



23rd August 2021

St Marys CBS Portlaoise 1st Year Parents Info Night



A Day in St Mary's CBS

Mon - Thurs: **8.55 am to 1.15 pm**
1.55 pm to 4.00 pm

Fri: **8.55 am to 1.15 pm**

**All students remain on school
premises at lunch time**

**All students must bring their own
lunch / drinks**

All classes are 60 minutes

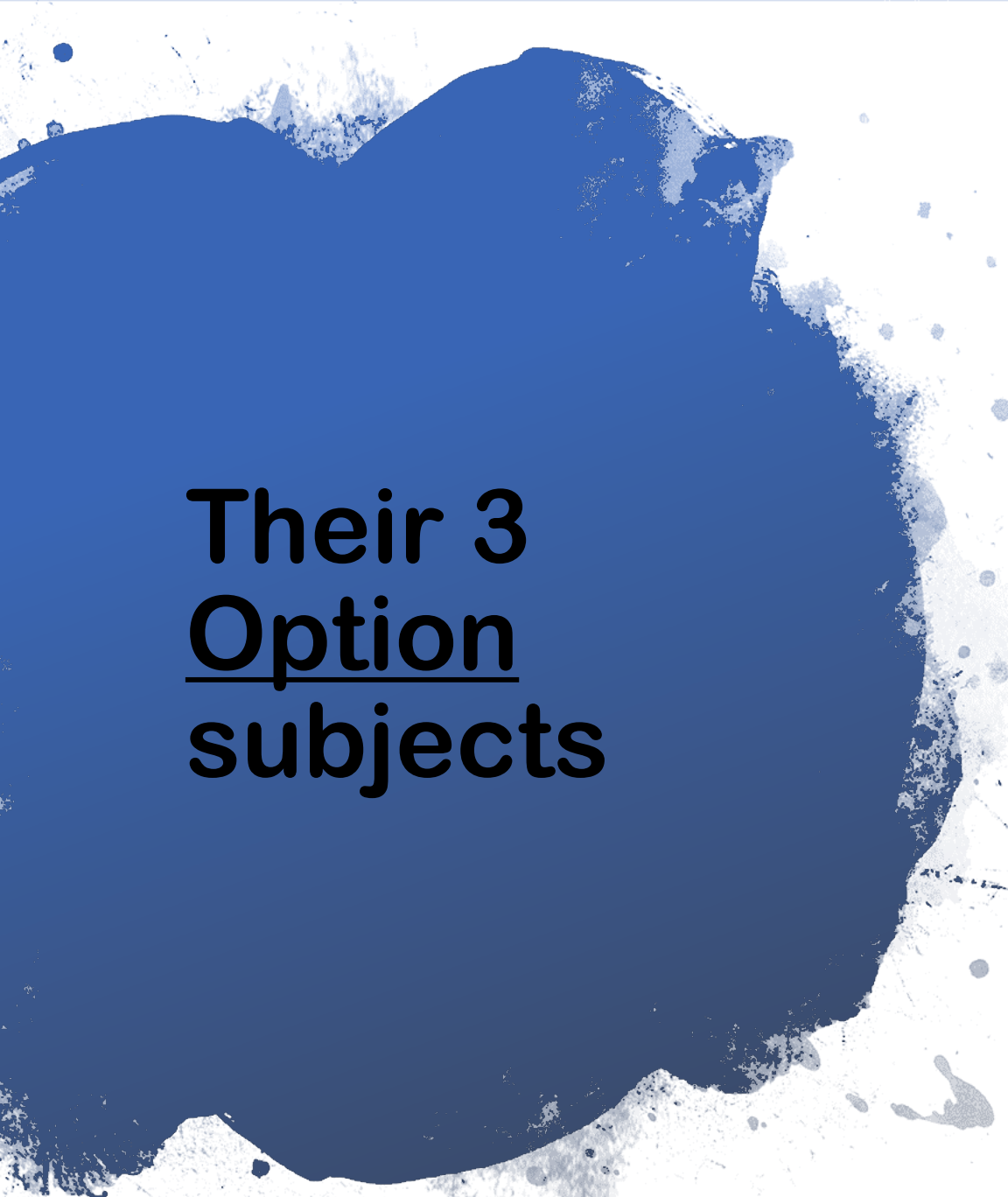
Our Uniform – all available from SHAWS

- V-neck black pullover with school crest
- Mid-grey shirt and school tie
- Plain grey trousers (not cord or canvas)
- Black shoes or boots (with black soles only)
- **No black runners except on PE day**
- Black School Jacket / School Hoodie – no other outer clothing allowed in the building
- **NEW: PE Uniform of half zip and black track suit bottoms for PE days - they wear it in for the entire day**
- No body piercing jewellery
- Natural coloured hair appropriate for school.

First Year Subjects

Everyone Takes 10 Core Subjects:

- English
Geography
- Irish
CSPE
- Maths
Religion (non exam)
- Science
PE (non exam)
- History
SPHE (non exam)
- And Wellbeing which isn't a subject as such (non exam)



Their 3 Option subjects

3 of the following:

- **French**
- **Spanish**
- **Engineering**
- **Business Studies**
- **Virtual Art**
- **Home Economics**
- **Graphics**
- **Wood Technology**
- **Business Studies**

Changing your options

- Those who have asked to change option subjects over the summer have had them changed
- Advice : Try out what you are given for a week or two. If it is definitely not what you want, the **student** should come to see myself or Mr Mulligan - bringing a note from his parents/guardians, saying you wish him to be moved to another subject and giving a good reason why so. This is to prevent anyone moving randomly from 2 or 3 subjects while missing out on the courses which began on day one.
- We will always do our best to make that change.
- The only reason we may not be able to do so is if the subject you want is only on in one block and it happens to be on at the same time as another option choice which may only have one class and they're on at the same time - then you will need to choose one.

Contacting the school

- If you want to speak to the Year Head, the School Counsellor or any of your son's teachers, you should ring the office 0578635041 and leave a message with Reception for the teacher/Year Head/Counsellor to ring you back and either speak on the phone or make an appointment to meet.
- If you wish your son to change a subject, it works quicker if you provide your son with a note saying what you want him to drop and what you wish him to take up and if it's possible we will do same. He should come to see either myself or Mr Mulligan and we will keep this note on file for future reference. We may also ring you as we are making the change if there is something we need to pass by you.



Religion

- RE is a core subject on the school curriculum and an integral part of the ethos of the school. All students are expected to participate in RE.
- In line with their legal rights, parents of students of a non-Christian Faith may request that their son not participate in RE / Services. The practice in such cases is that the student remains in the classroom under supervision. He is expected to study his own religion during this time. If a parent decides to withdraw a student, it is the parent's responsibility to organise supervision for the student while the programme is being delivered.
- Students who are not practicing Catholics but who do not practice another faith must fully participate in RE servicesclass/

Additional Educational Needs


- During the course of the next 5-6 years, you may have reason to ask for your son to be assessed for a specific learning difficulty.
- This is something we deal with regularly.
- If there is a query in your mind about your son's learning, please ring the office and ask for Ms Lynch, our AEN Coordinator, to give you a ring back.
- She will advise you, seek feedback from your son's teachers, or whatever she deems necessary based on your discussion.
- The CBS has always been a strong supporter of students who require learning support of any kind. We have a strong history of providing this and working closely with our parents/guardians to help their sons realise their full potential

St. Mary's CBS Extra Curricular Activities

We hope to return to them ASAP!

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After School Activities are an important part of life in St Mary's CBS. They provide pupils with a wide range of opportunities which complement the academic curriculum, allowing students to take advantage of all the facilities available at the school. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in these activities.

- GAA
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Rugby
- Film Club
- Debating
- Cookery Club
- Art / Photography Club
- Green Schools
- Amber flag
- Chess Club
- Music/Trad Group
- Science Club
- Debating
- Student Leadership
- Meitheal/Treoiri/
Student Council
- Zambia Immersion
Programme
- Foreign trips



School Care Team (who meet weekly)

- 1st Year Head (2021) –
Mr A White
- Additional Education Needs
Coordinator (AEN)
Ms Lynch
- Career Guidance & School
Counsellors
**Ms C Phelan,
Ms C Brennan
Ms McEntee**
- Home School Liaison –
Mr N Donlon
- Behaviour Support –
Mr Ryan and Ms Quinn

Incoming 1st Years

- CAT4 Test – August 26th 2021-2 hours
- This informs us if we need to provide support
- All 5 classes will be Mixed Ability
- Meitheal will continue to help with the first years' day to day adjustments into secondary school life throughout first year
- We hope today's Induction Day was an ice-breaker
- Parent Teacher meeting will be in January
- Not sure yet about Coffee Morning during October


Technology in Education

- All students & teachers have access to **Microsoft 365** – this is the basic tool in enabling your son to meet the challenges of the 21st Century.
- All students receive **their own school email address**, password and their own **OneDrive** account for storing their documents throughout their Junior Cycle.
- Many parents have purchased the Wriggle managed iPad, while others have another device to use at home to access **Microsoft Teams** which is the main platform for all our classes.
- We appreciate the great effort you have made to provide your son with a device at home and school to access files, videos, information.
- We will hold an **IT Info Evening for parents/guardians** explaining how they can also benefit from having Microsoft 365 on 5 home devices (handy for the one going off to college soon, free of charge!)



Book Rental

- **Book Rental Bundles are ready for collection, upon full payment, on Thursday 26th August.**



Thank you for tuning in and listening - we
are looking forward to
the next 5-6 years
working with you and your son.

'From Each His Best'



St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise

Edmund Rice Schools Trust

The logo features a central graphic of stylized vertical bars in blue and grey, arranged in a pattern that suggests a building or a school crest. The text is in a red, serif font, with the top line arched and the bottom line following the curve of the bars.