

Joining us this year?

Whether it is as a first year or transferring from another school we hope the following information will assist you.

We are preparing for similar health measures as last year concentrating on compulsory masks, hand sanitising and one way system. During the first term nothing will have changed from last year and we ask everyone for your support in these measures.

We are experiencing the largest growth ever in student numbers in recent years. This year we have an increase in student numbers in excess of 60. Due to the equally large number of student transfer applications we have had to close admission to many class groups. Sorry.

We also await delivery of three additional prefabricated classrooms which will be installed in September with two more before the end of the year.

We have additional teachers ( we expect 4 in total) due to the increased number of students.

Ms Coffey has taken up an appointment as principal in Colaiste Aindriu, Bagenalstown and we wish her well in her new position.

A new Deputy Principal will be appointed shortly.

We have for many years operated a **Book Rental Scheme**. The Book Rental Scheme means that you do not have to source your own books and they work out considerably cheaper than if you had to buy them. You should have received a link for payment at this stage. Thank you to so many who have already completed payment.

- Book Rental
- Locker
- 24 Hour Insurance
- Mock exams
- ID Cards
- Prizes, etc

There has never been family contributions or any other charges. If you are joining First Year it is advisable to purchase 12 basic school copies and some pens.

Book rental is paid through our online system **Way2Pay** and should be completed before joining in August/September

Return dates are posted on the website. During the first week new first years will sit an assessment test. This does not decide on which class group the students join (which is indicated by their subject choices) but allows us to identify any strengths and weaknesses which we should be aware of.

If at this stage full **subject choices** have not been completed, don't worry. This can all be completed on return next August.

We are a Google Reference School (and the first in Ireland) because we use GSuite for Education for the delivery of much of our material both in class and through homework. We ask parents to please provide a **Chromebook** (which is the cheapest and most efficient of all of the laptops) for your student. Chromebooks start at around €150/200) We have a strong WiFi connection throughout the school and have had great success (particularly through Covid) with this method. We try to limit books as much as possible and encourage teachers to use their own material in class. Very many of the textbooks can remain at home as reference books for homework. This year we had some Chromebooks available for rent and will have a limited number in the coming year but with the increased numbers we would find it very difficult in the coming year.

A list of the **School Uniform** is available here. You have chosen to be part of our school so we ask you to show belonging by having the correct uniform - **this includes the jacket!** Last year with Covid we had regular "mask breaks" and students went outside. The school jacket is one that we know is reliable and also prevents fashion competition!