



Holy Family Community School

Third Year Parent Information Evening

Junior Cycle Year · 2026/27

Mr Michael Fiorentini · Year Head

Welcome back · Clear routines · Strong partnership



School trustees



Multi-denominational school · Three trustees



**The Spiritan
Education Trust**

SET



CEIST

**Catholic Education
Irish Schools Trust**



**Dublin and Dún
Laoghaire ETB**

**Education and Training
Board**

We welcome students of every faith and background.

We promote a Christian value system:

Respect · Responsibility · Co-operation · Honesty · Fairness · Friendship



The year ahead

A significant year. A manageable year. A partnership.

1

Present

Attendance and punctuality are the foundation.

2

Prepared

Students arrive with the right materials, routines and mindset.

3

Engaged

Homework, CBAs, study and classroom learning are taken seriously.

4

Supported

Concerns are raised early and dealt with through the correct route.

This evening is about what matters most, what parents can do, and when to act.



182 students.
182 different Third Years.
One common goal.

Every student leaves Third Year knowing they gave themselves the best possible opportunity to succeed.

Success will look different for different students. Effort, preparation and engagement are expectations for everyone.





Partnership and Support



Year Head

Attendance, punctuality, progress, pastoral overview, behaviour and parent/guardian liaison.

Class Tutors

Daily routines, notices, journals and student check-ins.

Subject Teachers

Learning, homework, CBA deadlines, assessment feedback and subject-specific concerns.

Student Support Team

Guidance, chaplaincy, AEN and senior-management support where needed.

The earlier we know about a concern, the easier it is to support the student.



Communication: who should I contact?

- **Subject-specific queries**

Your child's subject teacher is the first port of call. Email addresses generally follow FirstInitial.Surname@hfcs.ie.

- **General communication**

Most other communication should go through Mrs O'Connell in Reception: info@hfcs.ie · 01-4580766. It will be directed to the relevant staff member.

- **Additional Educational Needs (AEN)**

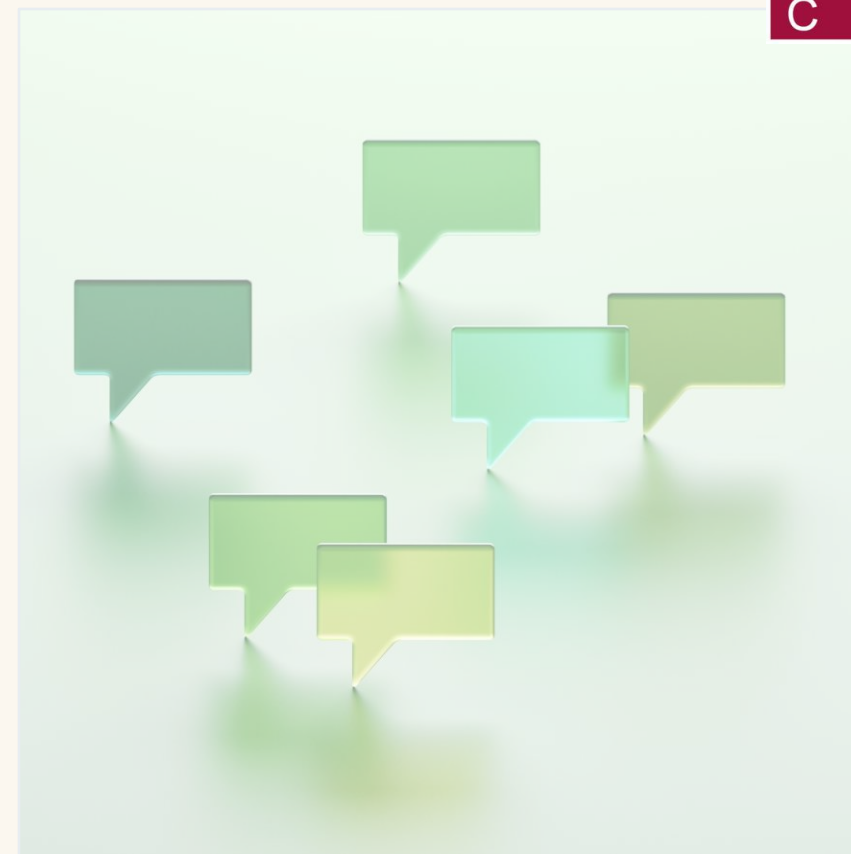
All AEN communication should go directly to Mr Savage: M.Savage@hfcs.ie.

- **VShare**

Use VShare for absence notes and to monitor attendance, reports, behaviour and school messages. Please enable app notifications.

- **Meetings and follow-up**

Meetings with staff are by appointment. Please contact us early when a concern arises so that we can respond appropriately.



CHECK VSHARE REGULARLY

Reception: info@hfcs.ie

• AEN: M.Savage@hfcs.ie

Specialist contacts

3rd Year brings a lot of big conversations.

1

EXAMS

State examinations

Questions relating to State Examinations at Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate or LCA.

Mr M. Munds · m.munds@hfcs.ie

2

GUIDANCE

Guidance & careers

Questions concerning career guidance, CAO, college pathways and job opportunities.

Ms C. Perris · c.perris@hfcs.ie
Ms U. McDonnell · u.mcdonnell@hfcs.ie

**For subject-specific learning, homework or assessment queries,
the subject teacher remains the first port of call.**



Tutor groups: first layer of support

For moderate or low-level concerns, tutors are often the best first conversation.

Tutor groups

Each group has two tutors.

- **Aran** Ms Brierty & Ms Cafferty
- **Blasket** Mr McLaughlin & Ms O'Keeffe
- **Clare** Mr Egan & Mr McConnell
- **Dursey** Mr Purcell & Ms Ryan-Clarke
- **Lambay** Mr Hanley & Ms Connelly
- **Rathlin** Mr Pierce & Ms Molloy
- **Tory** Ms Ní Fartharta & Mr Moran

When to contact the tutor

Behaviour patterns

Low-level or repeated concerns in class before they become bigger issues.

Classwork & homework

Concerns about work habits, missed homework, organisation or effort.

Regular weekly contact

Tutors have at least 3 hours 20 minutes contact time through subjects and tutor time.

Best next step

If an issue needs to be escalated, tutors can advise the most efficient route.

Early communication resolves issues faster.



School procedures: the essentials

Day structure

Classes begin at 8.45am and finish at 3.40pm. Wednesday finish is 1.00pm.

On time

Students should be in school before 8.40am and ready for first class.

Breaks

Morning break: 10.45–11.00am. Lunch: 1.00–1.40pm.

Leaving early

Students sign out through reception, Vsware note must be logged in advance and must be collected by parent/guardian where required.

Illness

Students do not use their phone to contact home. They ask permission to go to reception.

Appointments

Arrange in advance and use the agreed school procedure.

Small procedural issues become much easier when the same routine is followed every time.



Attendance and punctuality matter



Every missed day is missed learning, missed explanation, missed practice and missed routine.

- Regular attendance is essential in an exam year.
- Absence notes must be sent through VShare.
- Please avoid family holidays during term time.
- Schools are required to report students who reach 20 days' absence to Tusla.
- Repeated lateness will be followed up.

Parent action: check attendance weekly and address patterns quickly.



Prepared for school every day

Uniform

Full school uniform, correct shoes/jacket and official PE uniform on PE days. A note covers one day only and should rarely be needed.

Phones & devices

Personal devices must be off and out of sight during the school day. No photographs, recordings or messaging.

Equipment

Books, copies, iPad/device where required, charged device, pens and subject equipment ready before school.

Digital safety

Students must not use devices to bully, harass, threaten, embarrass or invade privacy.

Please do not phone or message students during the school day. Contact reception if something is urgent.



Behaviour, respect and restorative practice

The standard is simple: students should be safe, respectful, prepared and ready to learn.



Bullying is not tolerated and should be reported. Good behaviour is expected in school and when representing the school.



Junior Cycle assessment: the parent version

Parents do not need to know every technical detail tonight — but these terms matter.

CBAs

Classroom-Based Assessments completed during class time in specific subjects. In Third Year, many students complete CBA2s.

Assessment tasks / practical work

Subject-dependent elements such as practical, oral, project or coursework requirements where applicable.

Mock examinations

A full exam-style rehearsal window. Feedback should inform the final study plan.
(25 Jan–5 Feb)

State examinations

Written Junior Cycle exams begin in June. The SEC awards the final exam descriptors.
(9 Jun)

Key point: deadlines, attendance and steady study matter long before June.



Understanding Junior Cycle language

CBA and final exams use different language. This can confuse students and parents.

CBA descriptors

Yet to meet expectations

In line with expectations

Above expectations

Exceptional

Final exam descriptors

Partially Achieved

Achieved

Merit

Higher Merit

Distinction

The important question after any result: what does this tell us about the next piece of work?



Academic tracking and action plans

Students should know where they are, what needs attention and what they are doing about it.

1

Know
Current picture:
attendance,
assessments,
reports and
teacher feedback.

2

Target
Clear subject
targets and
realistic priorities.

3

Act
Specific actions:
homework,
revision, exam
questions,
support,
organisation.

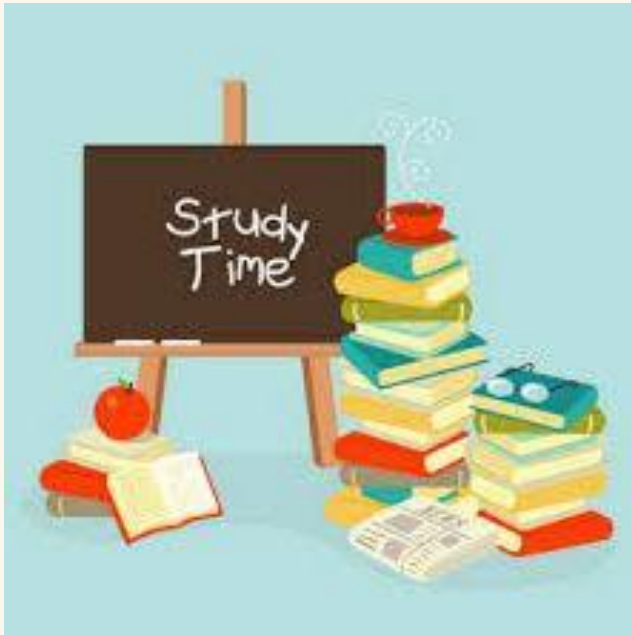
4

Review
Check what has
improved and what
still needs attention.

Parent prompt: “What is your next action, and when will you do it?”



The study rhythm we want



Less cramming. More retrieval. Earlier correction.

3

**Three short study
blocks on school
evenings**

2

**Two active methods:
flashcards, blurring,
exam questions**

1

**One weekly review
of what is done and
what comes next**

**A quiet place, a visible plan and a phone out of reach
are more powerful than a long lecture.**



Supervised Study



A structured environment for focused study

- **Supervised Study runs Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 16:00–18:00.**
- **Students have a quiet, structured and supervised environment for homework, revision and independent study.**
- **Cost: €65 per session.**
- **It can help students establish strong routines, which are crucial in examination years.**
- **Ms Gernon, Supervised Study Coordinator, will send registration and payment details to parents/guardians.**

Routine now makes the months ahead easier



Extracurricular involvement: choose well

Clubs and teams enrich school life. In Third Year, the key is balance.

Why we encourage involvement

BELONGING

Students get to know peers beyond the classroom and feel more connected to school.

CONFIDENCE

Teams and clubs build confidence, resilience, teamwork and leadership.

RELATIONSHIPS

Shared experiences help students build trust, friendships and strong relationships.

Third Year balance

1-2

Our recommendation: choose one or two meaningful commitments rather than trying to do everything.

- Multiple teams can mean multiple missed classes.
- Students must take responsibility for catching up on work they miss.
- If missed learning is not recovered, small gaps quickly become bigger ones.
- The aim is to build the routines and mindset needed for Senior Cycle as well as succeed in Junior Cycle.

Get involved. Choose wisely. Catch up. Protect your study routine.



Wellbeing: exam year without panic



Pressure is normal. Avoidable stress is what we want to reduce.

- Regular sleep and breakfast matter more than students think.
- Phone boundaries help attention, mood and sleep.
- Movement, daylight and downtime keep the year sustainable.
- Watch for patterns: withdrawal, refusal, panic, irritability or persistent avoidance.
- Contact school early if you are concerned.

Exams matter. The student matters more.



Key dates for 2026/27

22 Oct 2026	3rd Year Parent/Teacher Meeting · 4.15–6.45pm
26–30 Oct	October midterm break
22 Dec	Term 1 ends
6 Jan 2027	Term 2 starts
25 Jan–5 Feb	3rd Year mock examinations
15–19 Feb	February midterm break
5 Apr	Term 3 starts
9 Jun	State examinations begin

Calendar dates can change; always check VShare and the school calendar for updates.



What we need from parents this year



Check VShare regularly: attendance, notes, messages and reports.



Ask about deadlines before they become urgent.



Protect the mock exam and final exam windows.



Support sleep, breakfast and sensible phone boundaries.



Help your child keep a visible weekly study plan.



Contact school early if a pattern begins to emerge.

The goal is not perfection. The goal is consistency.

Please get involved in the HFCS Parents Council

Follow us
on
Instagram



@hfcs_parents council

To join the
Parents Council
email



parents council@hfcs.ie



Fundraiser Weekly Draw

JACKPOT UP TO €3,000



Please contribute to the Holy Family Community School Fundraiser -
Run by the Parents Council.

1 line €2.50 | 2 lines €4 | 3 lines €5

Jackpot increases weekly (up to €3,000!)

Guaranteed €20 prize every week!

Your contribution will make a big difference for our students.

Easy to Enter!

Scan the QR code or visit
ourfundraiser.ie/org/hfcs



Terms & Conditions: Must be over 18 years of age to participate. Maximum of 3 recurring lines per supporter.

See website for more T&Cs. Powered by: Our Fundraiser | info@ourfundraiser.ie

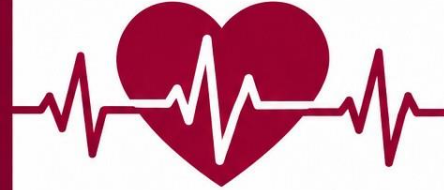


HOLY FAMILY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



WILL OFFER STUDENTS THE
OPPORTUNITY
TO AVAIL OF

CARDIAC SCREENING



Cardiac screening is a quick, non-invasive test that helps to detect potential heart conditions.

It could save a life.



For more information,
please see the email sent to parents
or letter in the comments.



REGISTRATION MUST BE
COMPLETED BY
SEPTEMBER 7TH



SCREENING WILL TAKE PLACE
**TOWARDS THE END
OF SEPTEMBER.**



Final message

Third Year is a team effort.

Clear expectations, steady routines, honest feedback and early communication will make the difference.

**Be present.
Be prepared.
Work hard.
Ask for help.
Treat people
well.**