



**EDUCATE TOGETHER
SECONDARY SCHOOL**

TY INFORMATION EVENING

OCTOBER 2024



TY INFORMATION EVENING

TY Support Team

General Info (Work Experience & Community Placement)

Activities Update

TY Subject Options & Careers Fair

TY Assessment & Reporting

VSware App for School Communication

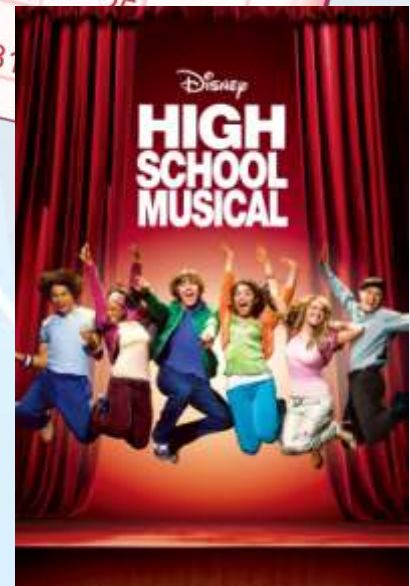
Attendance & Participation Strategy 2024

Q & A



KEY CALENDAR DATES

- Current Calendar on Website and App
- **School Closures:**
 - ✓ Oct 28th - Nov 1st (Mid-term Break)
 - ✓ Sept 18th Staff Training Day
 - ✓ Sept 30th School Closure Day
 - ✓ Nov 28th (Staff JC Planning)
 - ✓ Dec 23rd – Jan 3rd (Winter Break)
 - ✓ Feb 3rd (Public holiday)
 - ✓ Feb 17th – 21st (Mid-term Break)
 - ✓ Mar 17th & 18th (Public Holiday and School Closure Day)
 - ✓ Apr 14th – 25th (Spring Break)
 - ✓ May 5th (Public holiday)
 - ✓ May 7th (Staff Training Day)
 - ✓ **School finishes on May 30th**
- Nov 27th, 28th & 29th – School Musical



TY SPECIFIC KEY DATES

- January- Subject tasters
- January 31st- Barcelona trip (final payment due 10 weeks before trip ~22nd November)
- February 4th- Community Placement
- March 11th- TY subject and careers evening (instead of PTSM meeting, but staff will be there if you need to chat)
- April 28th- Work experience
- Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement - date to be announced



TY SUPPORT TEAM

Programme Coordinator

Gary Murphy

Tutors

Michelle Lawless

James Frawley

Class Teachers

Guidance Counsellor

Ann Marie Greene

SENCO

Katriona Woods

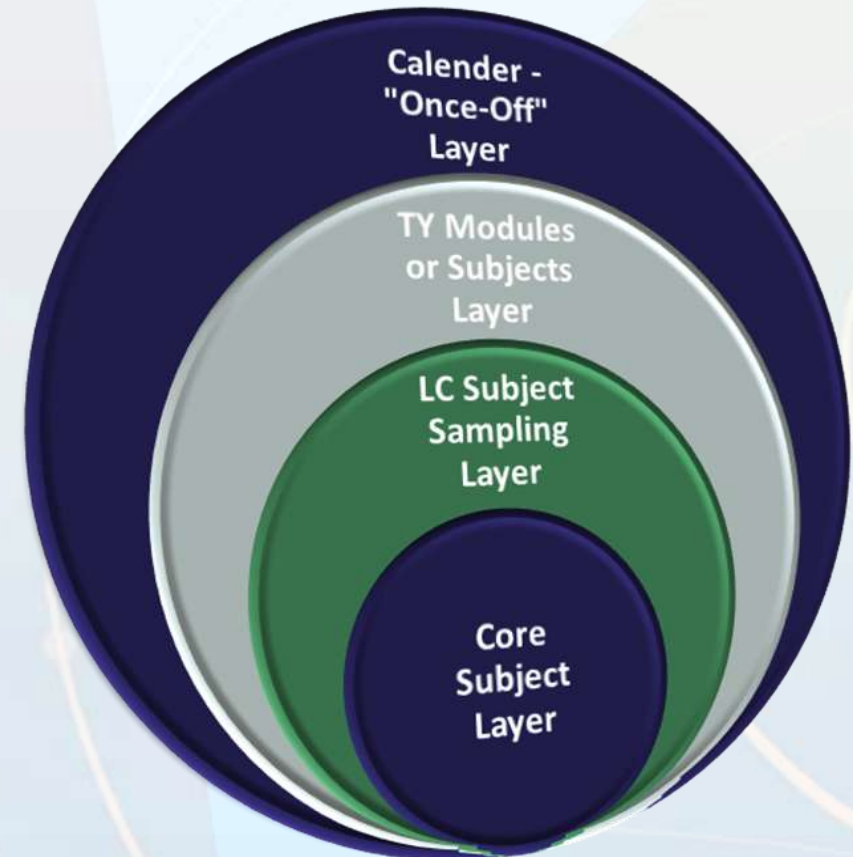
Principal & Deputy Principal

Sarah Molloy & Sinead Conlon



LAYERS OF A TY PROGRAMME

- Core Subject Layer
- TY Subject Sampling Layer
- TY Modules or Subjects Layer
- Calendar "Once-Off" Layer



OVERVIEW OF SUBJECTS AND UNITS

- **Core Subjects:**

- English
- Gaeilge
- Maths
- Science
- MFL – French/Spanish
- Ethical Ed
- PE
- Guidance
- SPHE

- **TY Specific Subjects ('modular')**

- Portfolio
- Life Skills
- Enterprise
- Creative Arts
- Creator Space
- Field Studies
- Language & Culture

- Tasters happen throughout the curriculum
- Focus on tasters in January in particular



WORK EXPERIENCE



- Integral part of the TY programme
- 2-week placement (December 2nd - December 13th, 2023)
- 2-week placement (April 28th – May 9th, 2024)
- Arranged by students
- Monitored by TY team
- Career Investigations. Should be linked to areas of interest where possible
- Extra placements: must be applied for and details sent to school. These are outside of the 2 official blocks.



WORK EXPERIENCE IDEAS

- Architects
- Accountancy: Deloitte/KPMG
- Solicitors
- Engineering
- Hotel and Catering
- Guards
- Primary Schools
- Hospital
- Radio Station
- Business



- Garda Vetting
- Some places now require students to be Garda Vetted e.g creches/ nursing homes/ primary schools
- This is organised through the school but can only be applied for when the student has turned sixteen. Forms were emailed to parents



COMMUNITY PLACEMENT

- Community Placement will take place from **4th – 7th February**

Sample Places/Ideas:

- Youth for Sustainable Development (YSD) club: 12-week programme in University of Galway
- Cope Galway
- Madra
- Friends of the Elderly
- Irish Cancer Society
- St Vincent's de Paul



OTHER TY OPPORTUNITIES

- **UCD TY** : [Transition Year - UCD Undergraduate Courses \(myucd.ie\)](https://myucd.ie)
- Youth for Sustainable Development: After schools programme for those interested in sustainability and global inequality - [Youth for Sustainable Development - ECO-UNESCO - Youth Organisation \(ecounesco.ie\)](https://ecounesco.ie)
- [Transition Year programme | Engineers Ireland](#)
- **ATU Galway Campus: 3-day programme (Usually in May)**
- Be ready for an exciting trip through many Engineering worlds - Software & Electronic, Civil, Mechanical, Biomedical, Energy.
Activities will focus on practical and industry interactions. We want to welcome you to ATU-Galway for Engineering Your Future. Engineering is for everyone ... just bring your enthusiasm and an open mind.
- This programme will be in person. The fee for this programme will be €20. Students attending a DEIS school will not be charged a fee.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE DURING TY

- [TY Programmes - Study - Trinity College Dublin \(tcd.ie\)](https://www.tcd.ie)
- **Transition Year Mini Med Programme:** [Transition Year MiniMed programme at RCSI Dublin - Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland](https://www.rcsi.ie)
- **Fáilte Ireland:** [Failte Ireland - TY Work Experience Programme | Tourism Careers](https://www.failteireland.ie)
- **The Irish Hotels Federation's (IHF) comprehensive Transition Year Work Experience Programme:** [How to Apply — Get a Life in Tourism](https://www.ihf.ie)
- Lots of ideas and opportunities available on: [Transition Year Programmes | TY.ie](https://www.ty.ie). Please have a look again and see if there is anything you would like to get involved which would enhance your TY experience.

OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE DURING TY

- [It's time to take control of your future | Springpod](#): Online work placements in Technology/Engineering and Finance and Accounting
- **Art and Theatre**: The Ark TY Work Experience Programme
- Politics: Ambassador School Programme | Youth Outreach | European Parliament Liaison Office in Ireland (europa.eu).
- Talk to your local TD or Councillor as they are part of a large network and the likelihood is that they are aware of a lot of placements.
- **Law Library** | Look into Law 2024 – TY Programme

ACTIVITIES FROM FIRST TERM

- Wicked
- Delphi
- Brad Anderson Photography Course
- Garda Talk
- UG Open Day
- Pallas Driving School
- Two Wolves Venture Out (boys)



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- 22nd October-Careers Fair
- 23rd October- Spanish movie
- 24th October- Irish workshop
- 25th October- French movie
- November-Musical focus (Show dates: 27th, 28th and 29th)
- December-Work experience
- 16th December- Chess workshop



TRIPS

- Trips, activities, guest speakers, etc. are booked for the 48 students (except optional activities eg. Barcelona, barista)
- Students should attend all trips and activities as has proven costly in the past when students miss trips/activities
- We understand there are genuine reasons
- Students are also expected to be present in school the day after trips and activities. Some days are long and people are understandably tired, but attendance is important
- As mentioned in the information evening last April, transport costs are not included in the TY fee. Please keep an eye on Unique Schools prior to an activity, as payment will be processed here



TY SUBJECT AND CAREERS EVENING/ PARENTS TEACHERS STUDENT MEETING

- March 11th from 4.15pm-6.45pm.
- Each LC subject will have an information board there and will be happy to discuss any questions about the subject.
- There will also be guests from PLC and Third Level institutions to discuss career options with you and your child.
- If you need to discuss your child's progress in a particular subject the teachers will be present for the evening.



SUBJECT TASTERS

- Subject tasters are done throughout subjects, but there is a focus on it throughout January.
- We will begin the process of subject choice after the tasters are done.



ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

- Reports following assessments – November and May
- Assessments in English, Irish, Maths and MFL
- TY specific subjects will assess differently, for example projects, presentations, etc.

End of Year Assessment

- Portfolio Presentation
- End of Year Interview

Portfolio:

- **Three levels**
- Certificate of Achievement, Merit and Excellence
- Keep up to date (notification sent recently)
- TY Graduation

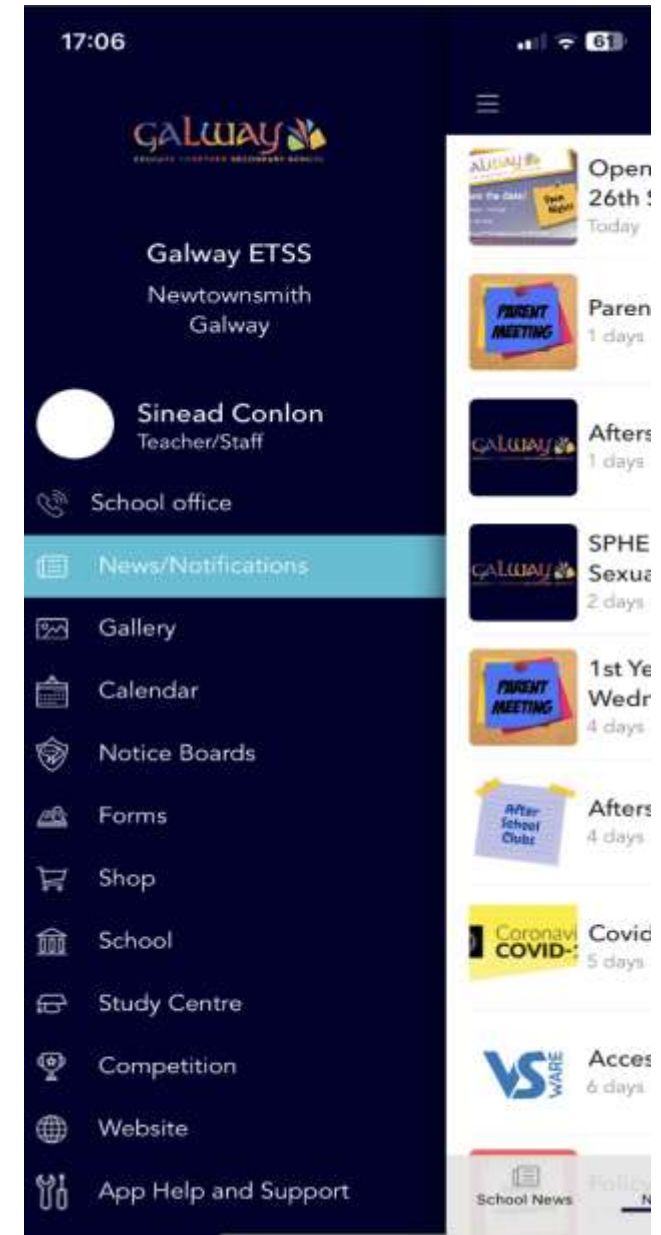


Portfolio Grading

| | Certificate of Excellence | Certificate of Achievement | Certificate of Participation |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Content | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Each item in the portfolio is completed to a very high standard, meeting the success criteria outlined and completing templates fully. •ALL of the required pieces in the subject area are included (3 Pieces per subject) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Each item in the portfolio has been attempted. All sections of templates have been attempted. •Two or Less of the required pieces in the subject area are included. | <p>Zero pieces in the subject area are included.</p> |
| Structure and Presentation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Portfolio items are appropriately structured using headings and visual elements where necessary, demonstrating student creativity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Student has made some effort to structure items appropriately, using headings and visual elements where necessary, demonstrating an understanding of the task. | |
| Reflection | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students have demonstrated insightful reflection on learning experiences | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Students have demonstrated some reflection on learning experiences. | |
| Editing and Mechanics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •High levels of attention have been paid to spelling, grammar and punctuation. Language is appropriate to the subject area. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Some attention has been paid to spelling, grammar and punctuation. Language is appropriate to the subject area. | |

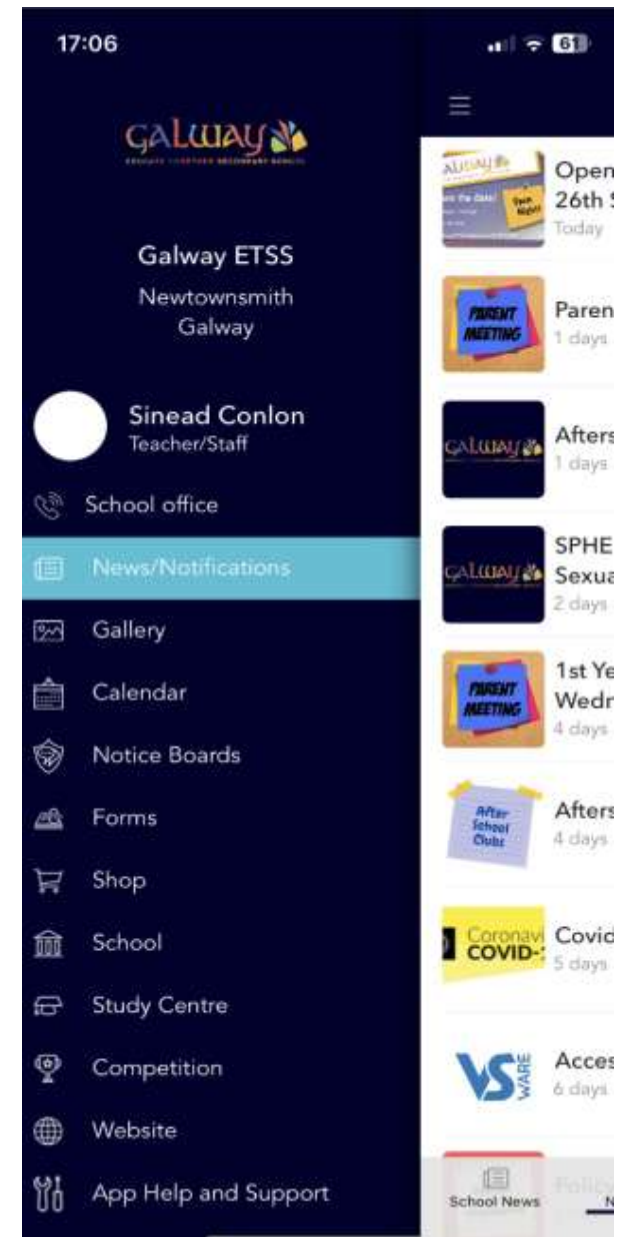
Our SCHOOL APP

- Primary means of communication with home
- Important updates & latest news
- Access to school calendar
- Removes necessity to email/call the office with details of absences
- Consent forms for events/trips
- Payments via 'Shop'
- **Attendance management**
- Links to VShare (the software we use to store student attendance, behaviour and assessment data) **You no longer need the Vshare app on your phone!**
- NOTIFICATIONS ON!
- Email: support@uniqueschools.ie



COMMUNICATING WITH US

- You can send a 'parent note' via the app to either the tutor or the office.
- Teachers may send you important notifications via the app.
- **If you wish to contact a teacher, please send a 'parent note' via the app. The office will notify the relevant teacher, who will make contact with you as soon as they can.**
- Please do not send emails to individual teachers, especially outside of working hours.
- In the event of an emergency, you can use the email: admin@galwayetss.ie



Attendance MaNAGEMENT

- Attendance & Participation Strategy, 2024 – 2025 (on website)
- Accurate absence details are essential
- **GETSS app only** for absences and partial absences notifications (dropdown menu with options and space for additional detail) - VShare is updated in real time.
- Explanation of absences before 8.30am - so the tutor is aware at the start of the day
- If no explanation is logged, you will be prompted by the app to provide one (based on the am roll call)

SIGNING In/OUT

- If student arrives after 8.30, they must **sign in at the office using the office tablet**. When they log their arrival on the tablet, you will receive a message stating the time of their arrival. You will be asked to **give an explanation** for the student's late arrival.
- If your child needs to leave the school during the school day for an unavoidable appointment, you will need to submit a **'permission to leave' request via the app, in advance**. Once this has been received they can sign out, using the office tablet.

SUPPORTING ATTENDANCE

Our Procedures

- Tutor calls home when there is no communication regarding **absences after 3 days**
- Tutor contacts home when there are in excess of **5 absences of any kind** (via app)
- Tutor flags **10+ absences of any kind** Tutor organises an Attendance Support Meeting with the student to determine causes and set attendance targets (and parents/guardians, where necessary). DP sends an attendance notice to parents/guardians via email.
- Tutor flags **15+ absences of any kind** with the DP. An attendance clinic may need to be arranged with the parents/guardians and the Principal/DP, to determine causes and set targets. DP sends an attendance notice to parents/guardians via email.
- Absences (**of any kind**) in excess of **20 days** will be reported to TUSLA, as per our legal remit under the Education Welfare Act. Parents/guardians will be notified of such reports via email.

STUDENT INFO!

HOME LEARNING

Expectations, Procedures and Interventions



Students are expected to complete assigned Home Learning within the timeframe specified. Home Learning will be clearly documented within OneNote lessons and should be noted by the student in the student journal. Students will organise the Home Learning sections of their journals each Monday in Tutor Class, in preparation for the week ahead. If a student presents without Home Learning or with incomplete Home Learning, the steps outlined below will be taken.

SUBJECT TEACHER

TUTOR

STAGE 1 - 1ST INSTANCE

- An **RP conversation** will take place to establish why the home learning hasn't been completed and to highlight the importance to completing home learning
- The student will be given the opportunity to complete the home learning within a specified, agreed timeframe
- Student must present the home learning to the teacher at the agreed time

STAGE 2 - 2ND INSTANCE

- A more **serious RP conversation** will take place and the teacher will again highlight the importance of home learning. The student will be reminded that they are in breach of the GETSS Home Learning Policy and COPB.
- The student will be asked to complete the home learning within a specified timeframe
- It will be logged in **VShare (0 Point)** as 'Home Learning Concern - Stage 2'
- Student must present the home learning to the teacher at the agreed time.

STAGE 3 - 3RD INSTANCE

- A further RP Conversation will take place and the **teacher will contact home via email or phone**. The tutor will also be notified.
- It will be logged in **VShare (0 Point)** as 'Home Learning Concern - Stage 3'

STAGE 4 - 4TH INSTANCE

- The teacher will make a **'Home Learning Referral - Stage 4'** to the Tutor via **VShare (0 Point)**. This is very serious! The tutor will now step in.

STAGE 4 - TUTOR/STUDENT MEETING

- The tutor will arrange a meeting with the student to
 - discuss causes
 - set home learning targets
 - introduce **Home Learning Monitoring Card**
- The tutor will **contact home via email or phone** seeking support and outlining discussed targets
- The tutor will communicate targets with the student's teachers

STAGE 5 - BEHAVIOUR REFERRAL

- The tutor will Monitor **VShare** for further reports of no/ incomplete home learning
- If issue persists, the tutor will complete and submit a **Behaviour Referral Form**
- The Deputy Principal will assign an **After-School Reflection** and inform parents and Tutor

STAGE 6 - PARENT/GUARDIAN MEETING

- The tutor will monitor **VShare** for further reports of no/incomplete home learning
- If issue persists, **invite parent/guardian to the school for a meeting** (in consultation with Principal/ DP)

IMPORTANT!

If the Tutor notices an emerging pattern of home learning issues on **VShare** (i.e. ≥ 3 Stage 3 Concerns) across a range of subjects, they will start at Stage 3 of this process!



The procedure will be applied to repeated instances within a 4-week period.

COPB UPDATE (Home Learning)

SUMMARY OF INTERVENTIONS:

Stage 1 – 1st instance: teacher will have quick RP chat with student to see why it hasn't been submitted and to reiterate the importance of completing home learning.

Stage 2 – 2nd instance: serious RP conversation. Logged on **VShare**.

Stage 3 – 3rd instance: further RP conversation. Logged on **VShare**. **Teacher contacts home**, seeking support.

Stage 4 – 4th instance: Teacher makes referral to Tutor. **Tutor meets with student** to discuss causes, set targets, etc. **Tutor also contacts home**.

Stage 5 – Further instance: Tutor **refers to DP**, who will organise an **after-school reflection**

Stage 6 – Parents/guardians will be **invited in for a meeting**

- **Advisable to check student journals to ensure good practice around logging home learning**
- **If student is struggling with home learning or workload, inform teacher.**

REMINDER: NO PHONE ZONE

- Use of mobile phones is **not permitted anywhere in the school grounds** during the school day.
- Should be **kept in locker** during the day – students do not need phones for learning in GETSS.
- Please avoid contacting your child via mobile phone during the school day. Call the office instead.
- If a student is found to be using their phone, it will be confiscated (and a demerit will be logged). On a subsequent offense, a parent/guardian will be asked to come to the school to collect the phone.
- See [Acceptable Use Policy](#) (iPads/school platforms and mobile phones)



REMINDER: Care of Ipads

- **Fully charged every night** - not permitted to charge iPads in school
- Brought to each class
- Used only as instructed (misuse will result in confiscation, as per [Acceptable Use Policy](#))
- Screen protector applied
- Kept in bag or locked in locker when not in use
- **Insurance strongly advised**
- School not liable for damage



REMINDER: After School Study

- Available to all students
- Runs Monday – Thursday
- Contact the office for details
- Monday 4-6pm (2 hours)
Tuesday 3-6pm (3 Hours)
Wednesday 4-6pm (2 hours)
Thursday 3-6pm (3 Hours)
- €35 per week for 4 days, €30 for 3 days

Tuesday After School Clubs (2024) 2.30 – 3.30pm



| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| Home Learning Club LS4 | School Musical Rehearsals Tues & Thurs until December - times on Teams | Amigurum/ Crochet Club with Angela in Art Room Arts & Crafts Club with Eleanor in Art Room | Basketball Training – Meet at Sports Hall Boys - Gary Girls - Kate | Technology & DCG JC and LC Project Support Tech Room - Evan & Peadar Tues & Thurs | Soccer Training – meet at Sports Hall – Martin | Minecraft Club - GP Room |
|------------------------|---|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------|

Thursday After School Clubs 2.30 – 3.30pm



| | | | | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Home Learning Club LS4 | Tabletennis - GP Room | Debating Club with Rowie and LeighAnn- LS5 | Dungeons & Dragons Club and Chess with Rosaline in LS6 | Volleyball – Boys: James Girls: Hazel Meet in Sportshall | Club Espanol (Spanish)– Paula & Esther in LS 3 Club Francais (French) – Paul in LS4 | Sci Fest Club – James F – Blue Lab |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|

Lunchtime Clubs



Every lunchtime – Games Club & Chess Club LS8, Library LS9
 Walking Club: with Sarah O/Katriona/Ann Marie/Tara N/Esther
Monday: Choir with Niamh in the Music Room, Green Team with Clodagh in the Home Ec Room, Pride Club with Richard and Rosaline in Blue Lab, Ciorcal Cómhra agus Tae le Nora agus Chloe in the Red Lab (chat in Irish)
Tuesday: Lunchtime Career/Student Support Chat with Ann Marie LS3
Wednesday: Lego Club with Evan and James in the Tech Room, School Magazine Club with Esther in LS3, Book Club with LeighAnn and Sarah O, Yoga with Gabrielle LS11
Thursday: Craft Club with Donna in Home Ec Room (bring lunch)

Wednesday Club 3.40-4.40 Athletics with Richard

School bus will leave school at 2.30pm so you will need to arrange another way home if staying for a club.

Meeting point for all Sports clubs is in Sports Hall.

No clubs on days when there is a Staff meeting or Parent/Teacher/Student Meeting or School event

GALWAY

A stylized logo graphic consisting of several overlapping, colorful shapes in shades of green, blue, red, and yellow, resembling a fan or a cluster of leaves.

EDUCATE TOGETHER SECONDARY SCHOOL

Q&A TIME

