



**St. Brendan's Community School**

**Birr**

**Summer Newsletter**

**June 2019**





St. Brendan's Community School  
Birr, Co. Offaly

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Principal: Ming Loughnane

Deputy Principal: Paul D'Arcy

Deputy Principal: John Kennedy

Deputy Principal: Fidelma Foy



June 2019

## **INFORMATION CIRCULAR FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS**

**The school office will be closed for two weeks from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July and will reopen on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August for Staff Holidays**

**The Office will also be closed on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June to facilitate Staff Training**



**BOOKLIST & BOOKSHOP:** - The enclosed booklist is as accurate as we can make it at this time. Where there is doubt about a book, please consult with teacher before purchasing. New 1<sup>st</sup> Years only need English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Science, R.E. and SPHE. Remaining books can be obtained after other subjects are chosen at mid-term. New books may be bought from Kelly's Bookshop, Birr. There is a very limited number of second-hand books available at the school – please call to the office between 9<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> July only.

**BOOK SCHEME:** - In cases of serious need, parents should get a form from the office, fill it in and a case will be made to the Department. Forms must be filled in and handed in to the office by **Friday 16th August**.



**LOCKERS:** - **Lockers** will be available for rental to First Year students. Cost is €50, which will cover a 5-year rental period. Once a student has been assigned a locker he/she is responsible and no changes can be made once a locker has been allocated.

**Student Voluntary Contribution:** - The contribution is €80 **per student** with reduction to €60 **per student** for families with more than one in school. This is payable in the school office in the week prior to students returning to school or on the day of their return to the Principal or Deputy Principal at the beginning of the Assembly in B10. A maximum of €150 per family will apply. Please ensure that the contribution is in an envelope with student's name and year group. Payment can also be made online to the following bank account indicating students name and send confirmation of payment to the school:-

BIC BOFIE2D

IBAN IE 27 BOFI 9016 7729 1902 90

### **Easy Payments Plus**

From 15<sup>th</sup> August we will have a new payments system called Easy Payments Plus where parents can make payments using the link on our school website [www.stbrendanscbirr.ie](http://www.stbrendanscbirr.ie) with a debit/credit card and pay for voluntary contribution, evening study, mock exams, school outings and any school related activity.

**The contribution covers 24 hour Personal Accident Insurance which will cover all medical expenses arising out of an accident or from participation in sports and the following:-**


- Purchase of new Computers
- Buses for school teams to sporting and cultural events
- Annual School Musical -
- Improvement of facilities and building programmes

Leaving Cert. Mock Orals – French, Irish, German  
Purchase of School Jerseys and cleaning of School Jerseys for teams  
Personal Accident Insurance – 24 Hour Brennan Insurance  
Purchase of Sports Equipment - Provision of Materials for Art, Wood, Metal  
Photocopying of class materials and tests      Text messages to Parents  
Prizes for Academic Achievement - Printing of the Annual Report

### Secure A Sod

As part of our fundraiser for our lower pitch development we sold sections of sod from our new GAA pitch. This has allowed us improve the surface of the pitch through ongoing sanding and aeration. For each sod sold we raised vital funds for ongoing development. For each ticket purchased participants were entered into a draw for All-Ireland Football and Hurling tickets. **The winner of two All-Ireland Football tickets was 'The House of Beauty' and the winner of two All-Ireland Hurling tickets was 'The Stables'.**

We are very grateful for your continued support and we hope that this development will allow us to improve and develop our students in becoming sports stars of the future.

 **HOMEWORK/RECORD JOURNAL:** - Each student must have a Homework/Record Journal, which will be available from the Canteen @ €18. The journal is the primary source of communication between home and school and should be inspected regularly by Parents/Guardians. **All routine communication about absences, lates, uniform, medical problems etc. should be written in the spaces provided.** Please note the Positive Code of Behaviour, Anti-Bullying Policy, Data Protection Statement and Internet Acceptable Use Form contained in the journal - Parents/Guardians and students are asked to sign in the spaces provided for each of these.  
**Students must have journal in class at all times.**

### **\*HEALTH & SAFETY:-**

Students are expected to follow all Health & Safety guidelines as issued from time to time. Any interference with Health & Safety measures, including Fire Alarms, is a serious offence and will result in suspension/expulsion and/or fine of €200.

**\*SMOKING:** - The law prohibits smoking on school premises i.e. buildings and grounds. Smoking is also forbidden **in the vicinity of school grounds**. A suspension or a fine will apply to students who smoke on school grounds.  
E Cigarettes are banned on school premises and grounds.

**\*FACIAL JEWELLERY** or any facial piercings are not permitted. Students in breach of this rule will be excluded from school.

### **\*CARS AND SAFETY:-**

- (a) Due to Health and Safety concerns, we are unable to accommodate students cars or motor bikes inside the school grounds.
- (b) **Parents are reminded not to drive into staff car park at peak times. Parents are asked to use the set-down area inside the school gate and not set-down on cycle path on approach road to school, to avoid traffic build-up and for Health and Safety reasons.**

(c) If a student must be driven to the main entrance due to an injury or disability, parents must ensure that they arrive **20 minutes before the start** of 1<sup>st</sup> class to avoid peak time and to avoid delaying staff members getting into school on time.

**\*TELEPHONE:- For security and personal safety reasons all communications with students during the school day must be through the office.** Mobile phones or any personal electronic/recording/entertainment devices if seen or heard, will be confiscated unless the device is being used as a teaching/learning aid under the guidance of a teacher. Parents/Students are advised that sending offensive messages via mobile/camera phones is a legal offence. If any student receives offensive images, the message/image should be brought to the attention of Gardaí. It is vital that neither sender's number nor image be deleted.

#### **LUNCH PASS APPLICATIONS 2019/2020:-**

The purpose of the lunch pass at St Brendan's is to allow students to go HOME or to the house of a CLOSE RELATIVE for lunch and to return immediately to school.

\* A new lunch pass will be issued to each 1<sup>st</sup> Year student who successfully applies, through their parent/guardian, on the appropriate form (enclosed) – Application-closing date Friday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

\* **On the application form there is a space to fill in the name, address, and contact number of the person who is taking responsibility for the student at lunchtime.**

\* Students are expected to have their lunch pass ready for inspection EVERY DAY at lunchtime when leaving school and returning to school.

\* Any student who is found at lunchtime at any location other than the address on their lunch pass will have their lunch pass withdrawn.

#### **Healthy Eating School Strategy**

A recent Government study (2019) revealed that one in four thirteen year olds are overweight or obese. The study also revealed that over 80% of obese adolescents will still be obese in adulthood. Only one in four children eats fruit and vegetables daily with consumption of sugar sweetened drinks still high with 26% of children having sweets and 12% having soft drinks.

Tackling obesity is now a crucial issue for us in our school with the clear negative impact obesity can have on all aspects of health for our students both now and in the future. In order to tackle unhealthy eating habits we are promoting a new and improved healthy menu in our school canteen. This will begin with a ban on chips and wedges.

Irish teenagers aged 15 to 19 have the tenth highest obesity level in the developed world. The report by the Nuffield Trust and the Association for Young People's Health (AYPH) analyzed existing data from 19 countries in areas like obesity, exercise, alcohol consumption and smoking. Almost a third of Irish children are now overweight and the country ranks 58th out of 200 countries for its proportion of overweight youths. New data shows Irish boy's rank 98th in the obesity charts and girl's rank 78th out of 200 countries.

To help our students grow healthily, we are pleased to inform you that our school has setup a Healthy Eating Review & Policy Committee in consultation with management, teaching staff, parents/guardians and students. The policy is applicable to all students when on the school grounds. By implementing the "Healthy Eating School Policy" and cultivating a healthier school environment, we hope

- To encourage the nutritional and overall well-being of all students in the school
- To encourage students to make wise choices about food and nutrition
- To support students to develop life-long healthy eating practices and a positive approach towards food

- To raise levels of concentration within class due to consumption of healthy food

To achieve this end, your support is indispensable and your attention is drawn to the following points:

- To learn more about healthy eating, please visit and refer to the standard specified in the Guidelines for Developing a HEALTHY EATING POLICY in Post-Primary Schools or school website (<http://stbrendanscsbirr.ie>).
- Specific guidelines of this healthy eating initiative will be presented to students at general assemblies and to parents/guardians through our newsletter/s and website at the beginning of the school year to encourage healthy lunches, healthy canteen menu uptake, and healthy eating as a whole school approach. Feedback will be presented in terms of the implementation and success throughout the year from survey findings.
- Sample menu enclosed.

**\*SCHOOL UNIFORM:** - The wearing of the specified school uniform is not a matter of choice. It clearly demonstrates the recognition by the student of his/her acceptance of the authority of the school. If a student is not in full uniform, communication from parents must be made in the space available in the Student Journal. The names of students in breach of dress code will be noted and, on the second offence, a note will be entered on student's record. The student may be suspended after a second offence.

**Non-compliance with the dress code will be taken as a desire to withdraw from formal class and from the school.**

**For Transition Year Students there is a specific compulsory St. Brendan's Leisure Suit/ Track Suit, which may be ordered online from the link on our school website.**

*For students who wish to wear an extra layer over the school jumper, there is a new approved half zip or black school jacket, which may be ordered online from the link on our school website. The St. Brendan's school jacket (which is available locally in Declan Phelan's @ 50 euro) may also be worn.*

All Junior Cycle Students (Boys and Girls) wear Grey Jumper and All Senior Cycle Students wear Maroon Jumper.

**Junior Girls**

Grey Jumper  
Blue Shirt  
Black Trousers  
Dark coloured socks  
Dark leather shoes  
No canvas shoes/runners  
(Health & Safety)

**Senior Girls**

Maroon Jumper  
Blue Shirt  
Black Trousers  
Dark coloured socks  
Dark leather shoes  
No canvas shoes/runners (Health & Safety)

**Junior Boys**

Grey Jumper  
 Blue Shirt  
 Grey Trousers  
 Dark coloured socks  
 Dark leather shoes  
 No canvas shoes/runners  
 (Health & Safety)

**Senior Boys**

Maroon Jumper  
 Blue Shirt  
 Grey Trousers  
 Dark coloured socks  
 Dark leather shoes  
 No canvas shoes/runners  
 (Health & Safety)

Strong Leather Shoes Dubarry style allowed.

**Junior Cycle Information**

Assessment Information has been enclosed for Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students. Please refer also to <https://www.jct.ie/perch/resources/publications/jc-info-parents-post-primary-may-2017.pdf>

Key dates for Classroom-Based Assessments 2019/2020 for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students. The window within which schools can complete Classroom-Based Assessments, SLAR meetings and Assessment Tasks (where relevant) is provided below. Classroom-Based Assessments must be completed within the time period allocated (e.g. 3 weeks, 4 weeks) as specified in the Assessment Guidelines for each subject.

<b>Student cohort 2017-2020 (3<sup>rd</sup> years)</b>	
Junior Cycle English, Science, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Visual Art and Gaeilge Classroom-Based Assessments and Assessment Task (where applicable)	
CBA1 <b>Gaeilge</b> date for portfolio completion	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November 2019
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review (SLAR) and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
CBA2 <b>Visual Art</b> window for completion	Monday September 9 <sup>th</sup> 2019 – Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2019
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2019
CBA2 <b>Science, Business Studies</b> window for completion	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
CBA2 <b>English, MFL</b> earliest date for collection/portfolio completion latest date for collection/portfolio completion	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2019 Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
CBA2 <b>Gaeilge</b> window for completion Monday	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Earliest date for commencement of Assessment Task	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020
Latest date for completion of Assessment Task	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2020
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2020
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2020

<b>Student cohort 2018 – 2021 (2nd years)</b> Junior Cycle English, Science, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Visual Art, Maths, Music, History, Geography, Home Economics Classroom-Based Assessment 1	
CBA1 <sup>1</sup> window for completion <b>English, Science, Business Studies, Modern Foreign Languages, Visual Art, Maths, History, Geography</b>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
CBA1 Music latest date for portfolio completion	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
CBA1 Home Economics window for completion	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2019 to Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Latest date for award of provisional descriptors by the teacher	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2020
Latest date for completion of Subject Learning and Assessment Review and for award of final descriptors by the teacher	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2020

<sup>1</sup> A 14-week window is available for Visual Art CBA1 with themes issued by the NCCA on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

#### **DATES FOR RETURN TO SCHOOL**

The schedule for student return to school is as follows:-

<b>Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b>First Year Only 10.00 a.m. - 12.00 noon No buses running</b>
<b>Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b><u>Sixth Year, LCA II</u> &amp; First Year 9.00 a.m. – 12.20 p.m. Buses will run at 12.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b><u>Third Year</u>, Sixth Year/LCA II &amp; First Year 9.00 a.m. – 12.20 p.m. Buses will run at 12.30 p.m.</b>
<b>Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b><u>Second Year</u>, Third Year, Sixth Year/LCA II &amp; First Year 9.00 a.m.</b>
<b>Fri 30<sup>th</sup> Aug</b>	<b><u>Fifth Year &amp; LCA I</u>, Second Year, Third Year, Sixth Year/LCA II &amp; First Year 9.00 a.m.</b>
<b>Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept</b>	<b><u>Transition Year</u>, Fifth Year/LCA I, Second Year, Third Year, Sixth Year/LCA II &amp; First Year 9.00 a.m.</b>

Yours sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_  
MING LOUGHNANE – PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
PAUL D'ARCY  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
FIDELMA FOY  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN KENNEDY  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



# St. Brendan's CS | 2019-2020 CALENDAR

## Calendar 2019/20

Standardised School Year  
Dates for holidays are fixed by circular.

Under the PCW agreement one staff meeting per term is provided for on a half-in half-out basis.

3 Parent teacher meetings are also provided for under these arrangements. Those marked\* are under Croke Park hours

Wellbeing\*\* Appendix I

JANUARY 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Jan 6 – Return to school  
Jan 13 – Submission of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 5<sup>th</sup> Year Reports  
Jan 13-15 Ty Retreat\*\*  
Jan 17 LCA Tasks 1&3 Deadline  
Jan 20 – 31 – TY Work Experience  
Jan 22 – 5<sup>th</sup> PTM\*

**20 Days**

Aug 6 – Graduation Ball  
Aug 13 – Leaving Cert Results  
Aug 23&24 – Viewing of scripts  
Aug 26 – Beginning of School Year (1<sup>st</sup> Years)

AUGUST 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**5 Days**

FEBRUARY 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Feb 3 – 1<sup>st</sup> PTM\*  
Feb 5-14 Mock Exam  
Feb 10 – 14 LCA Mocks  
Feb 17-21 Mid term

**15 Days**

SEPTEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Sept 2 & 3 - 1<sup>st</sup> Year OEC\*\*  
Sept 9 & 12 – TY OEC\*\*  
Sept 10 Staff Meeting

**21 Days**

MARCH 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Mar 2 – Submission of mock Reports  
Mar 2-13 LCA II Work Exp.  
Mar 16 – School Closed  
Mar 17 - Public Holiday

**20 Days**

Nov 4 Submission of 6<sup>th</sup> Year Reports  
 Nov 7 - 6<sup>th</sup> Year PTM  
 Nov 7 Submission of 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Reports  
 Nov 13 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Year PTM  
 Nov 20 -22 - School Show  
**20 Days**

NOVEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May 4 - Public Holiday  
 May 6 - Link Modules Exam  
 May 15 - School Funfair Day\*\*  
 May 18-29 LCA I Work Exp.  
 May 19 - 5<sup>th</sup> Year Retreat\*\*  
 May 25 – Graduation Mass  
 School Sports Days 1 per Year  
 May 29 – End of Term  
 School Sports Days 1 per Year\*\*  
**20 Days**

MAY 2020						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	28	30
31						

Dec 2-13 LCA I Work Exp.  
 Dec 5 – Open Night  
 Dec 10 - 2<sup>nd</sup> PTM\*  
 Dec 12 – Christmas Market\*\*  
 Dec 20 School Talent Show\*\*  
 Dec 20 - End of Term  
**15 Days**

DECEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Jun 3 – Leaving & Junior Cert Exams

JUNE 2019						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				





# St. Brendan's School Musical 2019

November 20th - 22nd

Details  
Coming Soon