

Summer Letter



Incoming 1st Year Students

June 21st 2021

Tony Barry (Principal)
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St. Kevin's Community College

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June 8th 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are staying safe during this challenging time for us all. At last it appears as if we may be seeing some positive news with cases decreasing and vaccine rollouts continuing. Let's hope that the 21/22 school year is a lot less challenging.

I write to you with some important updates for the school year ahead.

1. We will move to a 1-hour timetable this September. This means that student classes will change from 40 minutes to 1-hour for most of their subjects. In some of the option subjects, classes will change from 80 to 90-minutes. The new times of classes are shown below.



	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.52 - 9.00	Reg	Reg	8.52 - 9.20 Tutorial/Wellbeing Time	Reg	Reg
9-10	1	1	Class 1 – 9.20	1	1
10-11	2	2	Class 2 – 10.20	2	2
11-11.10	Break	Break	Break 11.20-11.30	Break	Break
11.10-12.10	3	3	Class 3 11.30-12.30	3	3
12.13.10	4	4	Class 4 12.30-13.30	4	Lunch 12.10-12.45
13.10-13.45	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Reg 12.45-12.50
13.45-13.50	REG	REG		REG	4 12.50-13.50
13.50-14.50	5	5		5	5 13.50-14.50
14.50-15.50	6	6		6	

Please note the following:

- (a) Lunch has been extended to 35 minutes at request of students' council
- (b) We will have a 5-minute afternoon registration every day
- (c) Classes will run later on Wednesdays (finishing now at 13.30)
- (d) There is a tutorial/wellbeing class of 28 minutes for all students at 8.52 every Wednesday
- (e) Classes will finish at 15.50 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 14.50 on a Friday (lunch is also earlier on Friday)

Full attendance every day is expected of all students.

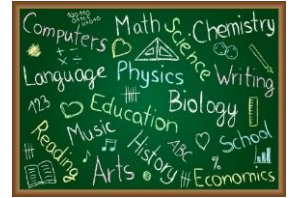
1st year options:

Students entering 1st year 21/22 must select 1 subject from each of the following 3 Option Blocks.

Block 1 Engineering (Metalwork) - Business - Home Economics - Science - Music

Block 2 Spanish - Art - Woodwork - Business

Block 3 Business - Science - Art - Home Economics – Woodwork



Please note that Spanish is the language option, and choosing **not** to study Spanish in 1st year could have implications for 3rd level choices after the leaving cert. NUI Maynooth, UCD, NUI Galway and UCC, and a range of associated constituent colleges, all of which are listed on the NUI website at www.nui.ie, have dropped their third language requirement for engineering and science programmes. UCD has also dropped it for their agricultural programmes. Nursing at NUI colleges does not require a third language. A third language must be included for arts, human sciences, law, social science, commerce, medicine and health sciences and some other degrees. A third language is also a requirement for entry into the cadetship in the army or air corps. It is not needed for the Gardai. Trinity accepts Irish as a second language requirement. UL and DCU and the Institutes of Technology do not require a continental language for entry purposes to most of their courses, apart from those which involve the study of such a language.

Any parent/guardian wishing to discuss the implications of NOT studying Spanish will be able to make an appointment to meet and discuss this with our Guidance Counsellor when the school year commences.

Students will be asked to select their options before they start in September, and will be given the chance to change options during the first few weeks if they aren't fully sure on what subjects they'd like to do. Final decisions will need to be made by October midterm break.

2. Start-up Dates 2021

Wednesday 25 th August	Staff Training Day
Thursday 26 th August	1 st Years in school (part 1) (Time TBC)
Friday 27 th August	Staff Training Day
Monday 30 th August	9.00-11.00 2nd year induction 11.00-13.00 3rd year induction
Tuesday 31 st August	9.00-11.00 5th year induction 11.00-13.00 6th year induction
Wednesday 1 st September	9-11.00 Transition Year (4 th Year) induction
Thursday 2 nd September	9-12.30 1st year induction (part 2)
Friday 3 rd September	9-12.30 1st Year induction (part 3)
Monday 6 th September	8.50-15.50 Full School Day for all students

Contributions 20/21

Our book rental and Transition Year fees are now due. Our Transition Year fee is €250. The fee for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th year students is €100. The fees cover items such as book rental, school journal, photocopying expenses and a calculator for all new 1st years (to be used over the 6 years).

Family Discounts 1st Student - €100, 2nd Student - €75, 3rd Student - €50. Example Family of 2 = €175, Family of 3 = €225

Online Payments

- Go to www.stkevinscc.ie
- Click **Online Payments – MIT** at top right of screen (if using a smartphone, click the 3 white lines on the blue square at top right to get this option).
- On the MIT screen select **Parents Login**.
- For your first time to login for this child select **CREATE ACCOUNT**
- Enter your child's first name, surname and PPS number. If you have any difficulties at this stage please phone the school office for assistance (01-6266277).
- Click **NEXT**.

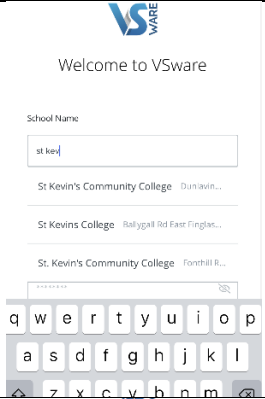
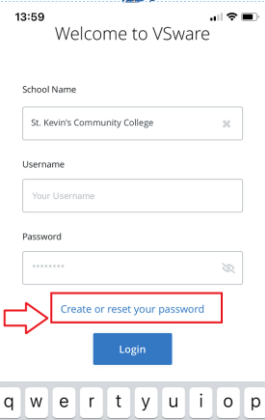
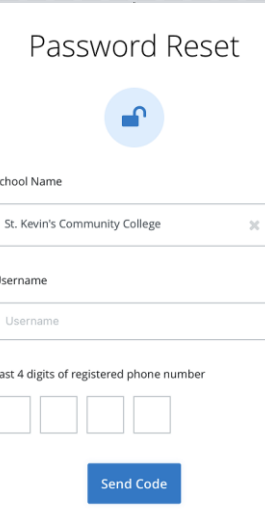
You will be asked to enter an email address and password. Keep a secure record of these as this is what you will use to login in the future.

VSWare Parent/Guardian App

We use a school management system called VSWare to monitor student attendance, student behaviour records, report on student assessment etc. Parents have access to this information too and should download the app to see Christmas and Summer exam reports, monitor attendance etc.



Search your App Store for VSWare and download/install

<p>Once the app is on your device, start typing St Kevin's Community College (it will come up automatically). Make sure you select Fonthill Road as there are different schools with same name.</p>	 A screenshot of the VSWare app's home screen. At the top, it says 'Welcome to VSWare' with the logo. Below is a 'School Name' search bar containing 'st ke'. A dropdown menu shows several school options, with 'St. Kevin's Community College - Fonthill R...' selected. A keyboard is visible at the bottom.
<p>Leave Username and Password BLANK</p>	 A screenshot of the VSWare login screen. It shows the 'Welcome to VSWare' header, the 'School Name' dropdown set to 'St. Kevin's Community College', and empty fields for 'Username' and 'Password'. A red box highlights the 'Create or reset your password' link, with a red arrow pointing to it. A 'Login' button is at the bottom.
<p>Click 'Create or reset your password' and you will be brought to a new screen.</p>	 A screenshot of the 'Password Reset' screen. It features a blue padlock icon at the top. Below are the 'School Name' dropdown (set to 'St. Kevin's Community College'), an empty 'Username' field, and a field for 'Last 4 digits of registered phone number' with four empty boxes. A 'Send Code' button is at the bottom.
<p>Enter your username (which you will receive in a text message from us or email admin@stkevinscc.ie if you don't have one).</p>	
<p>Enter the last 4 digits of your mobile phone number and then create your own password.</p>	
<p>Hit Send Code</p>	
<p>You will receive a text message on your mobile phone with a CODE which you then enter, along with your new chosen password. Follow the instructions on screen and hit Change Password</p>	
<p>You will be brought back to the login screen where you can enter your username, new password and hit Login</p>	

3. Our Proposed School Calendar for 21/22 is below. Please note this is subject to change, but we will inform you in advance if this is necessary.



Friday 3 September	Leaving Cert Results
Thursday 23rd September	School CLOSED – Staff Training Day
Friday 1st October	School CLOSED
Tuesday 11th October	3 rd & 6 th Year parent/Teacher Meeting (4.10-6.40pm)
Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October	Mid-term holidays
Monday 29th November	School CLOSED
Thursday 25th November	2 nd & 5 th Year Parent/Teacher Meeting (4.10-6.40pm)
Friday 3rd December	School CLOSED - Staff Training Day
Wednesday 15th – Wednesday 23rd December	Christmas Exams
Thursday 23rd December - 5th January 2021	Christmas holidays
Thursday 6th January	All Students back in School
Tuesday 18th January	1 st & TY Parent/Teacher Meeting (4.10-6.40pm)
Wednesday 4th – Friday 18th February	Mock Examinations – 3 rd & 6 th year students
Monday 21st - Friday 25th February	Mid-term holidays
Monday 14th March	School CLOSED – Staff Training Day
Thursday 17th March	No school – St Patrick's Day (Bank Holiday)
Friday 18th March	School Closed
Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April	Easter Holidays
Monday 25th April	School re-opens - full day for all students
Monday 2nd May	Bank Holiday – no school
Wednesday 18th May	Sports Day – weather permitting
Tuesday 24th May	Awards Night & TY Graduation Ceremony 7.00pm
Thursday 26th May	Leaving Cert Graduation Ceremony 7.30pm
Friday 27th May	End of year trip for 1 st , 2 nd and 5 th year students
Monday 30th May – Friday 3rd June	1 st , 2 nd & 5 th year Summer Exams
Wednesday 8th June 2022	Junior Cert, Leaving Cert & LCA exams begin

4. (a) **School Uniform**

While the past year has been a difficult time for many of us, we need to ensure that we return to school in September with full and proper uniform. The students of St Kevin's Community College continue to be praised for the pride with which they wear their uniform and we would like this to continue from September onwards. Please ensure you leave enough time to arrange for full uniform (including black shoes) for students returning in September. Runners are not allowed.

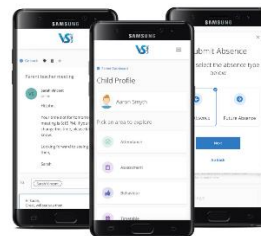
We have some spare items of school uniform available if required, so please contact us if you would like assistance with this.

4(b) PE Uniform

We have found that students wearing their PE tracksuit for the full day when they are timetabled to have PE works well. This will continue this year. We ask that students wear tracksuit bottoms and a t-shirt/polo shirt with tracksuit top or hoody. No belly-tops or other inappropriate clothing should be worn – students will be in other classes for the rest of the day.

5. Mobile Phone Policy

We have made a change to rule regarding mobile phones for the coming school year. Please ensure you discuss the rule with your son/daughter. (edits are in **bold** below)



The purpose of this policy is to maintain a focus on teaching and learning and avoid disruption, minimise bullying opportunities and eliminate any possible invasion of personal privacy.

1. These devices, if brought to school, must be switched off at all times during classes. Phones must be switched off during class time and morning break and only switched on during lunchtime.
2. Mobile Phones may **ONLY** be used in the school during lunch time.
Phone is not to be used to take pictures or recording of any other students or staff **EVER**.
3. If a student uses a mobile phone at any other time (including using phone to 'check for the time'),
 - a) the phone will be confiscated – this includes the SIM card – and given to the Deputy Principal or Principal.
 - b) For a first offence the phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day and the student's parent/guardian will be informed. Refusal to hand over phone will result in immediate suspension, with the handing up of phone for a day required, as a minimum, before return to school.**
 - c) For a second offence, the parent/guardian will be required to collect phone from school.**
 - d) Further offences may result in suspension and/or referral to the Board of Management.**
4. In the event of a staff member being recorded, photographed or videoed in any way, the student may be suspended for up to ten (10) days, reported to the Board of Management and ultimately may be permanently excluded from school. **The student's phone will be retained by the school and only returned to a parent/guardian when the picture/video is deleted by the parent/guardian, or shown to be deleted by parent/guardian.**
5. If the need arises in the case of emergency, contact can be made through the school office. The school will not engage in negotiations about the return of a mobile phone sooner than is set out in the policy.
6. Finally, the school cannot accept responsibility for the loss or theft of these devices.
The policy is endorsed by the Board of Management.

Wishing you every good wish, health and happiness over the summer months and looking forward to working with you all in 21/22,

Tony Barry

Principal