



Coláiste Dún Iascaigh

Bothar Caisil, An Chathair, Co. Thiobraid Árann

Cashel Road, Cahir, Co. Tipperary

Guthán: **052 74 42828 / 74 42906.** Facs: **052 74 42233**

Ríomhphost: **info@colaisteduniascaigh.ie**



Dear Parent / Guardian,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for choosing the Coláiste as your secondary school of choice for your son/daughter. The staff of the Coláiste and I always look forward to working with our incoming 1st years, and one of the biggest rewards of being involved in education is seeing students develop and mature as people as they move through their teenage years.

I am aware that there may be some anxiety about the transition to secondary school, but I want to reassure you that it is a fresh start for everyone, and all students will be mentored and cared for as they go through their 1st year and subsequent years.

Our transition programme schedule is attached, and it outlines a provisional timeframe up to the start of our next school year. I do have to mention that we still have a significant number of students on a waiting list to join our 1st year cohort so please contact us immediately if your son or daughter will not be attending next year.

All 1st year classes are mixed ability, and the six base classes will be a mix of boys and girls from all our feeder primary schools. All students will study the core subjects of English, Irish, Maths, History, Science and Geography. All students will also participate in the Wellbeing Programme consisting of SPHE, CSPE, PE, IT and Religion. In addition to the above, students may choose **3** subjects from the following list: Modern Foreign Language (French, German and Spanish), Visual Art, Home Economics, Music, Business Studies, Technology, Graphics, Metalwork and Wood Technology.

An information webinar will be released on Thursday 18th March at 7.30 pm and it will help you with these choices. The link below will bring you to a site which will give you detail about all subjects along with short video clips giving an overview of the content aims and objective of each subject.

<https://curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/>

Normally, at this time of year we would be writing to you with details of a CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test) assessment, usually held at the end of March. Unfortunately, under the guidance of the public health authorities and reopening of schools, this has been deferred to May (see schedule below). This snapshot is a useful guide for us when looking at student subject choices, but we do use it to monitor academic progress over Junior Cycle. It has proved a very reliable indicator over the last number of years.

Príomhoide: *Peadar Ó Criodain*
Leas Phríomhoide: *Darius Ó Dulchaointigh*
Sinéad Ní Thoráin

Principal: *Peter Creedon*
Deputy Principal: *Darius Delahunty*
Sinéad Tarrant



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You will get a further opportunity to chat with myself, Mrs. Tarrant or Mr. Delahunty in person in the Coláiste in late April early May. In advance of this meeting a link to a Microsoft Form will issue, and you can fill in your subject picks. The ranking order will be important but if you have any further queries, they can be addressed at this stage. Your son/daughter is also invited to attend this meeting.

There are lots of other web-based resources about the Junior Cycle Programme in addition to the link provided above that may be worth a visit.. These include the following:

<https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/leadership/jc-info-parents-post-primary-092019.pdf>

https://careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer_jc.php?parent=2004&ed_sub_cat_id=325&menu_parent_id=

Our school website provides further information, and the link below may be very useful as well.

<https://www.colaisteduniascaigh.ie/curriculum/guidance-service/>

Our webinar will also contain some practical answers to some questions you or your son/daughter may have. This years 1st years will be part of the 24th group to start their second level education in the Coláiste and the questions this group have will be very similar to the first group that started in 1997. In recent years many parents/guardians are in fact past pupils of the Coláiste who have helped shape the traditions and culture of the school.

Finally, I want to wish your son/daughter well for the remainder of 6th class and I am looking forward to September 2021 and our school slowly returning to normal activities where students get to experience all the activities on offer along with the professional support of a progressive team of teachers/SNA's and support staff.

Yours sincerely

Peter Creedon



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Transition Schedule

Event	Date
Information Webinar for Incoming first years and parents (Link to Webinar will be sent out to your mobile phone number in advance)	Thursday 18 th March 2021 7.30pm
Subject Choice Microsoft Form issued to parents/guardians	Thursday 18 th March 2021
Primary School Visits by our career guidance team	Late April or May
Return of Subject Choice Form by parents / guardians (Provisional student choice)	Friday 26 th March 2021
Parent and student Meetings (In school) (Time and date to be sent out prior to Easter holidays) With: Mr. Creedon Mr. Delahunty Mrs. Tarrant	Tuesday 20 th April 2021 Thursday 22 nd April 2021 Tuesday 27 th April 2021 Thursday 29 th April 2021
CAT test for incoming first years	Week beginning 28 th May
Educational passports sent from primary schools to Coláiste Dún Iascaigh	June



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Starter pack issued to students including information about: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Calendar 21/22• School Uniform• School Costs (way to pay info)• Afterschool study• VShare Parent App. Information• Student email• General Updates	End of June / Start of July
Book Scheme Collection	Late August
Induction week including a morning Assembly for incoming 1 st year and parents / guardians	Late August
Progress information night for parents / guardian	Late September

(The above schedule is subject to change with health advice at the time)