



**Incoming First Years (2025)**  
**14<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

# PROGRAMME

- ▶ School History
- ▶ ACS Vision & Mission/ Community School
- ▶ Curriculum/ Subject Choice
- ▶ The Junior Cycle Programme
- ▶ Structure Of Care
- ▶ Year Head, Tutors, Other Supports etc.
- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Additional/Exceptional Education needs
- ▶ Other items of importance
- ▶ What happens next?

# School History

Ardee Community School was established in 1974 as an amalgamation of the three existing Post Primary Schools in the town,

- St. Anne's Secondary School for girls,
- De La Salle Boys' Secondary School and
- Ardee Vocational School.

The original school premises on the current site was built to cater for the amalgamation.

- New extension opened Sept 2018
- Further extension (Major building project) at design stage.
- Extensive refurbishment and upgrading ongoing
- Playing pitch, walking /jogging track.

**Vision:**

We have a vision of a school community where equality, harmony, and friendship exist. We accept and welcome that we are a community of unique and diverse individuals. We work to ensure that each individual in our community may fulfil his / her purpose in life.

**Mission:**

Ardee Community School is a partnership of students, staff, parents / guardians, Board of Management, Trustees and our local community. We value the on-going input of all our partners in the life of the school.

We aim to provide the best educational environment where effective teaching and learning can take place. We aim to manage this with fairness and firmness.

We recognise the individuality of our students. We provide a broad curriculum designed to meet their individual needs and to help them maximise their potential.

We help our students to have a healthy, wholesome and confident self-image and to develop positive relationships through our curriculum and or extra-curricular programme.

We endeavour to co-operate with parents / guardians and religious leaders of all denominations to encourage the development of religious, moral and spiritual values in each student.

# Our Educational Ethos

- ▶ To guide each student to achieve their educational potential
- ▶ To support students to be happy in school.
- ▶ To enable students to grow and develop into well rounded young adults, ready for college, adult and working life.

# COMMUNITY SCHOOL

- ❑ Trustees
- ❑ Board of Management
- ❑ Funded by Department of Education
- ❑ Co Education
- ❑ Broad Curriculum
- ❑ Multi-denominational
- ❑ Caters for the Community

# POLICIES

- ▶ Admissions Policy
- ▶ Positive Code of Behaviour
- ▶ Anti-Bullying
- ▶ Pastoral Care/Guidance
- ▶ Subject Policies and Plans
- ▶ Bring Your Own Device/Acceptable Use Policy
- ▶ Health and Safety Policy
- ▶ Child Safeguarding Policy
- ▶ Data Protection

# Changes over last few years

- ▶ 1-hour classes
- ▶ Student and Teacher Based Classrooms
- ▶ Teachers Moving- Students in base classes
- ▶ Staggered Breaks and Lunch
- ▶ Bring Your own Device
- ▶ Lockers are back for most
- ▶ Wear PE gear on PE day
- ▶ Books at Home or in School
- ▶ 4 long days, Friday finish at 1pm



# 6 YEAR CYCLE

## CLASSES

- ▶ Base Classes (21 - 28) Mixed Ability
- ▶ Currently banded in 3rd Year for Irish & Maths.

## JUNIOR CYCLE

- ▶ 3 Year Cycle
- ▶ J.C.S.P. (Junior Certificate Schools Programme)
- ▶ L1LP/L2LP courses

## SENIOR CYCLE

- ▶ 2 / 3 Years (With Optional Transition Year)
- ▶ Conventional Leaving Certificate
- ▶ L.C.A (Leaving Certificate Applied)
- ▶ L.C.V.P. (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme)

# FIRST YEAR SUBJECTS

## COMPULSORY

- ▶ MATHS
- ▶ IRISH \*
- ▶ ENGLISH
- ▶ HISTORY
- ▶ SCIENCE
- ▶ CSPE
- ▶ SPHE (with RSE)
- ▶ RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- ▶ WELLBEING
- ▶ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

## OPTIONS

- ▶ WOOD TECHNOLOGY
- ▶ ENGINEERING (METALWORK)
- ▶ HOME ECONOMICS
- ▶ MUSIC
- ▶ VISUAL ART
- ▶ GRAPHICS (TG)
- ▶ APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

Students choose two from above

- ▶ FRENCH
- ▶ GERMAN

Students choose one language

- ▶ BUSINESS STUDIES
- ▶ GEOGRAPHY
- ▶ Students choose one of the above

# Information on subject choice

Information on subjects:

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

Ardee Community School, Junior Cycle Handbook available on our website.

Updated handbook will be available in next few weeks

# Subject Choice

- ▶ Students choose four option subjects for the three years of Junior Cycle.

# How subject choice works

- ▶ Parents/Guardians will choose subjects through our administration system (VSWare)
- ▶ Students are placed in options generated by our computerised system.
- ▶ There are strict limits to the sizes of classes in practical subjects
- ▶ If a subject is oversubscribed, the computer will use random selection to place students in options.
- ▶ We allow limited change if there is room in the chosen class.
- ▶ Most students get their chosen preferences.

# Study a European Language

In First Year students choose between

- ▶ French
- ▶ German
  
- ▶ Students who are exempt from the study of Irish may be exempt from the study of a Modern Foreign Language.
- ▶ Some choose to study a European language in even if they are exempt.
- ▶ This is monitored throughout first year.

# The Junior Cycle Programme

All students now study the Junior Cycle Programme

- ▶ Active learning
- ▶ Project Work
- ▶ Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)
- ▶ Assessment tasks
- ▶ New grading system for exams and Classroom Based Assessment
- ▶ Oral presentations in class
- ▶ Wellbeing is a core element underpinning all aspects of the curriculum.
- ▶ Less formal exams and shorter papers
- ▶ Most subjects at common level (except Irish, English and Maths)
- ▶ Irish, English and Maths at Higher and Ordinary Level
- ▶ L1LP's and L2LP's
- ▶ Booklet on the main elements of Junior Cycle

# Senior Cycle Options

- ▶ TY, uptake over 80% currently, % expected to rise.
- ▶ Leaving Certificate Applied
- ▶ Conventional Leaving Certificate
- ▶ Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme as part of the Conventional LC

## Leaving Certificate Subjects

22 option subjects currently

History

French

Music

Accountancy

Physics

Biology

Agricultural Science

DCG( Graphics)

Engineering

Technology (Applied Technology)

Politics and Society

LCVP

Geography

German

Art

Business

Chemistry

LC Computer Science

Construction (Wood Technology)

LC Physical Education

Home Economics

LCVP

Applied Maths\*\*



# New Senior Cycle

- ▶ Senior Cycle currently being reviewed and updated
- ▶ Changes to TY, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) and the Conventional Leaving Certificate.
- ▶ 40% assessment phased in for all subjects starting for 5<sup>th</sup> years in 2025.
- ▶ New subjects:

Drama, Theatre and Film Studies

Climate Action and Sustainable Development

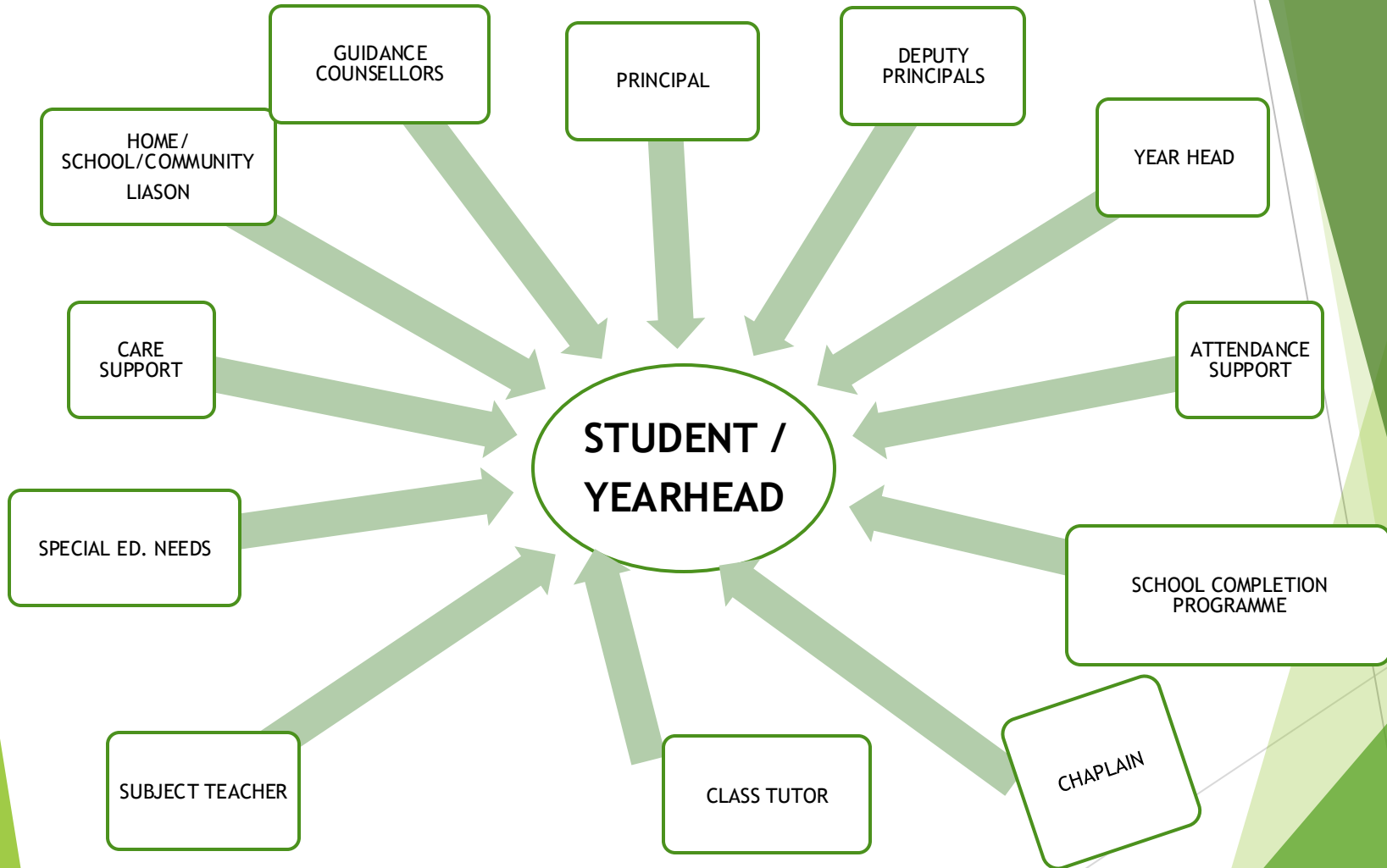
Ardee Community School has been chosen as a pilot school for Drama, Theatre and Film Studies, starting for 5<sup>th</sup> year 2025.

Plans for Climate Action and Sustainable Development for 2027

# Beyond Leaving Certificate

- ▶ Third Level, University / IT's
- ▶ Post Leaving Certificate courses
- ▶ Apprenticeships
- ▶ World of Work

# Student Care: Support and Wellbeing



This is at the core of what we do

# THE YEAR HEAD

- ▶ Remains with Group for at Least Three Years
- ▶ Care
- ▶ Behaviour Management
- ▶ Parent/Guardian Contact
- ▶ Monitoring Attendance and Permission to Leave
- ▶ General Care Of The Individual
- ▶ Monitors And Supports Educational Attainment
- ▶ Deals with Issues
- ▶ **Ms Bridget Smith** will First Year Head next Year.

## DEALS WITH THE UNEXPECTED

# THE CLASS TUTOR

- ▶ “ Teacher Who Takes On The Task Of Special Care For The Class Unit”
- ▶ Regular Contact ( daily contact during tutor time)
- ▶ Focuses on Weekly/Daily theme
- ▶ Takes Roll Call Each Day
- ▶ Monitors Student Progress
- ▶ Builds a Relationship with Group
- ▶ Acts as a go to If issues arise

# Home School Community Liaison Officer

- ▶ Supports parents with all aspects of their student's education.
- ▶ **Bridget Smith** is our current HSCL

# Dee Side School Completion

- ▶ A Support Programme for students at risk of not completing their Education.
- ▶ SCP have strong links with five of the local primary schools.
- ▶ Lead the **induction programme** for incoming students, this will be held during May in the schools with the bigger numbers of students and in person for the smaller schools and individuals.

# Students in Leadership

**Head Boy and Girl**

**Student Council**

**Prefects**

**Mentors**

**Sports and club leaders**



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES and TRIPS

- ▶ A very comprehensive level of extra curricular events
- ▶ Educational trips and tours to support curriculum
- ▶ Clubs
- ▶ After School Study
- ▶ Homework Club

# Students with Exceptional Ability

- ▶ We identify students through reports and entrance tests.
- ▶ We provide for such students through our Subject planning by providing extension tasks to challenge them in their learning.
- ▶ We expect very high standards from all our students.

# Additional Educational Needs

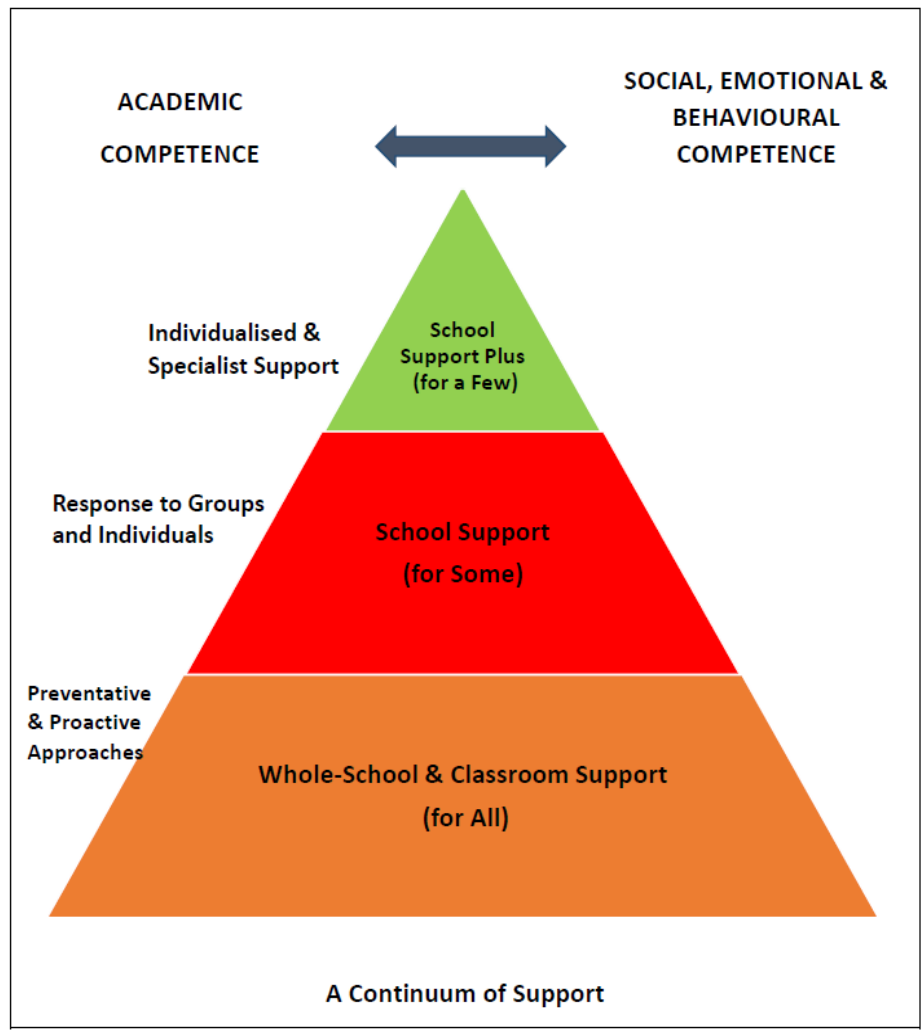
- ▶ Brief overview
- ▶ Small group settings,
- ▶ Co-Teaching,
- ▶ Differentiation,
- ▶ Access to SNA (for Primary Care Needs),
- ▶ Autism Specific Classes,
- ▶ Staff CPD upskilling in Additional Educational Needs
- ▶ Parental involvement.
- ▶ Programmes JCSP/L2LP
- ▶ Irish Exemptions
- ▶ Assistive Technology
- ▶ RACE (Reasonable Accommodation for Exams)

## Additional Educational Needs

- ▶ Share Psychological, Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy Reports and Certificates of Exemption
- ▶ Inform us of learning support in primary school
- ▶ Discuss your students' needs fully with us in confidence
- ▶ March/April individual meetings
- ▶ Please contact us if we don't contact you by May.

# Provision of Need

**Continuum of Support;**  
No longer need a  
Psychological/ Educational  
Assessment stating  
diagnosis to access  
support. School decides  
the level of need/support .



# Provision of Support

## Type of Support:

- In-Class Support/Co-Teaching
- Small Group Setting (Irish Exemption)
- SNA Support

# Autism Specific Classes

4 ASD Classes

24 students are supported by 8 SNA's

Admission requirements:

1. DSM-V diagnosis
2. Report stating that ; " it is recommended that the student be placed in an ASD class within a mainstream Post-Primary School setting "
3. Students complex needs are clearly outlined in a report.

# Irish Exemptions

## CRITERIA

- ▶ Education up to the age of 12 outside the state.
- ▶ On/Under the 10th percentile in a literacy assessment - intervention for 8 weeks - retested.
- ▶ Exceptional circumstances - 2 Years
- ▶ Diplomat/ consular representatives in Ireland

SCHOOL-BASED ASSESSMENT DETERMINES WHETHER AN EXEMPTION IS GRANTED OR NOT.



# Assistive Technology

- ▶ Some of our students utilise AT to support their learning and to ensure they can access the curriculum. These may include C-Pens, laptops , speech to text etc
- ▶ Assistive technology applications are made through the SENO
- ▶ " Essential to access the curriculum " and how the AT will be used throughout the school day.

# RACE-Reasonable Accommodation in State Examinations

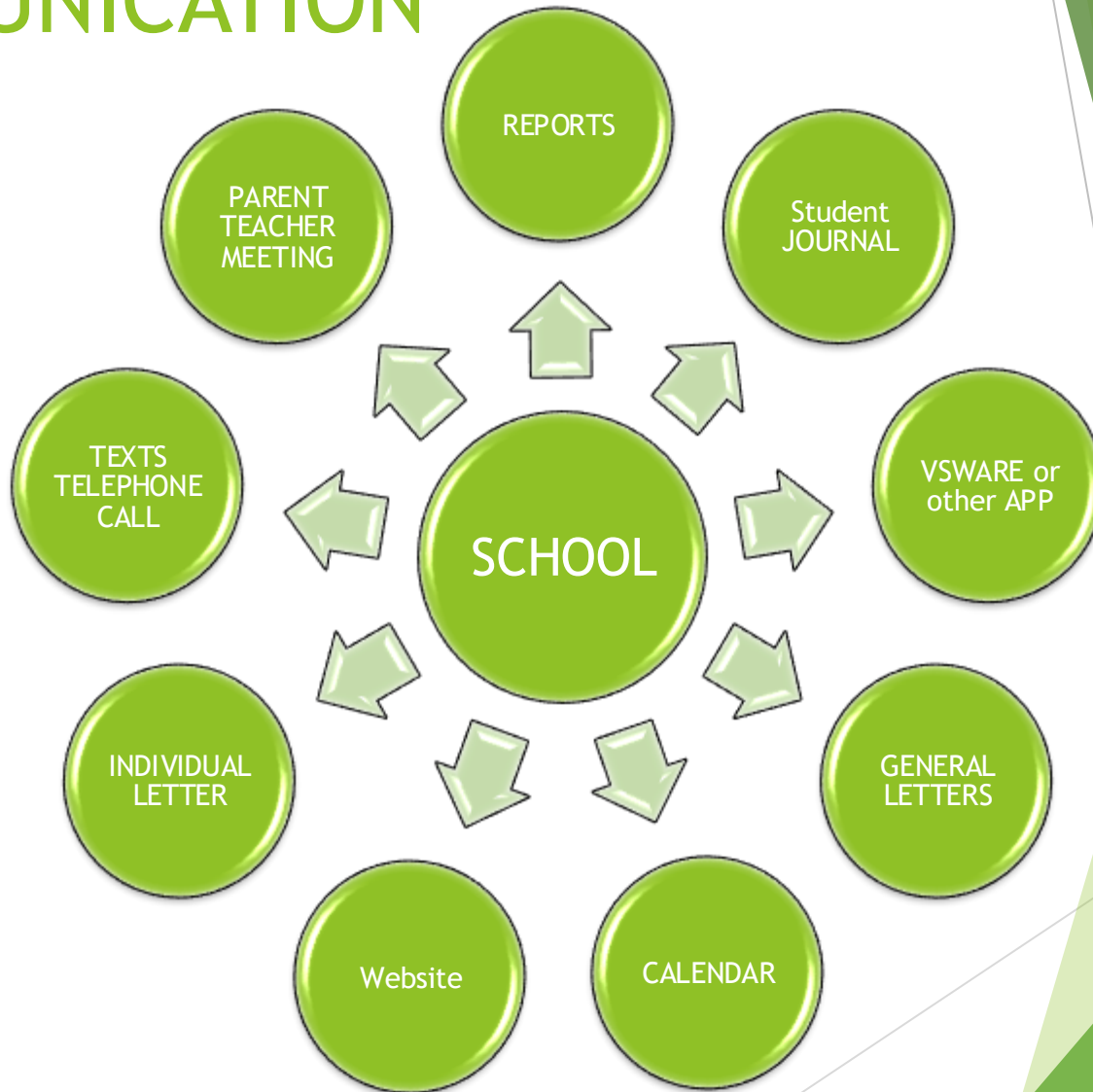
## What is it ?

Facilitates access to the Junior/ Senior certificate examinations by candidates who would have difficulty in accessing the examination or communicating what they know to an examiner because of physical, visual , hearing and/or learning difficulty.

- ▶ **Types of accommodations;**
- ▶ Reading assistant/ Individual reader
- ▶ Grammar, punctuation and spelling waiver
- ▶ Use of a word processor, scribe , tape, C-Pen
- ▶ Colour identifier

**VERY STRICT CRITERIA**

# COMMUNICATION



# VSWARE (our admin platform)

- ▶ Main Means of Communication
- ▶ Safe platform
- ▶ Enhanced communication eg permission to leave forms/ absences
- ▶ Information will be sent out on how to download the school VSWare account.
- ▶ All reports and subject options will be through Vsware
- ▶ All Attendance and permission to leave notes
- ▶ A text message will be sent out to you with access codes and how to use this system

# Textbooks

- ▶ The school has always offered a full book rental from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year
- ▶ The Budget announced free school books from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year.

# Uniform

- ▶ Full uniform available from local retailers
- ▶ PE Uniform
- ▶ School Jacket

# Structure of the Current School Day



<b>Monday - Thursday</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>8.50 – 9.48</b>	1
<b>9.48 – 10.00</b>	Tutor
<b>10.00 – 10:20</b>	Break - <u>20</u> minutes
<b>10:20 – 11:18</b>	2
<b>11:18 - 12:16</b>	3
<b>12:16 – 12:40</b>	4
<b>12:40 – 13:10</b>	<u>Lunch</u> - 30 minutes
<b>13.10 – 13.44</b>	4
<b>13.44 – 14.42</b>	5
<b>14.42 – 15.40</b>	6



<b>Friday</b>	
<b>Time on Fri</b>	<b>Period</b>
<b>8.45 – 9.43</b>	1
<b>9.43 – 9.51</b>	Tutor
<b>9.51 – 10.05</b>	Break – 15 minutes
<b>10.05 – 11.04</b>	2
<b>11.04 – 12.02</b>	3
<b>12.02 – 13.00</b>	4

## Sample of a typical 1<sup>st</sup> year timetable.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri
08:50	Home Economics	French	Irish	Science (JC)	English
09:48	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial	Tutorial
10:00	Science (JC)	History	Home Economics	Mathematics	Mathematics
10:58					
11:18	History	Physical Education	SPHE	Religious Education	French
12:16	Irish	Business	Wood Technology	Wood Technology	Irish
13:14					
13:44	Religious Education	C.S.P.E.	Physical Education	History	
14:42	English	Mathematics	English	Geography	
15:40					



# Placing students in base classes

- ▶ Eight to nine base classes (class size 21 to 28)
- ▶ Strictly mixed ability
- ▶ In first year, students' study most of their subjects with their base class except for their four options

# Talk to Us

- ▶ Anything which may affect your students transition to Ardee Community School
- ▶ Sensitive issues in confidence
- ▶ Friendship or conflict issues
- ▶ If friendships change over the summer, please let us know.
- ▶ Medical issues
- ▶ Anything which may impact on your child settling in to Ardee Community School.
- ▶ Contact us

# Preparation for First Year

## Some suggestions

- ▶ Work with your son/daughter on organisation
- ▶ Expect high standards from them.
- ▶ Have a routine of homework and study from the very beginning.
- ▶ Have a regular sleep routine, bedtime routine free of social media, play station, x-box and television
- ▶ Agree and set boundaries on the use of internet and social media.
- ▶ Know and double check where your child is at all times.
- ▶ Make school attendance non-negotiable.
- ▶ Encourage them to keep up some of their out of school activities
- ▶ Continue to encourage a healthy diet and exercise including breakfast before school.
- ▶ Support your student to minimumise the use of Social Media

# Primary School Handover

- ▶ Key element in the move from Primary to Ardee Community School.
- ▶ A handover meeting with 6<sup>th</sup> class teacher/principal
- ▶ Educational Passports

Information form from Parents/Guardians

from students

school report from 6<sup>th</sup> class

# Admissions Process. What happens now

- ▶ Letter of offer and Part two application form by email by **Nov 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**.
- ▶ Offer of place to be accepted by **Friday December 6th 2024** by submitting Application Form Part 2.
- ▶ A secure password for Vsware (or new system) will issue to all Parents/Guardians
- ▶ Subject Choice will be done electronically through Vsware (or other system) in February
- ▶ Entrance tests, To be confirmed.
- ▶ Information on the schoolbooks, calendar, uniform, start date etc will issue in mid-June.

# Further supports

- ▶ Induction Programme for students
- ▶ Transitions for Parents/Guardians (2 nights in April)
- ▶ **Summer Programme**

# Transport

- ▶ To qualify >4.8 KM from school
- ▶ Apply through Bus Eireann Website under school transport before the end of April. **Important Deadline**
- ▶ Students will be either **eligible** or **concessionary**
- ▶ **Eligible** means Ardee is your nearest school
- ▶ **Concessionary** means there is a post primary school nearer to you
- ▶ Pay or submit up to date medical card details by the end of early June. **Important Deadline.**
- ▶ Bus Eireann offers **concessionary** travel where there is room on a bus
- ▶ Bus Eireann is responsible for school transport, the school has no input
- ▶ Tickets are often not issued until late August/early September

# Questions

- ▶ Use e mail address [admissions@ardeecs.ie](mailto:admissions@ardeecs.ie)  
or
- ▶ Ring the office and leave a message 041 6853554





THANK YOU