



First Year 2022 - 2023

Parent Information Evening

15th March 2022



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA
CHILL DARA AGUS CHILL MHANTÁIN
KILDARE AND WICKLOW
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Meeting Etiquette

- Please turn microphones off.
- Questions into the chat box- these will be answered at the end.
- If signal drops- turn off video also.



Purpose of evening



- To meet some of the people who will be supporting your son/daughter
- Outline important issues in order to help your son/daughter get full benefit from their time here in St. Farnan's PPS



Mission Statement

St Farnan's PPS

St. Farnan's is a school community which strives to be inclusive and caring.

We aim to develop all students to reach their full potential, personally, academically and spiritually, so that they may enrich the school and wider community.

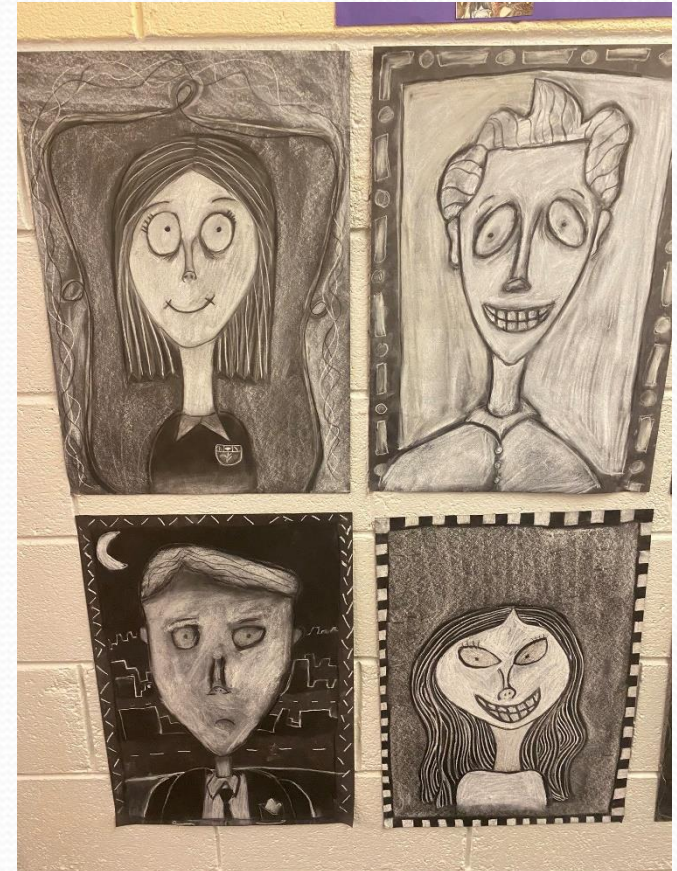
1st Year Parent & Student Information Meeting Team

- Principal: Mr Andrew Purcell
- Deputy Principal: Mr John Cleary
- Guidance Counsellor: Ms Anita Cleary
- Home School Liasion Coordinator: Ms Jennifer Reilly
- SEN Coordinator: Ms Iseult O'Donoghue
- Options & Timetable Coordinator: Mr Andrew Little

Support people and structures

- Year Head & Tutor Team
- Guidance - Ms Annette Duggan
- Resource Department including ASD & MLU rooms
- Prefect Team (Students from 6th year)
- Parents' Association
- Student Council (Reps from each year group)
- Board of Management
- Kildare & Wicklow ETB (Education & Training Board)

Photos



Guidance Service St. Farnan's PPS

Anita Cleary - Guidance Counsellor

Student Support Team

- Guidance Counsellor - Anita Cleary
- Counsellor -Annette Duggan
- Home School Community Liaison Officer - Jennifer Reilly
- School Completion Officer - Caroline Cooke



Guidance Service

- Guidance Counsellors work as part of a team, (with the Tutors, Year Head, Special Education Team), to support the students
- We offer personal counselling, support with homework/ study skills
- Help students to settle into primary school

Confidentiality

- Contract with the student
- What is said to the Guidance Counsellor is confidential. However, if we feel that the young person or someone else is at risk, we inform the principal

Making an appointment with the Guidance Counsellor

- Tutor/ Year Head
- Self- referral
- Parent can contact Guidance Counsellor directly by calling to the Guidance office or emailing anitacleary@stfarnans.ie
- wecare@stfarnans.ie

Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Coordinator Scheme

St. Farnan's PPS

Jennifer Reilly – HSCL Coordinator

Challenges for 1st Years

- Longer day
- Being the smallest
- New teachers and teaching methods
- New subjects / New timetable
- New friends
- Lockers
- Changing classes for each subject
- Management of homework- some homework may not be due for a few days
- New language of post-primary school

Fear

- This is a natural reaction to a new situation
- Usually fears are unnecessary
- Students and teachers are helpful
- It is good for students to communicate their fears to someone and realise they can cope and manage any challenge they may experience

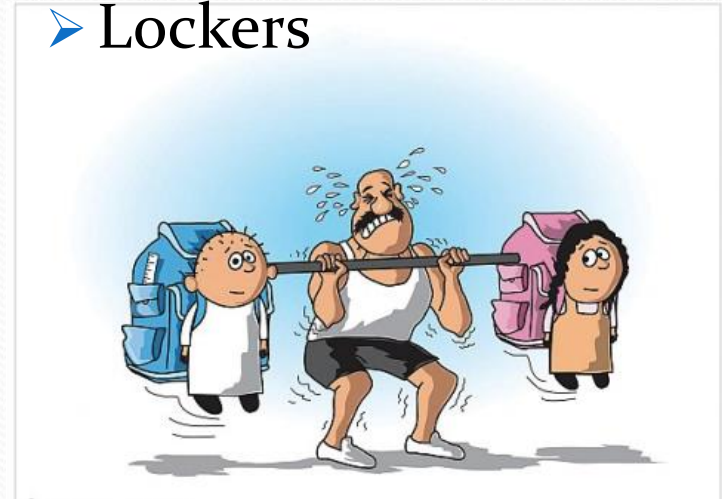
Making the transition from primary to secondary school



- Heavier bag/ P.E. gear etc.
- Longer day
- Making new friends

- **Possible causes of stress:**

- Several teachers a day
- Bigger school
- Movement from room to room
- Following a rigid timetable
- Lockers



What Can Parents Do

- Talk to your son/daughter about 1st Year
- Acknowledge that 1st Year can be difficult
- Have clear boundaries and limits in place
- Encourage your son /daughter to get involved in school life
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle (sleep, diet, exercise)
- Address problems immediately (regarding homework, friends, behaviour)
- Homework timetable- try to get homework completed within a certain time
- Help students to get organised
- Communicate with the school ASAP if there is a problem

Educational Supports

- Majority of students will progress to Higher and Further Education & the Apprenticeship sectors
- Parents are encouraged to disclose to SEN Department in school if your child has learning difficulties
- Encouraged to avail of supports in school
- Academic support offered by 3rd level institutions
- Courses offered through HSCL for Parents/ Guardians- range of topics from mental health, physical activity, cooking, academic and of course fun.

St. Farnan's Positive Behaviour Code



Attendance and punctuality - HSCL



- Regular attendance and punctuality avoids work being missed which may lead to stress
- Message/email/phone call to school on morning of absence followed by note (in allocated part of journal) on return to school
- Dental and G.P. appointments, if possible, after school/Friday afternoons
- Catch up on missed work
- If student is ill they **should** of course stay at home
- If a student feels ill during school day – report to YH or DP who will phone a parent/guardian
- Two lates in a week merits a detention
- TESS (Tusla) letter sent out to parents to report on number of absences – highlight a large number of absences within a time period even if you have sent us a note about it (e.g. 5 days or more in a month)
- If there is any discrepancy in the number of days reported and your own records, please let us know (VSware).

St. Farnan's PPS

Iseult O' Donoghue – Mainstream SET
Coordinator

Support for Additional and Special Education Needs in St Farnan's PPS.

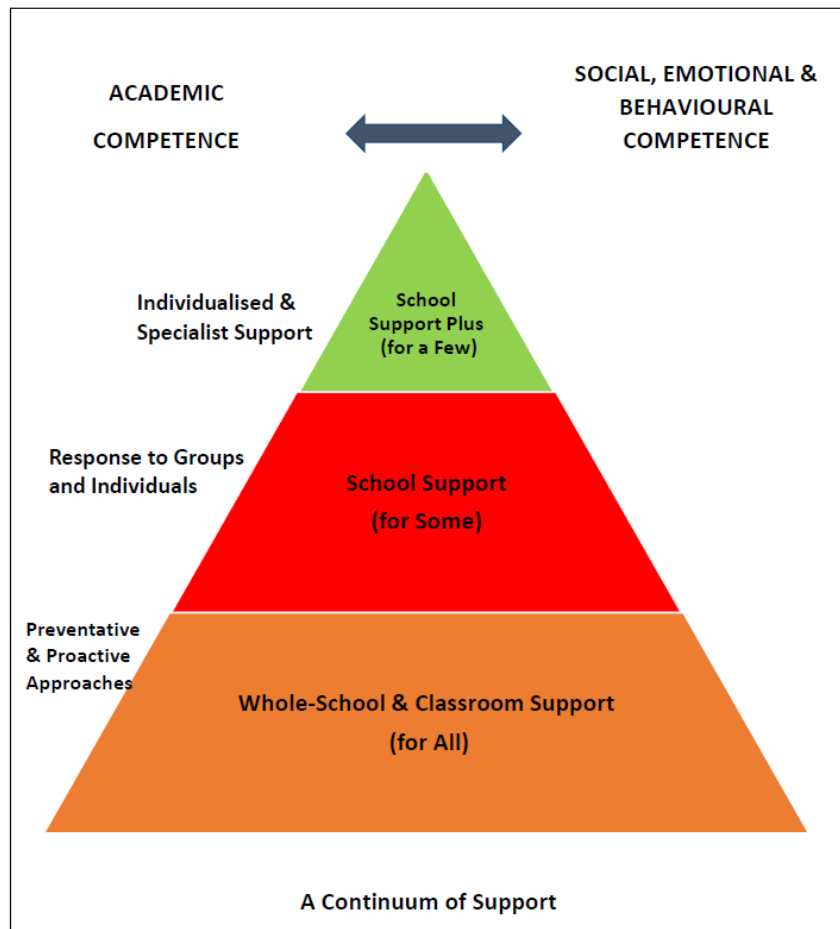
Inclusion Policy available on school website

Inclusion on the *Continuum of Support*:

All students can avail of support when they need it: no diagnosis is required

Information about students' needs collected from:

- Application form
- Professional Assessment reports
- Parents/ guardians consultations
- Primary school reports & Primary Passport
- School- based formal and informal assessment
- School-based observations and subject teacher feedback
- Entrance Assessment



Support Provision in St Farnan's PPS

Students **may** be supported through:

- **Co-teaching** in mainstream classes
- Small groups **withdrawn** for learning support
- **Individual**, one-to-one support
- **SNA** Support
- Differentiated programmes such as Level 2 Learning Programmes
- **Special Classes - Moderate and Autism Classes**
- Junior Cert Schools Programme (**JCSP**)
- Mentoring and 'Check and Connect' support
- Reasonable Accommodations for exams (**RACE**-where applicable)
- Support with using assistive technology
- Study and learning skills
- Student Support File and Individual Planning
- Irish and Language exemptions

Special Education Department .

Entrance Assessments:

Please make sure that you send in all information about your child's learning needs to St Farnan's PPS so we can support their transition from Primary school and their learning throughout their time in Post-Primary.



will help us to teach your child.

Contact the school office or email for the attention of Iseult O'Donoghue – we are looking forward to working with you all!

St. Farnan's PPS

John Cleary- Deputy Principal

Important Issues (Deputy Principal)

- Making the transition from primary to secondary school
- Pastoral care structure
- How to succeed in school
- Homework Policy
- Attendance and punctuality
- Use of journal
- Uniform
- Anti-bullying policy
- Wellbeing



Pastoral care structure

Subject teacher

- >Class Tutor
- >Year head/Guidance Team
- >Deputy principal
- >Principal



This structure is designed to ensure student receives all supports available, has someone to talk to if there is an issue and prevent him/her rising up the referral chain without a number of interventions occurring.

Aim is towards positive discipline approach.

Getting the basics right!

- Resilience
- Be organised - Books/ equipment etc.
- Do homework
- Get involved! (Extra-curricular activities)
- Be polite in dealings with others



Uniform Policy



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- ☐ It is the policy of the school that all second level pupils wear a uniform during school activities. This includes time spent on the premises before and after class.
- ☐ The wearing of a uniform helps to promote a positive image for the school.
- ☐ It makes pupils recognisable as members of the school.
- ☐ It contributes to the development of a sense of pride in the school.
- ☐ The wearing of a uniform prevents competition among pupils in the matter of dress and therefore reduces costs for parents/guardians.
- ☐ The wearing of a uniform contributes to better order on the school premises.



Uniform Policy 2



- **UNIFORM DETAILS**

Boys

Dark grey school uniform trousers, wine jumper with crest for junior cycle and black jumper with crest for senior cycle (available in the school). Regular white cotton shirt with collar (polo shirt not acceptable). No stripes, logos or team shirts.

Girls


Dark grey school uniform trousers or tartan skirt (available in the school). Wine jumper with crest for junior cycle and black jumper with crest for senior cycle. Regular white cotton shirt with collar (polo shirt not acceptable). No stripes or logos and no team shirts. Black knee socks/tights with skirt.

- **Footwear** - Students must wear plain low-heeled black school shoes not boots, no runners/trainers.
- **Jewellery**
 - ☐ One ring on each hand and one small earring on each ear are permitted.
- **No nose, lip or other piercings are allowed.**
 - ☐ Unusual coloured hair is not acceptable.
 - ☐ Excessive 'Make up' will not be acceptable and students will be asked to remove it.



School Website - updates

[Skip to Content](#) | [Accessibility](#)


Select Language



ST FARNAN'S
POST PRIMARY SCHOOL
PROSPEROUS
COUNTY KILDARE



HOME NEWS ABOUT US POLICIES ENROLMENT PARENTS DEPARTMENTS EXTRA-CURRICULAR CONTACT US



Upcoming Events

St. Farnan's Calendar - School Events

Today Monday, 14 March

Monday, 14 March

TY Making Memories Workshop - deferred

Tuesday, 15 March

5th & 6th year Ag. Science Trip

HEAR/DARE Deadline to submit copies c

Seachtain na Gaeilge - 1st year Ceili

TY Segways Workshop

Wednesday, 16 March

La Glas - Seachtain na Gaeilge - Non-Un

Monday, 21 March

TY Jiving Classes

Tuesday, 22 March

5LCA & Room 26 Trip to Causey Farm

Welcome to the St. Farnan's Website!

Welcome to our website - please check the school calendar regularly for updates on important dates for exams, projects, trips, sporting events, parent-teacher meetings and other school events.


- Please note that all dates in the online calendar are subject to change.

St. Farnan's Post-Primary School is committed to remaining relevant in what is undoubtedly a rapidly changing educational environment, while retaining a tradition within which the personal development of students is promoted as a central element in all activities.

Thank you for visiting our new improved web presence - please bear with us while we build content in all areas of the site!

Mr. Andrew Purcell, Principal.

Latest News




Incoming First Year Information Evening

14th Mar 2022

Reminder to all Parent(s)/ Guardian(s) and our incoming first year students that...

Facebook



St. Farnan's Post Pri...

www.stfarnans.ie



St. Farnan's PPS

Andrew Purcell - Principal

Principal's Notes



Assessment

...is the
engine
which drives
student learning

(John Cowan)

- Assessments
 - ongoing class tests (please talk to student and sign test)
 - More formal assessment tests:
 - Christmas Assessments (first formal report in January)
 - Summer Assessments (formal report in June)
- Parent Teacher meeting
 - One per year



Principal's Notes

- Introduction
- Communication
 - Journal, phone, appointments
 - Ensure current phone numbers on our system, nominate a person in case of emergency, text message system



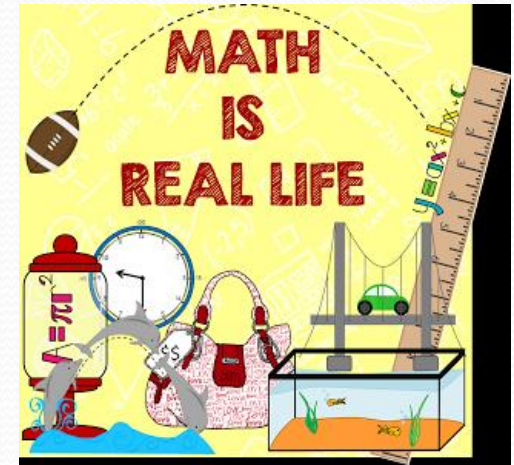
Finances

- Admin fee: €200: Which will include:
 - Book rental
 - Student insurance
 - School journal
 - Locker and lock
- Online payment – Way2Pay
- Some additional costs for various trips and events
- End of year team bonding trip

Literacy and Numeracy

– DEIS Strategy

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Pre-entry Assessment data
- Rolling out our strategies to promote student acquisition and practice of these skills
- Importance of parents and guardians in developing and practicing good skills
- Parents Booklet
- Ongoing assessment of student attainment



Wellbeing

400 hours over 3 years

- Tutorial/Pastoral Care
Physical Education
- Social, Personal and Health
Education (including
Relationship and Sexuality
Education)
- Civic, Social and Political
Education
- Guidance
- Other courses such as Digital
Literacy & Sports Days, Trips





Why does wellbeing matter?

Student wellbeing is present when the students realise their abilities, take care of their physical wellbeing, can cope with the normal stresses of life, and have a sense of purpose and belonging to a wider community.



Building a shared understanding of wellbeing

It is important that the **whole school community** builds and shares a **common understanding** of wellbeing, especially of what we mean when we talk about student wellbeing

Wellbeing for **All**

*Wellbeing
Guidelines p.15*

INDICATORS OF WELLBEING



ACTIVE

- Am I a confident and skilled participant in physical activity?
- How physically active am I?



RESPONSIBLE

- Do I take action to protect and promote my wellbeing and that of others?
- Do I make healthy eating choices?
- Do I know where my safety is at risk



CONNECTED

- Do I feel connected to my school, my friends, my community and the wider world?
- Do I appreciate that my actions and interactions impact on my own wellbeing and that of others, in local and global contexts?



RESILIENT

- Do I believe that I have the coping skills to deal with life's challenges?
- Do I know where I can go for help?
- Do I believe that with effort I can achieve?



RESPECTED

- Do I feel that I am listened to and valued?
- Do I have positive relationships with my friends, my peers and my teachers?
- Do I show care and respect for others?



AWARE

- Am I aware of my thoughts, feelings and behaviours and can I make sense of them?
- Am I aware of what my personal values are and do I think through my decisions?
- Do I understand what helps me to learn and how I can improve?

St. Farnan's PPS

Andrew Little – Student Options &
Timetable Coordinator

Vsware for Parents/Guardians

- Opening student management system for parents to enter 1st year Student option choices
- Distribute web address, user name and password.
- <https://stfarnans.app.vsware.ie/>
- Access to personal data, timetable, results, attendance, merits and conduct comments.
- St Farnan's uses a text messaging system for important information. If you update your mobile number please let us know.

Student Options:

- The next and final stage of Option subject selection will be through our online system VSware.
- **Setting up your account:**
- You should have been sent your Username for VsWare from the school by text message.
- The text message would have also included the URL for our school VsWare domain. In the case that you did not receive it please visit stfarnans.vsware.ie
- The following web page should open:



Welcome to VSware

School



St Farnan's Post Primary School

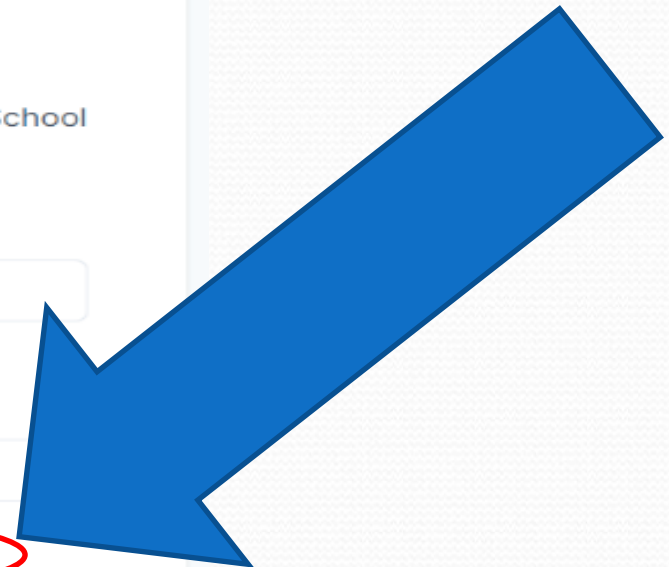
Username *


Password *

[Create or reset your password](#)

Login

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)



- 
- Once you have created your password take note of it, you will need this password any time you want to log in to VSware.
 - The dashboard that opens has a number of sections to it.
 - For the purposes of Option selection you will be looking for the one labelled 'Student Options'. This tab will only be available while the option selection period is live. Up until **March 22nd 2022.**

Pick an area to explore



Attendance

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

[Learn More >](#)



Assessment

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

[Learn More >](#)



Behaviour

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

[Learn More >](#)



Timetable

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

[Learn More >](#)



Personal Info

Overview of your child'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 >](#)



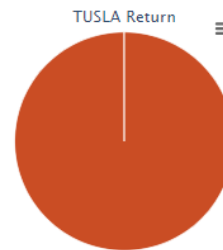
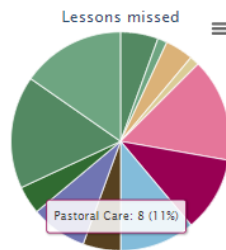
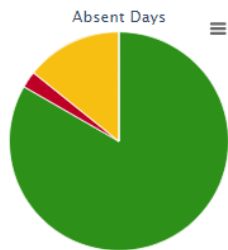
Student Options

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

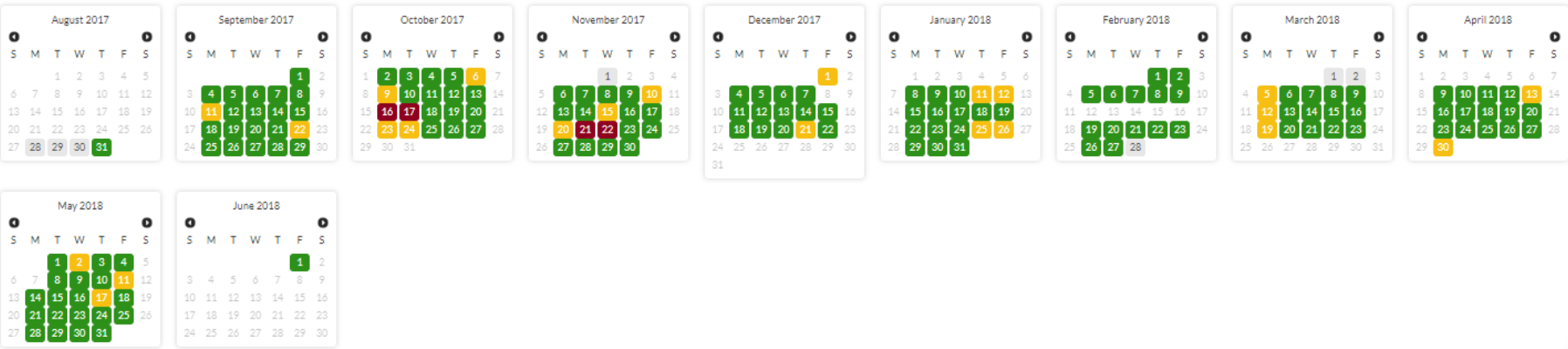
[Learn More >](#)


Academic Years

2017/2018



3 Lates this year



- 
- When you select the Student Options tab you will be brought to the next page.
 - Here you will select 2 preferences in the Language Block- one of these subjects will appear on a students timetable.
 - You will also be asked to select 5 preferences from the Non Language Band- two of these subjects will appear on a students timetable.
 - Once selections are made ensure you press **CONFIRM** to save your selections and they are then submitted to the school.

On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc).

Closing date: 22/03/2022

Non Language Band

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼
2	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼
3	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼
4	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼
5	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼

Language Band

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼
2	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/> ▼

Confirm

PLEASE NOTE:

The Option Selection function of VSware will go live as soon as this meeting finishes and will stay live until midnight on 22nd of March 2022.

After March 22nd you will not be able to select options via VSware and will have to contact Andrew Little directly. Late selections cannot be guaranteed any of their preferences.



Q&A

Thank you for listening

We hope that you have found this introductory talk enjoyable.

Reminder to complete final option subject selection by midnight on March 22nd.

We look forward to welcoming you into our school building for a subsequent information evening in May (week starting 16th). We will send on further details.