



Information Booklet 2020-2021

Fáilte ón bPríomhoide

A Chairde,

I am delighted to welcome you to Dunamase College. The school is set on a path of rapid growth and development over the next few years. Our founding philosophy is to provide excellence in education through the medium of Irish and English to the young people in our care. Along with a strong emphasis on the Irish language and culture, we offer a wide range of subjects, and allow students to try out all subjects in first year, before choosing to their particular strengths for the junior cycle. We understand the great importance of technology in the modern world and this is reflected in our delivery of the curriculum, using the most up to date educational practices and technologies. We will also offer a selection of extracurricular activities.

Culture and Ethos

Dunamase College is a multidenominational, co-educational school, inclusive socially and culturally. It provides excellence in education using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies. We place a strong focus on student wellbeing and the need for respect for all members of the community and the environment which surrounds us.

School Uniform

All students are required to wear the correct uniform to school and on any occasions when they are representing the school. The acceptance of a place in the school includes the acceptance of the uniform policy and we assume parents and guardians will support us in this.

Uniform

Blue school jumper with crest

Navy school trousers or skirt

Navy socks / tights

White shirt

School tie

School jacket

Black leather school shoes

Available in Shaws Portlaoise

****Labels on everything please**

Sports gear

(during P.E. class only)

Sports T shirt

School Track suit

Runners

Available in Colgans Main
Street Portlaoise

Lunch & Leaving School during School Times

Students are not permitted to leave school during the day. We recommend a healthy lunch be brought in in the morning.

Sports and other extra-curricular activities will take place at lunchtimes.

Students leaving school for appointments (dental etc) must be signed out and in by a guardian or parent

School Day

6 classes Monday – Thursday, School finishes at 12.45 on Fridays

Daily Timetable

PERIOD	TIME
ROLL	8.20
1.	8.30 – 9.30
2.	9.30 – 10.30
BREAK	10.30-10.45
3.	10.45 – 11.45
4.	11.45 – 12.45
LUNCH	12.45-13.30
5.	13.30 – 14.30
6.	14.30- 15.30

School Calendar

Term	Date
Term 1	27 th August 2020 – 22 nd December 2020
Mid Term	26/10/2020 – 2/11/2020
Term 2	6 th January – 26 th March 20201
Mid Term	15/2/2021 – 19/2/2021
Term 3	12 th April 2021 – 4 th June 2021

The Junior Cycle

Students will study a maximum of 10 examination subjects in the Junior Cycle. Students will study all subjects in first year and choose subjects at the end of first term.

	Subject
Core subjects	Irish English Maths Science History Wellbeing (SPHE, CSPE, P.E)
Optional Subjects	Geography French Spanish Technology Art Technical Graphics Home Economics Music Business Studies
Short Courses	Digital media literacy Coding Artistic Performance Philosophy
Non-Exam Subject	Religion*

* We are a multid denominational school and as such denominational religion/ faith formation is not taught within the school timetable.

Learning Environment

The school uses a blended learning model to provide the curriculum. The students will use various educational resources including tablet computers to access the curriculum.

Tablets and tablet management and support are available for purchase through Wriggle. All students are required to purchase the Tablet and management system.

We recommend parents/guardians take out insurance cover for their device

The school has an Acceptable Usage Policy for the use of technology within the school. A copy is available in the school office and online.

School Equipment

- Casio Fx83 Scientific Calculator
- Maths Set, Ruler
- Mathematics Tables (State Examination Version)
- Pencil case, pencils, pens ,erasers etc. (No liquid tippex)
- 3 Science A4 hard back copies
- Music manuscript copy
- Display book for business studies
- 10 A4 hard back copies.
- 12 regular copybooks
- 1 set of headphones
- 5 A4 Ring Binders and 100 plastic pockets

Sports & Extra-Curricular Activities

We provide a variety of extra-curricular events and intend to add to these to reflect student interests. Various sports clubs and training will take place during lunch time and after school hours.

Amongst these activities are:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Athletics• Basketball• Volleyball• Football• Hurling/Camogie• Music• Debating• Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film club• Amber Flag Committee• Green Flag Committee• History Club• Art Club• Spanish Club• Board games• Choir

Parents Council

The school has a Parents Council and we recommend all parents play an active part in its activities. The aim of a Parents Council is to build effective collaboration and partnership between home and school and the local community. All parents / guardians of students enrolled in the school are automatically members of the Parents Council and are welcome to attend meetings. The Council play an important and valuable role in the development of the school.

Students Council

The Students Council was founded in September 2017 to support the development and progression of our school. The aim of the Students Council is to give students a representative voice in issues affecting them within the school. They are involved in policy development and implementation and work with school management to promote and foster the school's atmosphere, conditions and facilities. The Student Council promotes confidence, responsibility, loyalty and respect in students and fosters good relationships between staff and students.

Wellbeing

The school years are a critical time in young peoples' lives. Students are exposed to a range of influences and require support to make positive and responsible decisions relating to their health and wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. Wellbeing is at the forefront of everything we do in Dunamase College Coláiste Dhún Másc. Our aim is that the young people in our care feel confident, happy, healthy and connected. We have a number of systems in place that support this aim including our Tutor system, Guidance programme and Care Team.

Learning Support

If your child requires additional learning support please contact the school with all relevant details & reports as soon as possible.

Your child may benefit from some visits to the school before the new school year to become familiar with the surroundings.

Please contact us to arrange this.

Standardised Testing

We will carry out standardized testing on your child in the first week at school. A copy of these results will be provided to parents / guardians and the Academic mentoring team will discuss them with your child.

Code of Behaviour & Acceptable ICT Usage Policy

The school operates a Code of Behaviour based on respect for all members of the school community and for learning. We also have an ICT Acceptable Usage Policy. Accepting a place in the school is dependent on the acceptance of both codes. Copies of both are available in the school office and online and must be signed before starting in the school.

School Communications

School webpage

The website address is www.dunamasecollege.ie

The school has a Facebook page and a twitter account (@dunamasecollege)

E-mail

We like to communicate by e-mail as much as possible so please keep us informed of any changes in your e-mail address

Contact Details

E-mail address : info@dunamasecollege.ie

Postal address: Dunamase College, Railway Street, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Telephone: 057 8664696

VShare

Parents can keep an eye on their child's progress through the school's information system. This will contain student data, exam results, attendance, behaviour and general progress information. Each family will receive a username and password at the beginning of the school year. If a second username & password is required that can also be provided. There will be a link to this on the school website. www.dunamasecollege.vshare.ie.

This is a cloud based system with top level data security

Additional Information

<http://www.npcpp.ie/moving-up-from-primary-to-secondary/3>

<http://www.booklink.ie/Movingup/index.html>

<http://ncse.ie/information-booklets-pamphlets-2>

http://www.ncca.ie/en/Curriculum_and_Assessment/Post-Primary_Education/Junior_Cycle/

<http://www.curriculumonline.ie/>

<http://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/Junior-Cycle-is-changing>

<http://www.gaelscoileanna.ie/en/resources/eolas-do-thuismitheoiri/>

<http://www.dunamasecollege.ie>