



12<sup>th</sup> June 2025

## End of Year and 2025/26 Updates

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you to provide information regarding the conclusion of the current school year and to provide information for the 2025/26 academic year.

### **1. School Reports for Summer 2025**

It is expected that school reports for students currently in First, Second and Fifth Year will issue by Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> June via VS Ware. I want to wish all students well with their results.

### **2. Calendar for 2025/26**

The school calendar for next year, 2025/26, is enclosed and begins on pg. 5 of this letter.

### **3. Return to school 2025/26**

The school calendar specifies the return date for students in each year group which commences on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August.

### **4. School Books Scheme for 2025/26**

As you will be aware, the Department of Education have announced a national scheme to provide schoolbooks to students in all year groups. Under this scheme, all students in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year will receive their schoolbooks and core classroom resources for each of their subjects. Students in TY will also receive some core classroom resources.

The scheme is also used to provide students with core classroom resources which includes one school journal, copybooks (12 at Junior Cycle, 4 for TY students and 16 at Senior Cycle), one A4 display folder per student, one plastic zip A4 folder/carry case, maths formulae and tables, Maths set and calculator (First Year only). Exam papers for exam years are also covered under the scheme. It should be noted that additional copybooks above and beyond what is referenced here falls outside of the remit of the scheme.

**Parents/Guardians are advised that the schoolbooks, calculators and Maths sets do remain the property of St. Mary's Secondary School.** Students and their parents/guardians will be required to sign a policy, via the school app, at the beginning of the 2025/26 school year regarding this.

Finally, St. Mary's will charge a €50 deposit as part of the book scheme. This will be returned to parents/guardians at the end of Third Year for Junior Cycle students and Sixth Year for Senior Cycle students when all books are returned to the school.

## **5. School App**

The first five weeks of the new school app have been very positive, and we are learning about different features within the app. We have trialled some small online payments, which have gone well. It is now our intention to roll out the school app for all payments for the 2025/26 school year. This will include payments for the Admin Fee, TY and other annual payments. The school will continue to accept cash up until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025, but from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 the school will commit to a cashless office. Therefore, the school will only accept payments via the school app from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 onwards. Information will be sent to you when the Admin fee payment is up on the school app. **The parents of incoming First Year students will be set up on the school app before the end of June.**

## **6. Administration Charge**

As previously advised, the administration charge is €130 for the 2025/26 school year. This is an increase of €10 and this increase is to cover the cost of transaction fees associated with the new online payments system through the school app. This payment can be made via the school app from early August 2025.

## **7. School Tracksuit for Physical Education & Sporting Events**

Parents/Guardians are reminded that students should only wear their school PE tracksuit for PE classes and other sporting events when representing the school. This is provided by Cobi Sports.

## **8. Medical Updates**

Parents/guardians are reminded to forward any updated medical information that they wish for the school to be aware of to the school. Please note this can be done via the school app. If parents/guardians wish to do so, they can arrange to speak with a member of senior management to discuss any such information further. Please note all information is treated with the strictest confidence.

## **9. Supervised Evening Study & Homework Club**

Supervised evening study will resume on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025. The costs for this are set out on the next page. There have been no increases for evening study for this year. Please note that evening study can only operate once a minimum number of students sign up.

However, this year we have removed the option of the three-day study plan. The reason for this is that it is difficult for the school to manage the three days that different students arrived. Therefore, students who sign up to Evening Study going forward will be signing up for the four days. Attendance will be taken at each study session.

To assist parents with costs, the school year has been divided into five different terms with each term having its own set cost. This is a total of €300 which is the same as this year, 2024/25. Please note that adherence to the payment deadline is important as this informs the school if it can achieve the minimum number required.

Where parents/guardians have more than one child who wishes to do evening study, please contact the school directly.

Evening Study	Cost	Payment deadline date
Term 1: 8 <sup>th</sup> September- 23 <sup>rd</sup> October (9 weeks)	€70	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September
Term 2: 3 <sup>rd</sup> November-11 <sup>th</sup> December (6 weeks)	€60	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October
Term 3: 5 <sup>th</sup> January- 12 <sup>th</sup> February (6 weeks)	€60	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> December
Term 4: 23 <sup>rd</sup> February- 26 <sup>th</sup> March (5 weeks)	€50	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February
Term 5: 13 <sup>th</sup> April – 21 <sup>st</sup> May (6 weeks)	€60	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March

### 10. Contacting students during the school day

The school continues to implement the mobile phone policy which has successfully balanced students being able to access their phone for educational purposes with students also not being distracted by phone usage. We have become aware of some situations where some parents/guardians are contacting their child via text message or phone call during the school day. This can cause disruption to teaching and learning as the student is then accessing their phone to respond to the message or call during class. All parents/guardians are requested to communicate via the school office if you need to contact your child during the school day. This can be done via phone, 067-31450 or via email ([admin@stmarysnenagh.ie](mailto:admin@stmarysnenagh.ie)). Your support on this matter is greatly appreciated. The school app also facilitates communication.

### 11. Uniform

Please note that the school uniform is set out as follows:

Junior Students (1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> Year)	Senior Students (TY-6 <sup>th</sup> Year)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal Blue V-neck pullover with long sleeves and crest inset</li> <li>Choice of knee length royal blue skirt inverted pleat and knife pleat on either side at the front and plain back <b>or</b> Grey Hunter Brand high rise trousers (only)- full length</li> <li>White shirt</li> <li>School jacket- royal blue college jacket from Solo Form (previous blue jacket for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Years only). <u>Please note a school jacket is mandatory for all students</u></li> <li>Stockings: black, grey or white socks (unbranded) <b>or</b> black tights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Black senior V-neck pullover with long sleeves and crest inset</li> <li>Choice of knee length royal blue skirt inverted pleat and knife pleat on either side at the front and plain back <b>or</b> plain black Hunter Brand high rise trousers (only)- full length</li> <li>White shirt</li> <li>School jacket- royal blue college jacket from Solo Form or previous blue school jacket. <u>Please note a school jacket is mandatory for all students</u></li> <li>Stockings: black, grey or white socks (unbranded) <b>or</b> black tights</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footwear: low heeled black shoes or black or navy decks acceptable</li> <li>• Runners are not allowed unless for PE/Clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Footwear: low heeled black shoes or black or navy decks acceptable</li> <li>• Runners are not allowed unless for PE/Clubs.</li> </ul>
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Please note that only the official PE uniform may be worn for the full duration of the day when students have PE. Therefore, students who do not have the full school PE uniform must come to school in their standard uniform and change into their PE clothes for PE class. Students will then change back into the school uniform after PE. Students who are wearing the PE uniform may wear the PE uniform for the full duration of the school day.

In addition to the information above, I wish to make you aware of the following with regards to the colder weather in winter.

1. Students are permitted to wear body warmers underneath their school uniform, but any bodywarmer must not be visible above a student's shirt/jumper
2. Students will be permitted to wear a grey or black scarf in in the school building, including in classes. The only exception to this may be where a teacher may request scarves to be removed in specific practical classes for health and safety reasons; for example in Home Economics, Science or Technology where a student may be using equipment.
3. Students must wear the official St. Mary's School jacket.
4. Students are asked to remove hats inside the school building.
5. Students are not permitted to wear leggings as part of their uniform. Students are permitted to wear tights underneath the official school skirt.
6. Hot water bottles are not permitted in the school under any circumstances, as they pose a very significant health and safety risk.

## **12. School Office**

The school office will close on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and will reopen following the summer period at 9am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

## **13. Thank You**

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support during the 2024/25 school year. I want to especially thank the Parents Association for their work in supporting the activities of the school this year. I wish all of our students and their parents/guardians a restful summer and I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school in late August.

Yours faithfully,



John Cullinane  
Principal

### School Calendar- 2025/26

<b>August/September</b>	
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> August	▫ First Years in School (9am-12.25pm)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> August	▫ First, Fifth and Sixth years only in school (9am -1.15pm)
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August	▫ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Years return to school (9am-1.15pm) ▫ 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Years on normal timetable (9am-1.15pm)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> August	▫ 2 <sup>nd</sup> Years return to school (9am-1.15pm) ▫ 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Years on timetable (9am-1.15pm)
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	▫ TYs return to school (9am-3.20pm) ▫ 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Years all on normal timetable (9am-3.20pm)
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	▫ Mercy Feast Day
<b>October</b>	
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	▫ Sixth Year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15pm-6.45pm (school finishes at 3.45pm)
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	▫ TY Musical
Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	▫ TY Musical
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	▫ School Closed for staff Child Protection Training- date set by DES ▫ School closes for mid-term break
<b>November</b>	
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	▫ School reopens following mid-term break
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	▫ Third Year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15pm-6.45pm (school finishes at 3.45pm)
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	▫ Open Evening for prospective First Year students- 6.30pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November	▫ School closed to students for staff training day
<b>December</b>	
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	▫ School closed to students for staff subject training day- date set by DES
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	▫ Fifth Year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15pm-6.45pm (school finishes at 3.10pm)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	▫ Christmas Holidays 12.35pm

<b>January</b>	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	▫ School re-opens following Christmas Holidays
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	▫ Start of Catholic Schools Week
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	▫ Second Year Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15pm-6.45pm (School finishes at 3.10pm)
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	▫ Conclusion of Catholic Schools Week
<b>February</b>	
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February	▫ School closed for Bank Holiday
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> February	▫ School closed to students- DES whole school training day for staff
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	▫ School closes for February Mid-Term Break at 3.25pm
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	▫ School reopens following mid-term break
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	▫ First year P/T Meeting 4.15-6.45pm (School finishes at 3.10pm)
<b>March</b>	
Date TBC	▫ TY Information Evening & Senior Options Evening
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	▫ TY Parent-Teacher meeting 4.15pm-6.45pm (School finishes at 3.45pm)
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	▫ School closed for St. Patrick's Day
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	▫ School closes for Easter Holidays
<b>April</b>	
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	▫ School reopens following Easter Holidays
<b>May</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ School closed (May Bank Holiday)
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ School Awards Ceremony
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ 6 <sup>th</sup> Year Graduation- 7.30pm
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ Transition Year Graduation- 2.30pm
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ Summer Exams for First, Second and Fifth Year students
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	▫ Conclusion of exams for First, Second and Fifth Year
<b>June</b>	
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	▫ Start State Examinations LC and JC

Please note: School Management reserve the right to change the above dates if the need arises. As per DES Circular, scheduled holidays in February and Easter may be adjusted if the need arises due to loss of days in adverse weather. Those Contingency Days are set as follows for the 2025/26 school year:

- 16<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026
- 30<sup>th</sup> March 2026
- 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026
- 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026