



Holy Family Community School

- ▶ 6th Year Information Meeting
- ▶ Tuesday, September 1st 2026
- ▶ Welcome
 - If you have any questions regarding the presentation this evening, please put them in the chat box and we will endeavour to answer them at the end or you can email info@hfcs.ie
 - If you have a specific question about your son/daughter please email info@hfcs.ie and direct it to the relevant person you wish to speak to.



Student Support Team

- Their core purpose is to coordinate the support available for all students in the school.

- ▶ Principal: Ms. Ingrid Fallon
- ▶ Deputy Principals: Ms. Denise O'Keeffe, Mr. Liam Ferguson, Mr. Derek Maher
- ▶ Guidance Counsellors: Ms. Charlene Perris, Ms. Ursula Mc Donnell .
- ▶ Chaplain: Mr. Noel McConnell
- ▶ Additional Needs' Coordinator - Mr. Michael Savage



Pastoral Care Team

- ▶ Year Head: Ms. Colette Phillips
- ▶ Tutors: R.61 Ms. Lynda Doyle
- ▶ R.62 Mr. Pat Hassett
- ▶ R. 63 Mr. Darren Tierney
- ▶ R. 64 Ms. Ursula McDonnell
- ▶ R. 65 Ms. Charlene Perris

School Procedures

4

Classes begin at 8.45am and finish at 3.40pm (1pm on Wed) Students must be in school 5 minutes before first class in the morning and first class in the afternoon

Morning break is from 10.45am - 11.00am Lunch break 1.00pm – 1.40pm
Wednesdays: morning break is from 10.55 to 11.10am.

6th Year students are allowed to go to the village during lunch break. Students who wish to stay in school must take their lunch in their base rooms.

A seating plan and cleaning roster is posted on each base room wall which students must adhere to.

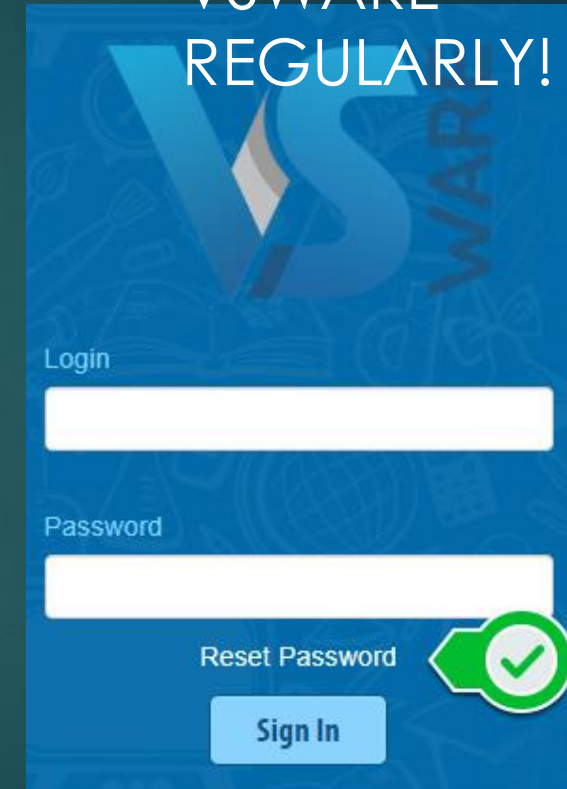
Communication between Parent/Guardian and school.

- ▶ The School Secretary, Ms. Lorraine O'Connell, is the main channel to contact teachers, Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principals and Principal.
- ▶ Phone calls (01-4580766)
- ▶ Emails to info@hfcs.ie
- ▶ **Absence notes sent via Vsware.**
- ▶ Notes in dialann for individual subject teachers or contact made through email/phone call.
- ▶ All meetings between parents/guardians and staff members must be made by appointment.

Communication between school and Parents/Guardians.

- ▶ VSware is the management and communication system used by the school also acts to communicate messages to Parents/Guardians.
- ▶ Parents/Guardians can look at their child's timetable, attendance, assessment results and behaviour record on VSware.
- ▶ Please ensure that your son/daughter does not have access to your passcode to the school's VSware system.
- ▶ In order to receive messages, please ensure that you download the VSware app on your mobile device and allow notifications.
- ▶ Instructions on how to download the VSware app can be found here: <https://support.vsware.ie/en/parent-app-overview>

CHECK
VSWARE
REGULARLY!

The image shows a login screen for the VSware system. It has a blue background with a large, faint 'VSWARE' logo. There are two white input fields: the top one is labeled 'Login' and the bottom one is labeled 'Password'. Below the password field is a 'Reset Password' link and a green checkmark icon. At the bottom is a blue button labeled 'Sign In'.

Other forms of communication

- ▶ Website www.hfcs.ie
- ▶ Twitter @hfcsrathcoole
- ▶ School reports
- ▶ Parent/Teacher meeting
- ▶ Meetings for specific issues
- ▶ Information Meetings
- ▶ Dialann



Leaving Cert Curriculum

- ▶ Students are advised to set study goals.
- ▶ It is recommended that students spend 2 hours per evening at homework/revision. Extra hours at the weekend.
- ▶ October assessments (reduced number) 19th – 23rd October 2026.
- ▶ Subject curriculum largely completed by the Mock examinations.
- ▶ Mock Exams : January 25th to February 5th 2026.
- ▶ Project work will start at the end of October/ early November. Project work to be completed in school under the direct supervision of the teacher.
- ▶ Essential that balance is maintained. A good study plan this year incorporating breaks/exercise.

AAC

- ▶ **Additional Assessment Components (AACs)** are a key part of the Leaving Certificate and are completed over the course of **5th and 6th Year**. Depending on the subject, AACs may take the form of a project, investigation, experiment, presentation, or written report and are worth **40% of the final examination grade**. As AACs are completed over an extended period, students must demonstrate strong organisation, independence, and a commitment to meeting all deadlines.
- ▶ · **AACs are worth 40% of the final Leaving Certificate grade**, with the remaining 60% coming from the written exam, making them a significant part of the overall result.
- ▶ · **Students are responsible for understanding the AAC brief, coursework rules, and assessment requirements** set by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).
- ▶ · **Meeting deadlines is the student's responsibility**. Teachers will provide check-in dates, and failure to submit work on time may prevent teachers from authenticating and signing off on the coursework.
- ▶ · **AACs are individual pieces of work**. Students must complete and submit their own work, and receiving substantial assistance from others or using essay-writing services is considered cheating.
- ▶ · **Students are expected to manage work outside of class**, including research, planning, report writing, and maintaining their investigative log, while adhering to all timelines set by their teacher.
- ▶ · **Academic integrity is essential**. Students must correctly reference sources, avoid plagiarism, and not use AI to generate coursework content, as this can lead to serious SEC penalties, including loss of marks or examination sanctions.
- ▶ · **Students are responsible for ensuring their work can be authenticated as their own**, including backing up their work, maintaining records of their progress, and acting ethically throughout the AAC process.
- ▶ · **Teachers are not permitted to correct/mark this work, as directed by the SEC.**

Supervised Study

- ▶ Coordinator: Ms. Karen Gernon
- ▶ Study runs from 3.55pm – 5.55pm on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday each week.
- ▶ There will be 6 sessions throughout the year.
- ▶ 14 Sept. – First session . All details will be communicated to parents /guardians via VShare email this week.

Leaving Certificate Grades and CAO points system.

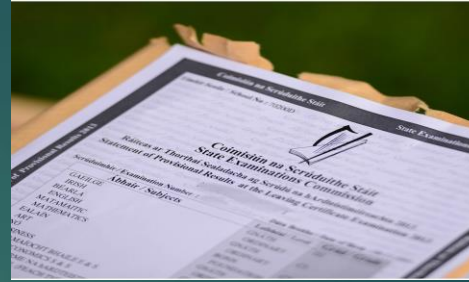
Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0



LCVP

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP Grade	% Score	LCVP Points
Distinction	85 - 100	66
Merit	65 - 79	46
Pass	50 - 64	28



- ▶ 6 subjects used to calculate points.
- ▶ Maximum points for 6 Higher level subjects (H1): 600 points
- ▶ Maximum points for 6 Ordinary level subjects (O1): 336 points
- ▶ Maximum points for 6 Higher level subjects (H7): 222 points
- ▶ Maximum points for 6 Ordinary level subjects (O7): 72 points
- ▶ 25 bonus points for H6 or higher in Higher level Maths.
- ▶ However, some courses require minimum grades at certain levels so check with the career guidance teacher for confirmation of requirements before changing levels.

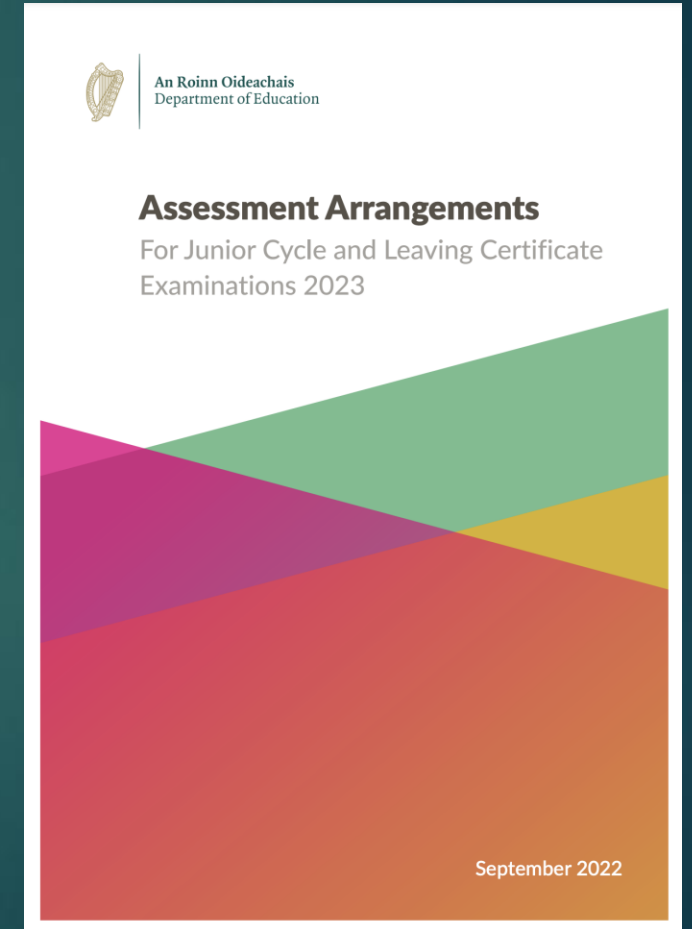


Languages and Oral Exams

- ▶ Irish oral exam: 40%
- ▶ Irish written and aural exam: 60%
- ▶ French/German oral exams: 25% (H), 20% (O)
- ▶ French/German written and aural exam: 75% (H); 80% (O)
- ▶ Many subjects have a practical component worth a significant percentage of the overall grade. It is essential that this work is completed to a high standard.

Update on Assessment for senior cycle 2026/2027

- ▶ The Minister for Education has confirmed that, as for leaving cert class of 2026, adjustments will be made to the assessment arrangements for students who are due to sit state examinations in 2027.



Looking forward



- ▶ Career guidance appointments should be made during this term if students need information on the course they wish to pursue.
- ▶ Courses accessed through the Central Applications Office (CAO) which also cover apprenticeships
- ▶ Courses outside of the state (UCAS)
- ▶ Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses

Health and Safety

16

01

Always have an appointment

02

Do not enter school grounds except by prior arrangement

03

Drop off and pick up students at the front of the school

04

Do not stop on the roundabout or in the school gateway or across the driveways of houses

Health and Safety: New Building

- ▶ Accessing or attempting to access the construction site for the new school building is forbidden.
- ▶ Parents/guardians must not drop off or collect at either roundabout outside school. Top roundabout is now an access point for construction machinery
- ▶ Students must be aware of new fire evacuation route/procedures. Fire drills will take place.

SCHOOL POLICIES



All HFCS policies and useful information are available on the school website



<https://www.hfcs.ie/our-policies-and-useful-information/>



The Code of Behaviour and Discipline should be read by students and parents and is available in the students' journals and on the website. It must be signed in the dialann.

Personal Electronic Devices

PLEASE READ
AUP POLICY
ON SCHOOL
WEBSITE

Must be off and out of sight at all times during school day

Students **must not** take photographs or recordings of any member of the school community.

Students must not use their personal electronic devices to abuse, threaten, harass or bully other students or staff or use these devices to invade the privacy of any member of the school community. Infringement of these rules is taken very seriously by the school.

Parents must not phone students during the school day

Please read www.cybersafeireland.org and www.webwise.ie

Attendance & Punctuality

- ▶ Regular attendance and punctuality is extremely important.
- ▶ Please avoid family holidays during term time
- ▶ Students who are absent for 20 days will be reported to TUSLA.
- ▶ Detention may be given to regular latecomers



General Sickness Procedures and leaving school early

- ▶ Please do not send a sick child to school,
- ▶ Student must not use their mobile phone to contact a Parent/Guardian if they feel ill in school.
- ▶ The student must get the teacher's permission to go to reception.
- ▶ The school secretary then contacts the Parent/ Guardian.
- ▶ Please ensure that a correct phone number is on VSware to contact you.
- ▶ Student must be collected by Parent/Guardian and sign out at reception when collected.
- ▶ Any student being collected by a parent during the school day must present a note to the Year Head or send a note via VSware.

Detention

- ▶ Wednesdays from 1.15 p.m. to 2.15 p.m.
- ▶ Parents/ Guardians will be informed by the school when detention is given and the reason for detention.
- ▶ Parents must organise transport home for their son/daughter.
- ▶ Failure to attend detention may result in suspension.
- ▶ If a student is unable to attend detention, a note must be presented to the Behaviour Management Co-ordinator, Mr. Brendan Weldon.



Stages for Complaints/Concerns

- ▶ Subject Teacher
- ▶ Tutor
- ▶ Year Head
- ▶ Principal
- ▶ Representatives of the Board of Management
- ▶ Full Board of Management
- ▶ Teaching Council
- ▶ Complaints' procedure is available on the school's website

Student Life

We want our students to be happy in HFCS

Bullying will not be tolerated and should be reported to the school

Students are expected to display good manners and courtesy to all members of the school community.

Students are expected to show respect for each other and to watch out for one another

Lunchtime Arrangements

- ▶ 6th Year students have permission to go down to the village for lunch. Alternatively, students may stay in school for lunch.
- ▶ 6th Year students may use the small kitchen in the social area to prepare lunch. The use of the kitchen is a privilege and students are expected to keep it clean.
- ▶ Students may also use the pool table in the social area at lunch time.
- ▶ There is a cleaning roster for each student's base classroom. This roster must be adhered to.

Extra-curricular activities

26

- ▶ Encourage your son/daughter to get involved in activities.
- ▶ Students must remember that good behaviour will be expected during extra-curricular activities and when representing the school.
- ▶ Students are expected to do assigned homework if they miss class due to participation in an extra-curricular activity.
- ▶ Voluntary Contributions fund extra-curricular activities.

Athletics

Basketball

Choir

Debating

Gaelic
Football

Gymnastics

Hurling /
Camogie

Public
Speaking

Soccer

Dates for diary

- ▶ **November:** Parent/Teacher meeting Monday, 16th November from 4.15pm to 6.45pm.
- ▶ **25th January to 5th February 2027** Mock Exams: Payment of €45 should be paid through the Easy Payments Plus system.
- ▶ **End of May:** 6th Year graduation night. (Date to be finalised)
- ▶ Please keep an eye on the school website www.hfcs.ie for other important school dates.

Get involved in the HFCS Parents Council

**Follow us
on
Facebook**



HFCS Parents Council Group

**Follow us
on
Instagram**



@hfcs_parents council

**To join the
Parents Council
email**



parentscouncil@hfcs.ie

Thank you very much
for your continued
support.



PARENT
SUPPORT

