

## Welcome to Holy Family Secondary School.

We hope your 6 years here will be an exciting adventure full of learning, friendships and lots of new experiences. Our school motto is 'to be family and to build family' and we look forward to seeing what you can bring to our school community.



### Structure of Learning

You will be studying the Junior Cycle Programme for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year (please see Junior Cycle leaflet). 4<sup>th</sup> year is known as Transition Year (TY), this is a fantastic way to broaden your learning with the usual academic subjects whilst sampling new subjects, engaging in on and off-site activities, work experience, going on trips and developing a range of new life-skills. 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year are known as the Senior Cycle where you will study 7 subjects in preparation for your Leaving Certificate.

### Subjects we offer at Junior Cycle

English, Irish, Maths, History, Geography, Science, Business, Home Economics, Art, French, Spanish, German, Music, Graphics, Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE), Civic Social & Political Education (CSPE), Digital Media Literacy & Guidance (DLG), Religious Education, Physical Education.

<https://ncca.ie/en/junior-cycle/>  
<https://www.curriculumonline.ie/Junior-cycle/>

### A Typical School Day

School starts at 8.45am each day. Monday school finishes at 4pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday school finishes at 3.40pm and on Wednesday school finishes at 1pm.

The day is divided into six 1-hour classes. (4 classes on Wednesday). We have 2 classes then break for 15 minutes (10.45-11am) 2 classes then lunch for 40 minutes (1-1.40pm) and then 2 classes and we finish for the day.

### Locker Area

You will have a locker area with the rest of your year group. Every student will have their own locker where they can store their books and belongings – make sure you have a lock for your locker for September.

### New friendships await you.

Starting Secondary School is a great opportunity to make new friends and add to your existing group of friends. Don't be disappointed if you don't know many people in your class on the first day, think of it as an opportunity to meet new people who share your likes and interests.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are a great way to meet new friends and learn something new. We have lots of clubs and groups so there is something for everyone. We look forward to you joining some of the following: Choir, volleyball, basketball, Gaelic football, soccer, rugby, camogie, running club, equestrian club, photography club, book club, drama club, debating, badminton, games club, craft club, book nook for quiet reading, Holy Family Youth (HFY), Ciorcal Comhra. We also co-host the school show with the PBS which is a great way to broaden your skills and friend base.



questions or concerns you may have will be answered for you so don't worry about settling into secondary school.

## Support Systems

There are lots of support systems in place in HFSS. Remember we all started here at some point so never feel alone, and if you are ever overwhelmed or need some help at any point you only have to contact one of the support structures. All will be explained to you in more detail in August at your induction day. Some supports are HFY, Class Tutor, Year Head, Guidance counsellor, teachers. We promote kindness, respect and inclusion in our school so no bullying or disrespectful behaviour of any sort will be tolerated in any form.

## A Holistic Educational Experience

Teaching and learning is at the core of who we are at HFSS but our ethos is deeply rooted in the philosophy of our founder Fr, Pierre Bienvenu Noailles in developing the whole person. We encourage our students to maximise their educational potential while also striving to have a strong spiritual compass that will help them live meaningful lives.

It is also our mission to foster a strong partnership with our parents, parish, past-pupils and the wider community

*'To be family and to build Family'*



## Wellbeing in HFSS

Our Wellbeing plan aims to foster happy, confident, responsible and resilient students who feel connected to Holy Family Secondary School. All students have a tutor time every Monday. This initiative provides an opportunity to work together to have a strong student-focus on the 3 A's – to raise Attainment, promote excellent Attendance and celebrate success and Achievement. A key aim of tutor time is that we will provide an added layer of wellbeing support for all HFSS students.



## Induction Days

We will have a 2-day induction for you in August before classes begin. During this induction period you will be assigned a HFY student as your student mentor. They will give you a tour around the school, organize a lot of games and fun activities so you get to know your classmates and your year group. You will also meet your class tutor who will explain your timetable to you, how the school journal will help you manage your workload and how to navigate your way through the first few days. Any

## What can you do before September?

Secondary School is an exciting time, but it can also be a daunting time too as it is all new. Between now and September try organising yourself so that you will have the skillset to organise your books, PE gear, locker, timetable, and class changes. There will always be someone to help you so never worry but it is nice to be responsible and become more independent.

## Communication in HFSS

In order to become more environmentally sustainable, we are aiming to be a paperless school, so all communication is done via our school APP, our school website or through our school administration system (VShare). All HFSS students have an Office365 account and Microsoft TEAMS in used as our online class platform.

Please check our school website to see all our policies and have a look at the gallery section to see what you can look forward to.



Holy Family Secondary School, Newbridge

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