

Coláiste Dún an Rí

Presentation for Parents of
Incoming First Year Students

May 2026



The Transition from Primary School

- The transition from the familiarity of Primary School to a new Secondary School can be challenging and daunting.
- Coláiste Dún and Rí has many formal structures put in place to aid and support each new student's arrival to the new school environment.

Transition from Primary School

- The process of transitioning from Primary School includes the following:
 - Open Night
 - Contact with parents
 - Assessment tests
 - Contact with the primary schools
 - Transfer of information from parents and the primary school
 - Information Presentation to parents
 - The Student Passport
 - School Induction Programme in August

Induction Timetable August 2025

August 27 (Thursday)

First Year students 8:45 – 12:10

Induction activities and assignment to classes

August 28 (Friday)

Induction activities and class 08:45 – 12:10

Induction Timetable August 2025

August 31 (Monday)

First full day

Induction activities take place for the week and into September

End of September – team building day to Tanagh

Thursday 27 & Friday 28 August Induction Days for First Years 8:45 – 12:10

- Assigned to classes and tutors
- Orientation around the school
- Get timetable and have it explained
- Using the Student Journal
- School rules-activities
- Anti-bullying activities
- Meet Buddies and Prefects
- (Please note school bus transport may not run on this day)

Monday 31 August

- School day 8:45am – 15:46pm
 - Registration/Tutorial with Class Tutors
 - Timetable check
 - Locker assignment
 - Partial book distribution
 - Learning to learn activities

Rest of Week and September

- Rest of the Week and September
 - Orientation activities
 - Learning to Learn activities
 - Locker organisation
 - Organisation skills
 - Extra-curricular activities sign up
 - Lunch time activities
 - Classes and Learning
 - Settling into secondary school

Calendar

- Posted on the Website and in the Student Journal
- [Calendar \(colaistedunanri.ie\)](http://colaistedunanri.ie)
- Some dates may have to change

School Calendar 2026/2027

Key Dates

(Please note that this calendar is subject to change and the school may close for three additional days to accommodate training for Senior Cycle Reform. These dates are not yet available)

2026

August 27 (Thursday) - Students Return to School First Year and Sixth Year students

August 28 (Friday) - First, Second, Third and Sixth in school

August 31 (Monday) - All year groups in school

September 22 (Tuesday) - Staff Planning Meeting (Classes finish at 14:48)

September 25 (Friday) - School Closed

October 6 (Tuesday) - Open Night for Incoming First Year 6 – 8pm

October 19 - 23 - Third- & Sixth-Year November Assessments (Pre-Mock)

Year Team

- Year Head – Shauna North and Garret Hickey
- Class Tutors – Melissa Gartlan, Lauren McNally, Robbie Lorenz and Niamh Lister
- Check Progress – academic and social (including behaviour and attendance)
- Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care Structure

- Key personnel
 - Principal/Deputy Principal
 - Year Head
 - Tutors
 - Guidance Counsellors
 - AEN teachers
 - Subject Teachers
- Delivery
 - Pastoral Care Tutorial
 - SPHE
 - Guidance
 - AEN
 - Buddy System
 - Extra-curricular program
 - Wellbeing Program

Guidance Counselling

- Available to advise and support students
- Counselling Service but not a full time professional service – if this is necessary it needs to be sourced outside of school.
- Career Guidance advice
- Pastoral Care

- Contact Sharon Cumiskey/Clare Rahill

Anti-Bullying

- Bi Cinnealta Anti-Bullying Policy
- Written with input from students, parents and staff
- Reporting procedure
 - Staff observation
 - Teacher report
 - Parent report
 - Student report
- Reports can be made via website

Anti-bullying measures

- Induction activities and teambuilding
- SPHE Classes
- Helping Hands Program
- Anti-bullying Workshops
- Anti-bullying activities in various subjects
- Restorative Practice
- Anti-bullying surveys
- Senior Prefects and Buddies
- Pastoral Care System
- Guidance Counsellor
- Friendship Week
- Training for staff
- Reporting procedures

Class Structures

- Base classes will have approx. 24 students – Tutorial, English, Irish, Maths, History, CSPE, SPHE, PE.
- Other classes depends on subject demand and uptake but average at 24 per class.
- Class structures may change to accommodate levels in Maths, Irish and English.

Class Structure

- Mixed ability - Based on CAT scores
- Based on primary schools – students will have someone from their current school with them
- We can't guarantee that students will be with all the friends they want to be with
- Once classes are set then they don't change
- <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/AtcvmbmH6Z>

First Year Information 2026 2027



Classes and Curriculum

- Irish, English and Maths have Higher Level and Ordinary Level decided upon at the during or at the end of First Year
- All other subjects are at Common Level
- Core Exam Subjects – Irish, English, Maths, History, Science,
- Short Courses – PE and CSPE
- Non Exam Subjects – RE, SPHE, IT

Key Skills

- **Managing Myself:**

Knowing strengths, staying well, and making good choices.

- **Staying Well:**

Being healthy, active, safe, and positive.

- **Communicating:**

Listening, speaking, writing, and using digital tools.

- **Being Creative:**

Imagining, exploring options, and learning from mistakes.

Key Skills

- **Working with Others:**

Cooperating, respecting diversity, and learning together.

- **Managing Information & Thinking:**

Gathering facts, judging evidence, and thinking critically.

- **Being Literate:**

Understanding words, numbers, and symbols accurately.

- **Being Numerate:**

Using math, recognizing patterns, and solving daily problems.

Assessments

- Class assessments
- Winter and Summer
- Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)
- Junior Cycle Exam

- Athena Tracker System

AEN – Additional Education Needs

- Supporting learning challenges
- Student Support Plan (SSP) from primary school
- Language/Irish exemption – usually granted in primary school
- Educational/Psychological Report – very helpful
- Mainstream Classes, Team-Teaching, Small groups and One-to-One

- Contact Maria McEvoy or Nicola Fox

Additional Education Needs

- Irish Exemptions can only be granted under specific criteria laid out by the DEY – the principal cannot grant an Irish Exemption unless all the criteria is met.
- AEN can only be diagnosed by a clinical psychologist and not by school staff.
- An Assessment of Need must be recommended by the child's GP and referred to the HSE.
- This includes ADHD, Autism, Dyspraxia, Dyslexia etc.

Teaching and Learning

- Active methodologies
- Use of individual work, peer work, group work, and IT
- Focus on student responsibility for individual work
- More study and learning than in Primary school as opposed to written homework
- Students should have a homework/study timetable – 1 hours per evening combined study and homework by December
- Students will not complete homework in class
- Teams utilised for each class and subject

The School Day Structure

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:48 – 9:00	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial
9:00 – 9:58	1	1	1	1	1
9:58 – 10:56	2	2	2	2	2
10:56 – 11:14	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:14 – 12:12	3	3	3	3	3
12:12 – 13:10	4	4	4	4	4
13:10 – 13:50	Lunch	Lunch	End	Lunch	Lunch
13:50 – 14:48	5	5		5	5
14:48 – 15:46	6	6		6	6
	End	End		End	End

Morning Tutorial – 8:45

- Start at 8:45 – part of timetable – students must be in class at 8:45
 - Have books organised for the day before tutorial
 - Registration and monitor attendance
 - Announcements
 - Check Student Journal
 - Check uniform
 - Check student wellbeing
 - Pastoral Care
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- Tip: Take time each evening to organise books and bag – have a zipped mesh folder for each subject

Small Break and Lunchtime

- Small break at 11:56 for 18 minutes – time to go to the toilet, eat a snack in the canteen and get books for next two classes.
- Lunch time 1:10 – 1:50 – time to eat lunch in the canteen, extra-curricular activities, ‘down-time’, toilet, books for next two classes, study/homework,
- Under **no** circumstances may a student leave the school campus without the express permission of the principal or deputy principal

Making contact with school

- Journal/Tyro
- Phone
- Email – darparents@colaistedunananri.ie
- Please do not contact school via social media
- Appointment
- Contacting your child while in school – phone the front office – mobile phones are not allowed

Attendance

- Please use Tyro system to record absences
- Requests to leave school early can also be done by using the Tyro attendance app
- Please alert your Tutor or Year Head if there are any attendance issues as your child progresses through school.
- School starts at 8:45 every day and ends at 3:46 (13:10 Wednesday)
- Students are expected to be on time and be in school all day, everyday

Who to contact?

- Concern about a subject – contact subject teacher
- Concern about academic or social development – contact Tutor or Year Head
- Contact about educational needs – contact Year Head or AEN Coordinator
- Concern about welfare – contact Tutor or Year Head
- Concern about bullying – contact Tutor/Year Head/ Deputy Principal or Principal (or report via website)
- Concern about Child Protection – contact Principal (or report via website)

Tyro

- School administration system
- Will be open to parents in September
- Will monitor and keep track of the following:
 - Attendance
 - Behaviour
 - Assessment Reports
 - Also provides student timetable and personal information



Parent Dashboard

Your Students ▾



Parent Dashboard



Welcome to the Dashboard

This page is your one-stop-shop to view live notifications on your student's attendance, behaviour, reports and more. If you want to explore further, click into your student's profile.



Your Students



Your Contact Details



Notifications

Nothing to report!

Notifications related to your students will appear here when available.



Pick an area to explore



Attendance

Monitor your student's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

[Learn More →](#)



Assessment

View your student's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments.

[Learn More →](#)



Behaviour

Keep track of your student's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

[Learn More →](#)



Timetable

View your student's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

[Learn More →](#)



Personal Info

Overview of your student's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More →](#)



Fees

Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online.

[Learn More →](#)



Student Options

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school.

[Learn More →](#)

Book Rental – Free Scheme

- Books are property of the school and loaned to students
- Must be looked after and replaced (i.e. paid for) if lost or damaged.
- Includes subject specific material e.g. dictionaries, Art packs, TG pack, Music notes
- Includes Student Journal
- Does not include Home Ec, Woodwork, Engineering and occasional subject costs or pens, pencil case ect

Schoolbooks Scheme for Junior Cycle (6)

Appendix 1 – Core Classroom resources - must provide

- 1 school journal
- 12 copybooks (incl. equivalent hard back copybook or refill pad)
- 1 display A4 plastic folder
- 1 plastic zip A4 folder/carry case
- 1 set of ledgers/journals/cash books required for accounting/business studies
- 1 science copybook
- 1 music copybook/manuscript

- 1 set of grammar books per student
- 1 maths formulae & tables/log book
- 1 scientific calculator
- Dictionary(ies)

Journal, Insurance and Lockers

- All students must have insurance
- All students should have a locker

- Combined cost of €25

Uniform Policy – Day Uniform

- Jade Jumper – will have crest
- Black Jacket – school name on back
- Clip-on tie
- All available in Magee's Drapery and M&F Stores
- Black trousers/skirt
- White shirt
- Black footwear –not boots, not canvas, not white soles
- No hoodies or non-uniform items are acceptable
- The Policy covers, to and from school and while on school activities.

Day Uniform





Acceptable



Acceptable



Acceptable



Not acceptable



Not acceptable



Not acceptable

Uniform Policy - PE

- www.schooluniformsdirect.ie
- Quarter-zip top – Black and Jade
- Tee Shirt– Jade and Black
- Tracksuit Bottoms – Black with crest

- Can be worn in on PE days but only on PE days
- Day uniform must be worn all other days including days when trips or matches take place

PE Uniform

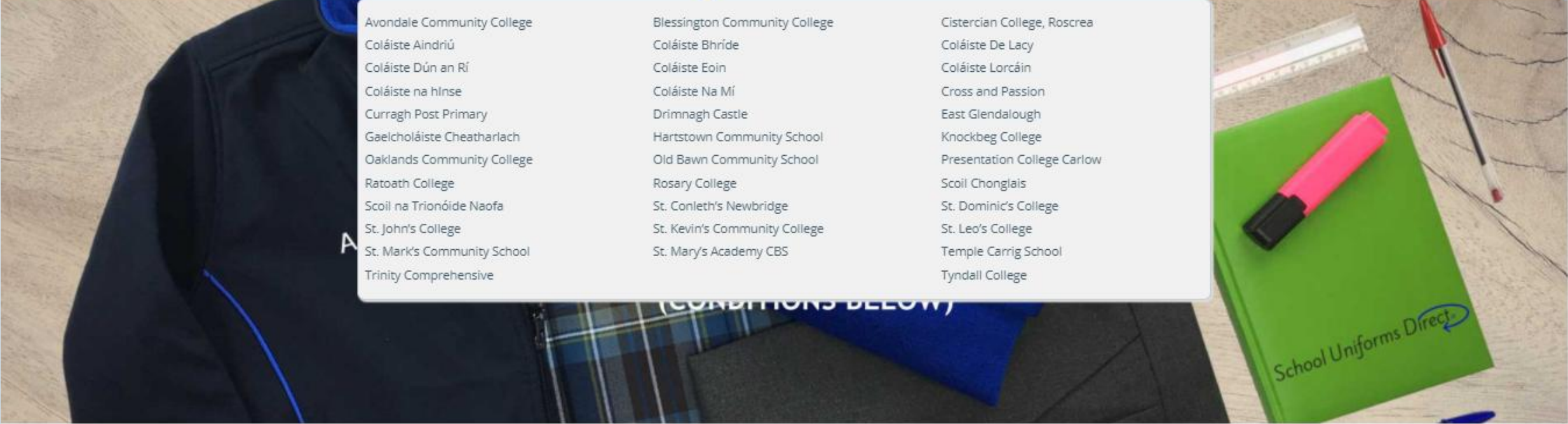
- Ordering PE Uniform:
 - Online www.schooluniformsdirect.ie
 - Visit the school to take orders on May 28th and June 18th 3-4pm
 - Deposits can be taken
 - August dates: August 4th, 11th & 18th from 1:30 – 2:30pm

PE Uniform –

www.schooluniformsdirect.ie



Note: Shorts are optional.



- Avondale Community College
- Coláiste Aindriú
- Coláiste Dún an Rí
- Coláiste na hInse
- Curragh Post Primary
- Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach
- Oaklands Community College
- Ratoath College
- Scoil na Tríonóide Naofa
- St. John's College
- St. Mark's Community School
- Trinity Comprehensive
- Blessington Community College
- Coláiste Bhríde
- Coláiste Eoin
- Coláiste Na Mí
- Drimnagh Castle
- Hartstown Community School
- Old Bawn Community School
- Rosary College
- St. Conleth's Newbridge
- St. Kevin's Community College
- St. Mary's Academy CBS
- Cistercian College, Roscrea
- Coláiste De Lacy
- Coláiste Lorcáin
- Cross and Passion
- East Glendalough
- Knockbeg College
- Presentation College Carlow
- Scoil Chonglais
- St. Dominic's College
- St. Leo's College
- Temple Carrig School
- Tyndall College

School Uniforms Direct Ireland

Welcome to School Uniforms Direct, we are Ireland's leading online school uniform shop. School Uniforms Direct is a family run business which grew around knitwear manufacturing & has over 40 years experience in supplying school wear. Our aim is to provide excellent quality goods and unbeatable customer service.

Please note: The site has been updated to offer the maximum security for your online purchases. We are still using 'deferred' payments, this will

Bus Transport

- www.buseireann.ie
- School Transport
- Now closed for applications but will reopen for late applications in July
- The school does not have any influence over bus tickets or applications

Tips

- <https://rollercoaster.ie/kids/schools-education/starting-secondary-school-20-top-tips-for-transitioning-into-1st-year/>
- <https://www.irishtimes.com/life-and-style/health-family/parenting/first-year-in-secondary-school-a-survival-guide-1.3595859>