



ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD OF OUR PAST, CONFIDENT OF OUR FUTURE

Principal **Paul Savage** | Deputy Principal **Patrick Traynor** | Deputy Principal **Jennifer Kelly**

Information for Parents – April 2024

Return to School Dates – August 2024

1. The return to school dates in August 2024 are;
 - Thursday August 22nd – 5th years 9 to 11
 - Thursday August 22nd – 6th years 9 to 12:30
 - Friday August 23rd – 1st years 9 to 11 (first day of school for incoming 1st years)
 - Monday August 26th – 1st, 2nd & 3rd years 9 to 11
 - Tuesday August 27th – Full school day for all students, including TY's first day back.

The finish up dates for the current school year are on the calendar, which is on the school website www.droghedacbs.ie.

PE Uniform

2. The PE kit is compulsory for all students in 1st, 2nd, 3rd, TY & 5th year in the 2024/2025 school year. The PE kit is worn in PE class and exam PE classes at Leaving Certificate. The PE uniform cannot be worn in mainstream classes. The PE kit can be purchased from Play-Fit using the link on the home page of the school website www.droghedacbs.ie.

Play-Fit will be in the school on June 10th, 11th, 12th & 13th for fittings. Students can come in on any of those days and try on the various sizes of each item to make sure that the order is correct.

School Uniform

3. Details of the school uniform are on the school website www.droghedacbs.ie/uniform. The school coat is a compulsory part of the school uniform, that all students are required to have.

Non school jackets/hoodies etc are not permitted on the school premises. Non school jackets/hoodies will be confiscated and returned to a parent.

School shoes are all black/brown/grey, or navy. No stripes, or markings are permitted on school shoes.

Gaelic Football

4. Louth GAA have offered to work closely with St Joseph's to achieve 'A' status for senior Gaelic football. This will see additional external coaches allocated to the school and upskilling of coaches in the school. We have been asked to raise €5,000 for this. If your son/daughter plays Gaelic in the school, we are asking you, or your company/business to make a donation if you are in a position to do so. Please contact the school by **Friday May 17th** (not the date that is on the letter) if you are in a position to make a donation. Full details of this are on a letter posted on the school website www.droghedacbs.ie.

Schoolbooks Grant

5. The government have introduced a new scheme for **Junior Cycle Students** only, which means that all school textbooks/novels/plays etc are paid for by the grant from the start of the new school year. The grant also covers stationery and a full outline of what is covered by the scheme is at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5652a-schoolbooks-scheme-for-junior-cycle-in-post-primary-schools/>. The scheme does not cover the cost of the school ipad, uniform, pencil case, or school bag.

Parents will no longer have to pay the €100 book rental fee in either, first, second, or, third year. That has now been abolished.

Students going into TY, 5th and 6th year next year are not able to avail of this grant. Book lists for TY and 5th year will be published on the school website in June.

Ipads for 3rd & 6th Years

6. The rollout of ipads for all students will enter it's 3rd and final year in August. All incoming 1st years and Transition years are required to purchase the ipad from Select. The link to Select and the code that is needed to purchase the ipad are on the home page of the school website www.droghedacbs.ie.
 - **May 17th** – the last date that the ipad can be purchased.
 - **June 4th 1pm to 4pm** – set up date in the school for 3rd years. Select will visit the school and set up the ipad onsite. Parents will be sent a time slot closer to the date.
 - **June 5th 5pm to 9pm** - set up date in the school for incoming 1st years. Select will visit the school and set up the ipad onsite. Parents will be sent a time slot closer to the date.

New School Timetable

7. The Board of Management has approved changes to the school timetable. The following changes are taking place from August;
 - We are moving from 40-minute classes to 1-hour classes from August.
 - Classes will begin at 8:30 each day, Monday to Friday.
 - Lunch Break will be 30 minutes long. We will continue to operate a split small break and lunch. Small break will remain at 15 minutes.
 - School will finish at 3:15 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. School will finish at 12:45 on Fridays.
 - The finish time on Tuesday is still being clarified and the finalised timetable will be published to parents next week.

TY School Musical

8. Our TY school musical is Back to the 80s and it is in the TLT Drogheda on May 9th and 10th. Tickets are on sale at <https://thetlt.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/1173653849>. In keeping with past TY shows, it promises to be a great night. All of the students and their teachers have been working since September on it and your support is greatly appreciated.