



21st June 2022

Dear Parent/Guardians,

We hope that you and your family are keeping well as we come to the end of another school year.

Thankfully, this school year ended with a wonderful sense of normality as many of our activities and events were able to recommence. We would like to take this opportunity to tell our students once again how extremely proud of them we are. They adapted and coped so well with COVID measures and restrictions in the early part of the school year. We applaud their resilience and determination, and we thank them for their diligence and cooperation in keeping our school community safe.

Our start-up dates for the 2022-23 school year are as follows,

- Monday 29th August – 1st Years & Transition Years
- Tuesday 30th August – 1st Years (*Transition Years – Delphi Residential Trip*)
- Wednesday 31st August – 3rd Years & 6th Years
- Thursday 1st September – 2nd Years
- Friday 2nd September – 5th Years

End of Year Reports – 1st, 2nd, TY & 5th Years

End of year reports for the above year groups are now available via VSware. You can access VSware via the link on our school website or the link in the school app. Please contact office@presmilltown.ie if you are having difficulties accessing reports.

State Examinations

As the Leaving Certificate & Junior Certificate 2022 draws into the final week we would like to remind our 3rd & 6th Year students of how proud we are of their dedication and hard work over the past few years. In particular we would like to wish all of our 6th Year students the very best for the future. We commend the adaptability, determination, and resilience you have shown in over the past two years and we thank you for leaving us with so many fond memories of the Class of 2022. We know that the future is both safe and bright in your hands.

Nuacht

Our Nuacht 2022 publication is available to download from the “News” section of our school website www.presmilltown.ie. It is wonderful to have so many activities and achievements to celebrate this year.

Student Supports

Please let us know if you feel we can further support your son/daughter during their time at school. We have a range of measures we can implement for students who find school particularly challenging or overwhelming. If we can help support your son/daughter from a financial perspective in relation to school trips/books etc, please also feel free to pick up the phone and speak with us.

Teacher Requests

As the new school year approaches, we ask parents to refrain from sending requests for their son/daughter to be in particular teachers’ classes. Our weekly school timetable is extremely complex, requiring the scheduling of over 957 class periods. Considering these complexities and in the interest of equity and transparency, such requests will not be considered.

Code of Behaviour

As you are aware our Code of Behaviour is a vital policy to ensure the smooth operation of each school day. It allows the creation of a learning environment which is safe, caring, equitable and consistent. The full policy can be found on our website. However, as always at this time of year, we wish to draw your attention to a number of points in relation to uniform and smart devices, before purchases and decisions are made over the summer.



Uniform

Students are aware of the need for the uniform to be worn properly and in its entirety. Our uniform identifies students as members of our school community. We require it to be worn properly to promote equality, unity and a shared identity within our student body.

Wearing the uniform **unaltered prevents trends** and fashion statements becoming prevalent. Students tell us that such trends put **unnecessary** stress on them to conform to peer pressure.

As the summer is often the time that new uniform items are bought, we request your support in ensuring students' uniforms are **unaltered** and **worn correctly** as per our Code of Behaviour.

In particular we'd like to remind our girls that the **kilt** should be worn below the knee and not turned-up at the waistband. We would like to remind our boys that their **school trousers** must not be altered in anyway. The current trend is that the legs of the trousers are narrowed and shortened to above the ankle. Uniform trousers must be regular, unaltered school trousers which fall below the ankle in length.

Piercings are another area that students often consider during the summer holidays. Please note that students are permitted to wear one small stud earring in each ear. However, as per page 5 of our Code of Behaviour, other visible piercings are not permitted.

Mobile Phones/Smart Devices

Use of mobile phones and smart devices is always challenging for schools. Our students tell us that they value the time and sense of calm created by not being allowed to use their phones during school. They tell us it reduces the pressures and stress caused by social media and the demands of being online.

We encourage students to not bring mobile phones to school. However, if parents feel it is necessary the phone must be **placed in the student's locker** (or school bag if lockers are not in use) as soon as they arrive in school. The phone must then remain in the locker until the end of the school day.

Our Code of Behaviour states that students are not permitted to use their phones/smart devices (including smart watches) at any time during the school day and/or on the school premises (including break, lunch, before and after school). In the interest of health and safety we request your assistance in ensuring **students** who need to **contact parents/guardians** during the school day do so **through the school office** and not via their own phones. Likewise, we request that **parents/guardians** who need to **contact students** during the school day do so **through the school office** and not directly through the student's mobile phone.

We hope that 2021-22 has been a productive and enjoyable year for your sons/daughters. We thank them for their positivity, creativity and diligence, but most of all for their kindness and understanding towards each other. We thank you for entrusting your young person into our care and for your continued support and cooperation in our work.

Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,



Kerry Harkin
Principal



Sean Costelloe
Deputy Principal

