr Breen, and Mr Fearon.

Girls Basketball

Our Basketball Girls had a great game but unfortunately were defeated in the Phoenix Centre, Carrickmacross. Thank you to their coaches Ms McLaughlin and Ms McGory.

Boys GAA

Our U16 team played on the 3rd and 18th of December. Our U17's played Bush Post Primary School on the 13th of December. Thank you to their coach Mr Carron for organising this.



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Rugby

There was a 1st and 2nd Year Rugby Blitz on the 17th of December. They played Dundalk Grammar School, St Mary's College and Coláiste Rís and performed well. Thank you to their coaches Mr Foentjies, Mr Sheelan and Mr Kerley.

Information and Courses for Parents/Guardians

Student Information Management System - Compass

We have a new information management system in our school, Compass. You should have received an email to the email address you supplied to school. That email gives you your username and one-time password. When you log in, you will have to change the password. If you have more than 1 student, your log in detail will give you access to all of your student records.

Once logged in, you will see the following details on your student:

1. Profile (Attendance, Schedule / Timetable).
2. Academic Reports.

This new system means that we will no longer post reports to you in hard copy. We will switch on an Events utility on Compass. This means that you will receive a notification if your student is nominated to attend on a trip or play in a match. You will then have to confirm your consent to the student participating. If you do not confirm consent, the student may not travel or play in the event.

Compass also notifies you if your student is absent and will request a written note in the Student Journal to explain the absence.

Studyclix

The Studyclix resource is available to all 3rd and 6th Year students. Details of registration have been shared through Year Heads / ICT tutors. This resource allows students to access past questions and revision exercises at home and without the need to buy past papers. It is part of our drive for the best results for everybody. This will increase their ability to manage their studies and also reduces financial burden on families.

Visit to Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) in Grangegorman Campus

We are organising a parents/guardians tour in February to the Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) on the Grangegorman campus. Date in February is to be confirmed but will be a Wednesday or Friday morning from 10.00-12.00. Bus will be leaving from the school at 8:45 and will be returning at approximately 2:00. If you are interested, please contact Mr Cumiskey on 086-1287719 as places are limited for the tour.



State Examinations Commission

The timetables for the 2025 Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Cycle examinations have been published on www.examinations.ie. Copies of the timetables are below.

The suite of timetables can be accessed under the Examinations 2025 Banner on the home page.

Comhairle na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2025

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	SUBJECT	TIME
H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level F = Foundation Level		
WEDNESDAY 4	English, Paper 1 - H & O	9.30 – 12.20
	Home Economics, Scientific and Social - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
THURSDAY 5	Engineering - O	9.30 – 12.00
	English, Paper 2 - H & O	2.00 – 5.20
FRIDAY 6	Geography - H & O	9.30 – 12.20
	Mathematics, Paper 1 - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Mathematics - F	2.00 – 4.30
MONDAY 9	Mathematics, Paper 2 - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
	Irish Paper 1 - H (incl aural)	2.00 – 4.20
	Irish Paper 1 - O (incl aural)	2.00 – 3.50
TUESDAY 10	Irish - F (incl aural)	2.00 – 4.20
	Irish, Paper 2 - O	9.30 – 11.50
	Irish, Paper 2 - H	9.30 – 12.35
WEDNESDAY 11	Biology - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	French - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
THURSDAY 12	French - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	History - H & O	2.00 – 4.50
	Business - O	9.30 – 12.00
FRIDAY 13	Business - H	9.30 – 12.30
	Art, Visual Studies - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	German - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
MONDAY 16	German - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Construction Studies - O	2.00 – 4.30
	Construction Studies - H	2.00 – 5.00
TUESDAY 17	Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese - H&O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
	Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and Non Curricular Languages (see Note 2) - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Agricultural Science - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
WEDNESDAY 18	Spanish - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
	Spanish - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Chemistry - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
THURSDAY 19	Physics - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
	Physics and Chemistry - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
FRIDAY 20	Accounting - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	Design and Communication Graphics - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
	Music - Listening (Core) - H & O	1.30 – 3.00
MONDAY 23	Music Composing - H & O	3.15 – 4.45
	Music - Listening (Elective) - H	5.00 – 5.45
	Economics - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
TUESDAY 24	Physical Education - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Italian - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
	Italian - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Russian - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
	Russian - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Classical Studies - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Latin - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	Technology - O	2.00 – 4.00
	Technology - H	2.00 – 4.30
	Japanese - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
	Politics & Society - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Arabic - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
	Arabic - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
	Religious Education - O	2.00 – 4.00
	Religious Education - H	2.00 – 4.30
	Applied Mathematics - H & O	2.00 – 4.30

Notes



Leaving Certificate Applied Examination

Timetable 2025

WRITTEN TIMETABLE 2025

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	TIME	SUBJECT
WEDNESDAY 4	9.45 – 11.45	English & Communication
	2.00 – 4.00	Social Education
THURSDAY 5	9.30 – 10.30	Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
	9.30 – 12.30	Sign Language (see Note 1)
	2.00 – 4.30	Sign Language (see Note 1)
	2.00 – 3.00	French / German / Spanish / Italian
FRIDAY 6	9.30 – 11.30	Mathematical Applications
	2.00 – 3.30	Hotel Catering & Tourism
MONDAY 9	9.30 – 11.00	Engineering
	2.00 – 3.30	Child Care / Community Care
TUESDAY 10	9.30 – 11.00	Graphics & Construction Studies
	11.30 – 1.00	Hair & Beauty
	2.30 – 4.00	Office Administration & Customer Care
WEDNESDAY 11	9.30 – 11.00	Agriculture / Horticulture
	2.00 – 4.00	Technology
THURSDAY 12	9.30 – 11.00	Active Leisure Studies
	2.00 – 3.30	Craft & Design



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Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CYCLE EXAMINATION TIMETABLE 2025

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.
The start time for all Junior Cycle afternoon examinations is 1.30p.m.

JUNE	SUBJECT		TIME
	H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level C = Common Level		
WEDNESDAY 4	English	- H & O	9.30 – 11.30
	Religious Education	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
THURSDAY 5	Irish T1	- H & O (incl aural)	9.30 – 11.30
	Irish T2	- H & O (incl aural)	9.30 – 11.30
	Geography	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
FRIDAY 6	History	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Mathematics	- H & O	1.30 – 3.30
MONDAY 9	Science	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Business Studies	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
TUESDAY 10	Graphics	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Italian (incl aural)	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	French (incl aural)	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
WEDNESDAY 11	Home Economics	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00
	Spanish (incl aural)	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
THURSDAY 12	German (incl aural)	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Wood Technology	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.00
FRIDAY 13	Jewish Studies	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Music	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00
	Engineering	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.00
	Classics	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
MONDAY 16	Applied Technology	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00

Leaving Cert Languages

Need more information deciding on Leaving Cert Languages?

Are you a student or parent who would like to know more about studying **Chinese, Lithuanian, Polish** or **Portuguese** for the Leaving Certificate?

Languages Connect is organising a series of online information sessions to help students and parents become familiar with the new Leaving Cert curriculum and also learn about language classes available for students and funded by the Department of Education. This is the link to the information sessions:

<https://languagesconnect.ie/leaving-cert-information-sessions/>



Get Ireland Active

Get Ireland Active has launched a new interactive map which would be a wonderful resource to share with parents. The map will guide the user to explore thousands of opportunities, from casual to competitive, and find those that suit their family best. The Get Ireland Active map aims to help users to take control of their own activity journey. All in one place, explore countless trails, clubs, facilities, and public places across the country. You can access the map [HERE](#).

FREE QQI Level 5 modules in Childcare

LMETB hope to commence FREE QQI Level 5 modules in Childcare (now called Early Childhood Learning & Care) part-time, through their Back To Education Initiative (**BTEI**).

BTEI classes are eligible to those who meet any of the criteria below:

- Have less than upper second level education (Leaving Certificate) **OR**
- Have a medical card or are the dependent of a medical card holder **OR**
- Are in receipt of a social welfare payment (e.g. Jobseeker Allowance/ Benefit. One Parent Family Payment, Cares Allowance, Disability Allowance, etc.)

For those seeking asylum, they must have their work permit before being eligible.

For further details you can contact: LMETB FET Campus, Chapel St, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 XV08

Contact: Claire O Boyle

Tel: 086 068 9542

Email: bteilouth@lmetb.ie



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Empowering Further Education and Training (FET) Learners to Drive Climate Action: New Module Launch

Solas has a groundbreaking module aimed at equipping every Further Education and Training (FET) learner with the essential green skills and sustainability awareness needed to become catalysts for change on climate action.

This newly developed module, a vital component of the Government/Solas's commitment to environmental responsibility, offers learners the opportunity to delve into various user research topics and methods, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the pressing climate challenges we face. Throughout the course, learners will explore practical ways to reduce their carbon footprint through the 'Reduce your Use' program, hosted on the user-friendly eCollege platform. Participants will gain valuable insights and knowledge, enabling them to make informed decisions that positively impact our environment.

Learners can sign up for the 'Reduce your Use' course on eCollege

<https://www.ecollege.ie/fetch/?sfcw-courseid=403961>

Upon completion of the course, learners will receive a certificate of completion, highlighting their dedication to sustainable practices. To ensure accurate tracking of learners' progress, tutors are kindly requested to save a copy of these certificates and submit the details of learners who have successfully completed the course through the convenient. [Tracking Form](#).

This innovative module not only empowers FET learners but also underscores the Government/Solas's commitment to fostering a greener future. By equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge, we can collectively address climate change and create a more sustainable society.

This module is a vital component of the Government/Solas's pledge to equip every FET learner with the green skills and sustainability awareness necessary to act as real agents of change on climate action.

LMETB FREE Training Courses for Parents/Guardians

LMETB Adult Learning Service are offering the following FREE courses:

ESOL Courses (English for Speakers of Other Languages) - this course is for 4 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Computers/iPad/Smartphone Courses - this course is for 2 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Courses for Adults - this course is for 6 hours per week for 14 weeks and is QQI accredited.

To register for any of these courses call or text 086-0598585.



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Louth Tusla Parenting

Louth Tusla Parenting have developed an online pivotal point of information for parents in Louth. The "**Louth Parent Hub**" website which is <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/>. Parents can access parenting programmes at the following link: [Programmes \(louthparenthub.ie\)](https://www.louthparenthub.ie/programmes)

The key functions of this website are to:

1. **Inform** parents what Services are in their own locality, through providing a categorised "**Directory of Services**" that is easy to navigate and geo-mapped to provide results in closer to their own location.
2. **Help** Parents identify what "**Programmes/Supports**" are available in their area and link them with a local provider who they can contact directly through the website.
3. **Provide** Parents with up-to-date information on programmes and events happening in their area, using a "**Calendar of Events**" that can be populated by services who sign up to join the Louth Parent Hub. There is a QR code to the Louth Parent Hub below:



Visit the
Louth Parent Hub
for information on the
support, services and
events happening in
your local area



Scan QR Code to visit
louthparenthub.ie

PROGRAMMES
Discover a range of parenting and family related training programmes happening across Louth under the support of the Louth Local Development Board.

LOCAL SERVICES
Our aim was to provide families with the most up to date information available to them, and a way to find and contact the required services.

UPCOMING EVENTS
View our live calendar of events, on which you can register your interest and contact the provider directly.

Logos at the bottom: Area Based Childhood Programme, LOUTH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT Board, Child and Family Support Network, TUSLA, and CYPSC.



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Louth Speech and Language

The Louth Speech and Language team are now on social media. You can follow the team for Speech and Language advice and tips.



Healthy Louth Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2024.

Healthy Louth have designed a bi-monthly newsletter please find the link to the 12th edition below:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2024](#)

The Healthy Louth Newsletter will signpost to various health and wellbeing information / programmes and events happening across Louth each month. The content of the newsletter incorporates Healthy Ireland themes including:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Spaces & Places for Health and Wellbeing



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- Tobacco & Alcohol
- Older People
- Workplace Wellbeing

Parenting24seven

Parenting24seven is part of the Supporting Parenting project in Prevention Partnership and Family Support service within Tusla. You can choose your child's age range or look through their different articles. The link to the website is as follows: [parenting24seven](https://parenting24seven.com)

Advice for Parents about Cyberbullying



<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

THE INTERNET PRESENTS wonderful opportunities for children, from education to entertainment.

Despite the terrific opportunity it represents, the internet contains its fair share of safety concerns that all parents worry about. Chief amongst them is cyberbullying, which can affect any child on the internet. The Safer Internet Day 2023 Report and Research Findings, which is available to view on Webwise, noted that 45.3% of teenagers in Ireland had witnessed some kind of mistreatment online, meaning it's more important than ever for parents and teachers to speak with children about their online activities.

As shown in the above report, cyberbullying is sadly one of the more common negative experiences children encounter online in Ireland. The effects of cyberbullying can last a long time and affect a person in many ways. However, there are steps we can take to support children and teens online.

There is lots of helpful advice for families and schools available from Webwise. These include the Parent's Hub, which provides helpful talking points and conversation starters that can help parents to deal with conflict around technology use at home.

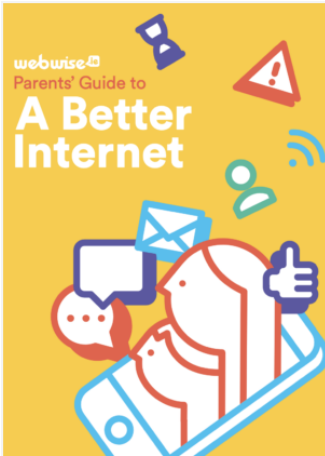
What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and smartphones.

It is important to note that Cyberbullying can happen to anyone. It is always wrong, and it should never be overlooked or ignored.



Children may not be aware of the emotional damage cyberbullying, and all other forms of bullying can cause to the victim. Educating your children on this topic and enforcing the importance of not standing by while someone else is being bullied will help contribute to responsible internet use.



As cyberbullying takes place on the internet, we do not see the victim in front of us. You cannot tell the impact cyberbullying has on a person as a result.

What parents can do to prevent cyberbullying?

Prevention is better than cure. Talk to your child about online bullying before it happens.

1. Early conversations

It is never too late to start conversations and instruct children about safe and respectful communication. An important part of the conversation is around developing good habits around how they use technology, reviewing the settings and talking to them about making friends online.

2. Privacy settings and features

Privacy settings go a long way in keeping your child safe online. Your child can choose who gets to be friends with them online and stay protected from other users. Familiarise yourself with the apps they are using and go through the settings together. Ensure your child understands the safety features, such as blocking and reporting. Talk to them about who they are connecting with and avoid having profiles set to public.

3. Encourage positive connection and respectful communication

Encourage your child to treat others with respect online in all of their interactions. Remind them that they play a role in making the internet a friendly place for all. Open a dialogue with them about how to be a good friend on the internet, including when they witness cyberbullying taking place. If they see cyberbullying take place, let them know that they can report it to help those that are being bullied.



4. Asking for help

Talk to your child about the steps to take when they need help. Establishing rules around what is acceptable on the internet can help guide them in this regard. They should not feel nervous or fearful to approach you if they need help, so reminding them that you support them and are willing to listen can be extremely helpful.

5. What to do if something goes wrong

Remind your child that they can come to you if anything upsets them online. If cyberbullying has occurred, remember to keep the messages and instances of abuse. Report the abusive parties to the moderators of the platform where it took place. Banning your child from using the internet or taking away their smartphone can damage trust and may make them less likely to come forward if cyberbullying occurs again.

Remain calm and do not alarm them by taking immediate action they are not comfortable with. But it should also be made clear to them that in order to help them, you may have to speak with their teachers and the parents of other children who may be involved and contact the Gardaí in serious cases.



IN GET ADVICE, PARENTS

Dealing with Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying? Online bullying is something you should talk about with your child before it happens.
Ideally

School Notices

Attendance

- Attendance is the first step to academic success.
- There are **166 school days** in the year and every one of them is important.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child both now and in their future.
- It will benefit a student's well-being, education, and career.
- Improved literacy and numeracy skills, even among those students who are struggling in school.
- Students who frequently attend school feel more connected to their community and develop strong social skills and friendships.
- Fahd Monney on the right continues to represent his family and town with Dundalk FC. He has full attendance in school.



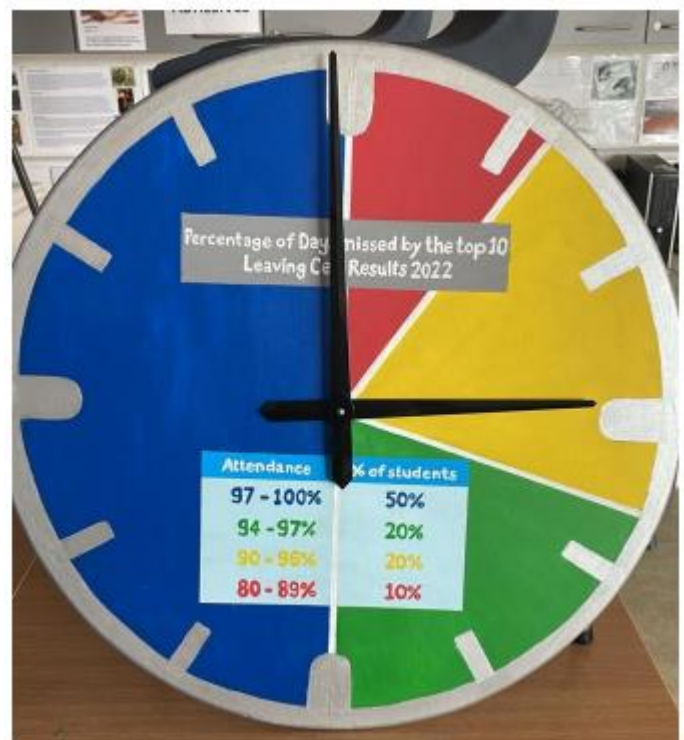
Top 10 attenders in Leaving Certificate

Our top 10 attenders in the Leaving Certificate had over 80% attendance. Our top 5 students had over 90% attendance.

This shows the importance of school attendance with regard to achieving positive educational outcomes for our students. As we know, attendance is the core to success in school.

We pride ourselves on the excellent attendance of our students. Alan Jumbo sat his Leaving Cert in June 2023. He did not miss a day of secondary school. His Leaving Cert results were excellent, and he is heading to university to follow his dreams. Our best results are achieved by the best attenders. In the 2021 – 2022 school year, 44 students had full attendance. In the 2022 – 2023 years, this went up to 99!

We understand that there are unavoidable events and circumstances. When your student is absent from school, you will receive a SMS from the school system advising you that a note is required in the Student Journal.





Coláiste Chú Chulainn

Parents / Guardians can help make Every School Day Count

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Be organised. Make sure they have everything ready from the night before.
- Have their coats and bags at the door.
- Have their lunch made.
- Have their uniform/PE uniform ready.

Communication with School

Our school is very busy. We remind all families of the communications procedure we have in place:

1. Student Journal should be signed by guardians every week.
2. Guardians should note communication in the Student Journal and record absences / late arrivals in the front cover.
3. Guardians should email colaistecc@imetb.ie to request an appointment if required.
4. All students who have medical appointments, must be collected, and signed out in person by a guardian.

Homework and Study

Coláiste Chú Chulainn has an ambition for all students to excel in their academic endeavours. This means that we give homework, revision, and study tasks each day to all our students. Students should record this in their student Journal and should be busy with school work each evening. We ask that families ensure your student has the time and space to do this important work. We also require that guardians and parents check the Student Journal every week at a minimum and be part of the student's success.

The government and Department of Education now provide free copy books and materials to all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Years. This will roll out to all senior students next year. This means that all students must have all their work neat, tidy and in the correct copies. We suggest that guardians read your student's work on a regular basis and discuss what they are learning.

As a school, we appreciate your support for our work and your student's progress.

Student Absences

All student absences from school need to be recorded in the inside cover of the school journal. This is the best way for school and family to record absences. It means that you and the Year Head can account for all days missed.

Punctuality (Beat the Bell)

Students are expected to be punctual each morning. It is important for your student to understand the importance of being in school on time and to go to each class on time. Your student is expected to be in

the school by 8:45. Missing a few minutes each day at the start of the school day or during the school day can add up to many hours lost over the year.

Good punctuality means:

- You show respect for the person you are meeting.
- You respect yourself enough to keep your word.
- You prove that you can be trustworthy.
- You are appreciated for being on time.
- You are regarded as a dependable person.
- You are seen as a professional.
- You build a powerful reputation for your character.
- You attract more opportunities for your character.
- You eliminate stress from your life by removing the anxiety of being late.
- You do the right thing and feel good about it.

Medical Certificates/Hospital Appointments

If your student(s) attend a doctor or hospital appointment, we need your student to bring in the medical certificate/hospital appointment to their Year Head who will then put this in their student file. This will explain their reason for their absence in school.

Healthy Eating Policy

We remind all parents/guardians that school provides a free snack at 10.50am and a free sandwich at 1.10pm. All students should bring an empty bottle as we have filtered water towers for them to drink fresh water.

Our school's Healthy Eating Policy prohibits sugary, salty, fatty foods. Students are NOT allowed take items such as sweets, lollies, crisps, chocolate, and minerals to school. **We have asked local shops to stop selling these items to children in the mornings.**

This policy is to ensure the best health, wellbeing, concentration, and dental hygiene for our young people. It is not acceptable for students to bring unhealthy foods to school. We instruct students and you teach your children to avoid lollipops, packets of biscuits and crisps. So, together, we will ensure they do not have them in school.

Mobile Phone Usage in School

The government and Department of Education is concerned about the use of mobile phones in school. We share this concern. Our policy is clear - that all student phones must be switched off throughout the school



day. If a student is found to breach this rule, we confiscate the phone and require an adult to come to school to collect the phone from school. We appreciate everybody's support in this matter.

Vapes and E-Cigarettes

Vapes, cigarettes and e-cigarettes are prohibited in schools in Ireland. It is illegal to sell these products to young people. We take a dim view of vaping in our school and remind all guardians that a student who is found to be vaping, in possession of a vape, or involved with assisting others to be involved in vaping will be suspended.

We ask that all guardians discuss the dangers of vaping and smoking with your students.

Uniform Policy

All students know about the Uniform Policy. It is on page 7 of their journal. Please ensure full uniform at all times. Note the rule on facial piercings please. Our school has a clear uniform policy. I ask that all students follow it correctly. Some items to be aware of are that the tracksuit bottoms should be navy.

Only school jackets are allowed. We ask that all students wear their school jacket to school. Remember the uniform requires black shoes or black runners.

Proud of Our Heritage

Heritage and culture are important to all of us. We want to cherish the heritage of all students in our school. We now have a Culture Cabinet where we display items from across the world. If you have a souvenir from a country or region around the world, we would love if you donated it for display in our cabinet.