

## Coláiste Pobail na Mainistreach

Bóthar na Mainistreach, An Pórt Mór, Port Láirge

Príomhpoide: Michelle Jefford  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Colm Rice  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Helen Ní Chonchubhair  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Laura Fitzpatrick

## Abbey Community College

Abbey Road, Ferrybank, Waterford

Principal: Michelle Jefford  
Deputy Principal: Colm Rice  
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12<sup>th</sup> November, 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

As we settle back into the second half of this term, we wish to remind you of important school information as well as update you on recent / upcoming school events.

### **Whole-School Wellbeing**

On Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> November, Abbey Community College raised awareness of UNESCO's *International Day against Violence and Bullying in School, including Cyberbullying* by holding a whole school information session, facilitated by our Student Council. This initiative links directly to the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Indicators and also highlights the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Upcoming Terminal Exams (Assessment Zone 1)**

As per our [school calendar](#), Terminal Exams for Assessment Zone 1 will take place from Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> November to Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December (inclusive) for all year groups. Teachers will inform and advise their students in the coming weeks regarding structure of and revision for these exams. Timetables will be issued to students in their Year Group Teams.

### **Student Record Book (SRB)**

Parents/Guardians should sign the Student Record Book on page 27 and 28 where appropriate and ensure contact details are entered correctly on page 35.

### **Microsoft Teams**

All students in Abbey Community College have an Office 365 account. We would recommend that all students have the free Microsoft Teams and Microsoft OneNote Apps downloaded onto their devices for easy access to class resources. Students should also check their Year Group Teams regularly for important school announcements including news of clubs and sporting activities.

### **Leaving School Grounds during the School Day**

Students do not have permission to leave school grounds during the school day without prior permission from their Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal. If a student is unwell and wishes to go home, they are not permitted to use their mobile phones to contact home. They must speak with their Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal.

### VShare

VShare is our school's management information system. We request that all parents/guardians download the free VShare app to **view their child's school profile daily**. **Parents/Guardians are required to submit absence requests on VShare in advance of full and partial days**. All parents/guardians received their log in details via text message. Tutorials and user guides are available on our website [here](#). If you still require further assistance, please contact the school at [info@abbeycommunitycollege.com](mailto:info@abbeycommunitycollege.com).

### Uniform

A reminder to parents/guardians re. school uniform was sent via text message upon our return to school. Students without full uniform must present themselves **with a note of explanation from their parent/guardian** to the Principal, Deputy Principals or their Year Head before 8.40 am. For further uniform clarification, please click [here](#).

### Parents' Association

The Parents' Association is proud to play an active role in Abbey Community College. They seek to promote active involvement of parents within the Association and elect parent representatives to the Board of Management of the school. In order for the Parents' Association to go from strength to strength, it is important to have new parents with new ideas involved in the committee. If you would like to get involved, please contact [info@abbeycommunitycollege.com](mailto:info@abbeycommunitycollege.com).

### Text Messaging and Correspondence

In Abbey Community College, text messaging is used to communicate with home. **Please notify the school immediately if your mobile phone number changes.**

### Covid-19

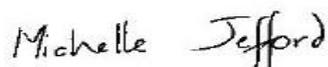
As we continue to deal with school life and Covid-19, we remind parents/guardians of the public health advice about COVID-19 symptoms. Please [click here](#) for parent-focused public health advice.

### School News

Our school website [www.abbeycommunitycollege.com](http://www.abbeycommunitycollege.com) contains a wealth of information about Abbey Community College. We ask that parents check the website regularly. We also update our social media platforms with the latest school news, events and student information. Please see *Abbey Community College Waterford (Official)* on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

We hope that your child is happy in our school. We do our utmost to create a positive and productive learning environment for all. Thank you for your continued support for Abbey Community College – *Together towards Excellence*.

Yours faithfully,



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Michelle Jefford

Principal



# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Settling-In Survey Responses



At the end of October, 1<sup>st</sup> years were invited to complete a survey regarding their transition to secondary school and time so far in Abbey Community College. Please see below their responses:

### **How did you feel about coming into secondary school?**

Nervous but also excited	68%	Nervous	11%
Excited and couldn't wait to begin	11%	Sad to leave primary school	10%

### **What were you most looking forward to in Abbey Community College? (multiple answers allowed)**

Making new friends	75%	Leaving primary school	31%
Trying new subjects	74%	Meeting new teachers	26%
Getting involved in clubs/sports	47%	Being challenged academically	11%
More independence	32%	Being in a mixed/co-educational school	11%

### **What were you most nervous about starting in Abbey Community College? (multiple answers allowed)**

Getting lost	60%	Older and bigger students	26%
More homework	56%	New school rules	19%
School examinations	47%	Not being able to follow the timetable	16%
Not making friends	40%	Remembering teachers' names	15%
Longer school days	37%	Trying new subjects	1%
Not being able to do the work	37%		

### **What do you enjoy the most about Abbey Community College? (multiple answers allowed)**

Trying new subjects	78%	Being challenged academically	26%
Making new friends	76%	Meeting new teachers	26%
More independence	40%	Being in a mixed/co-educational school	11%
Being part of a school community	26%		

It is affirming to see that our 1<sup>st</sup> year students have settled in well to Abbey Community College. Students are enjoying the things they were most looking forward to ie. making new friends and trying new subjects. They are developing their key skills through the Junior Cycle programme and achieving success at many levels. The additional comments from students in the survey show that they are happy and enjoying school life.

We all work hard in the Abbey to ease the transition to secondary school. Our 1<sup>st</sup> year Induction Programme allowed students to become familiar with our school, confident in their surroundings and gave them an opportunity to meet their peers. The Abbey aims to encourage and facilitate effective communication, support and respect among all members of this community. Our student support structures allow for regular check-ins with students and gives students the opportunities to seek advice / help around educational and pastoral issues when needed. In addition to this, our Cara Programme and 5<sup>th</sup> year leaders are role models to our 1<sup>st</sup> years. They check in with the 1<sup>st</sup> years regularly, facilitate Games Club and are there to help their 1<sup>st</sup> year friends when needed.