

# WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S DS





# 2023 WELCOME OUR INCOMING FIRST YEAR PARENTS

- We are delighted to welcome you here to St. Mary's DS
- We acknowledge there is a lot of detail contained in these slides but it is offered to provide as comprehensive a guide to your new school as we can in these times
- We will put this presentation up on our website for you to revisit if needed

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# KEY PRINCIPLE OF ST. MARY'S DIOCESAN SCHOOL

- R E S P E C T

- Respect oneself
- Respect the staff & other students
- Respect school property

# CONTACT DETAILS



- It is very important that the school always has an up to-date telephone number and address for parents/guardians in case of emergencies.
- If there any changes to contact details please inform the office immediately.

# JUNIOR CYCLE UNIFORM

- Wine Jumper with navy band and School Crest
- *School Tie*
- Available from Best Wear (*Shop Street & Laytown*)
- Navy Trousers & white shirt- Available Penneys/ Dunnes, etc
- COMPLETELY black shoes.
- Jacket with crest available from *Best Wear*
  - Non-uniform jackets will be confiscated

**STUDENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED  
INTO CLASSES WITHOUT FULL  
UNIFORM.**





WINE JUMPER WITH  
NAVY BAND AND  
SCHOOL CREST-  
AVAILABLE *BEST WEAR*

SCHOOL TIE-  
AVAILABLE *BEST WEAR*



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Healthy Mind = Healthy Body
- Teaches team-work and respect
- Vital Part of School Life
- New uniform for PE from Sept 2022 available from Best Wear (Same shop as Uniform)
- Plain Navy Shorts
- Runners
- Boots= Molded studs not blades or metal studs



# LABEL EVERYTHING

- There are over 900 students with almost the same uniform
- Please put their name on everything including their school jacket



This item belongs to:

Pro Tip !

# PERSONAL PRESENTATION

- Neat & tidy
- Hair: natural colourings only.
  - No logos dyed or shaved into the head.
  - Long hair needs to be tied back especially in practical situations e.g. Woodwork practical as loose it poses a Health & Safety Risk.
- Jewellery
  - No facial jewellery
  - No Ear/ Nose piercings etc.



<b>Times</b>	<b>Monday - Thursday</b>
08.45-09.43	Class 1
09.43-09.54	Tutor Class
09.54-10.52	Class 2
10.52-11.07	Break
11.07-12.05	Class 3
12.05-13.03	Class 4
13.03-13.38	Lunch
13.38-14.36	Class 5
14.36-15.34	Class 6

# OUR TIMETABLE

<b>Times</b>	<b>Friday</b>
08.45-09.43	Class 1
09.43-09.55	Tutor Class
09.55-10.53	Class 2
10.53-11.08	Break
11.08-12.06	Class 3
12.06-13.04	Class 4



# SCHOOL TIMETABLE

- School begins at 8.45 am every morning
- At 9.43 am there is a tutor class every day
- Monday – Thursday school ends at 3.34 pm
- On Friday school ends at 1.04 pm
- Each class is 58 minutes long

# SCHOOL JOURNAL

- Students are given their Journals by their tutors on the first day of school.
- First years have a group specific journal with content aimed at becoming a Successful Post Primary Student
- Used for:
  - Recording homework (Written and Learning)
  - Absent notes from parents
  - Permission to leave school notes
  - General communication between the teachers and parents/guardians
  - Academic Monitoring
- The class tutors check the journals every week.
- Parent/guardians must check and sign the journal EVERY week.

Taking care to check for graffiti, inappropriate drawings/words. The journal should be kept in a neat and presentably condition at all times



Attendance is linked directly to performance in school



Students must attend ALL day every day

If a child is absent a note must be provided to explain the absence.

More than 20 days absence Tusla must be informed



A student must report to the office if late in the morning.



Illness during the day- student to report to a Deputy Principal/Principal with permission from the teacher.

Parents may be telephoned to collect child if illness does not pass.

**Students can only contact parents through the main office – not through mobile phones.**

# LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

## **For an appointment:**

- Note from parent/ guardian signed by Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head or Tutor.
- Sign-out book/ with secretary digitally from the office before leaving.
- Sign-in in the office when returning- this will be done by the secretaries on VS Ware.
- A phone call may be made to parent to confirm the note.

## **At Lunch time:**

- FIRST YEAR students are not allowed to leave the school grounds (this applies to 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Years too)

# MOBILE PHONES & ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Usage not permitted on school grounds during **class time**.
- Can be used at break/lunch time but NOT during the break of class
- If a device is brought to school it is against the school's advice, therefore the school is not responsible for it's safe keeping.
- **Any contact that needs to be made with a student/ parent during the day must be through the office.**
- If a phone is used during lesson time it may be
- confiscated and held until the end of the day by the Deputy Principal.
- If the phone has to be confiscated a number of times it will be kept for a longer period of time, parents/ guardians will be informed of this.

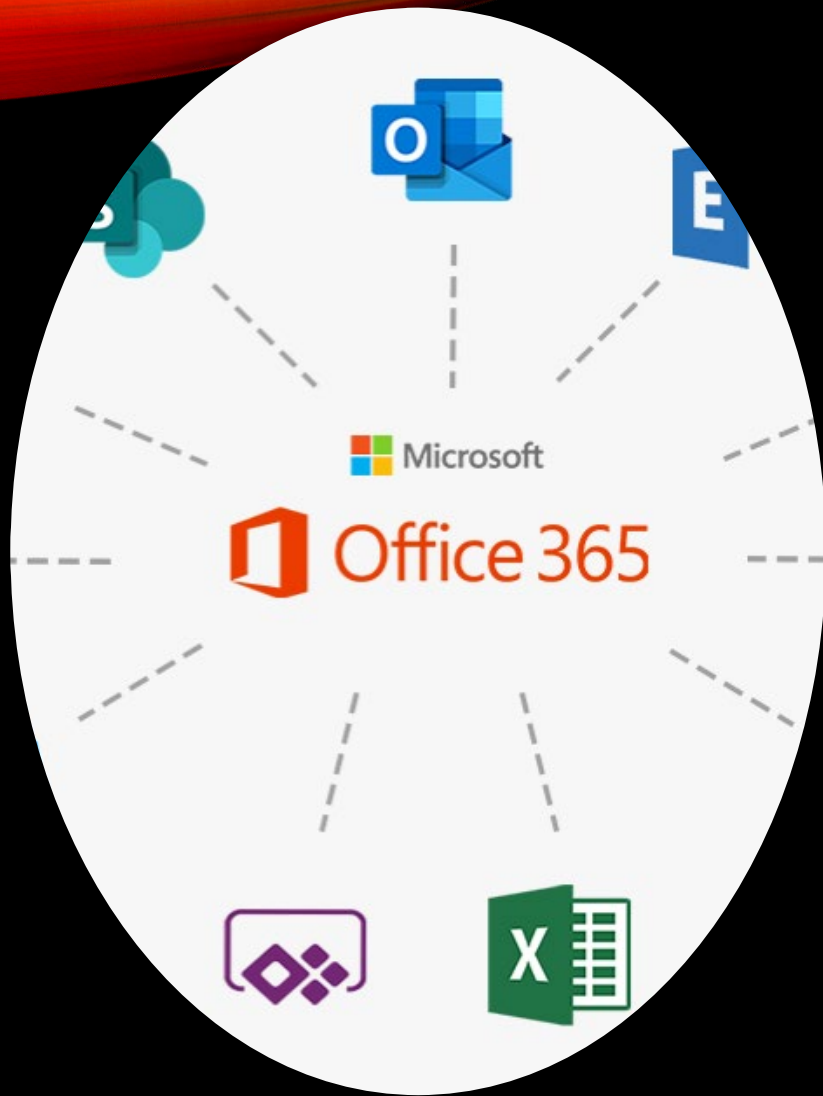




# SCHOOL CANTEEN

- School Food Company
- Healthy and fresh
- Sandwiches, rolls, paninis & wraps
- Hot dinners
- Water and Juice

# SCHOOLWISE & MICROSOFT 365 FOR EDUCATION



- Digital learning platforms
- Sharing learning with peers/teachers
- Keeping up with information if classes are missed
- Additional notes/ learning activities from teachers



- **Common teenager excuses:**

- 'we got no homework"  
....very unlikely but they should still revise the work done that day
- 'I got it done in a free class'.....very unlikely but they should still revise the work done that day
- 'I don't know what I got'....  
Text/ phone/ social network.
- 'I don't understand it'..... They should sit down and write out 5 things from the topic they have difficulty in understanding.  
Time should be spent in trying rather than just giving up instantly.

# **HOMEWORK**

Aim for 1- 1.5 hours **every weekday evening**



**Having a set routine of 1-1.5 hours EVERY week night will help avoid arguments about homework!**



# AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

- Consent letters will be available at the start of term
  - Monday to Thursday until 5.30pm
  - €10 per week
  - More details will be given at the beginning of the term.

# LOCKERS

- €20 Annual Rental Fee
- Caretakers will go to the tutor classes on the first day to assign paid lockers ( this may take 2 days to complete) Payment made though vsware Fees.
  - The locker will require a medium sized lock
    - Please put the spare key away somewhere safe!
- Lockers can only be used before and after school and at break/lunchtime
- Lockers can not be used between classes.





# SCHOOL APP & WEBSITE

[www.stmarysds.ie](http://www.stmarysds.ie)

Please go to itunes / android store and download the app for free (further details are on our website)

- ♦ Timetable
- ♦ Assessment
- ♦ Behaviour
- ♦ Attendance
- ♦ Fees
- ♦ Communication

# NEW JUNIOR CYCLE

- The Junior Cycle has replaced the Junior Certificate.
- Your sons will sit an exam in each subject in June of 3rd year.
- They will also complete 2 Classroom Based Assessments (CBA) in each subject.
- Wellbeing includes Physical Education, SPHE & CSPE as well as an overall wellbeing class. Tutor time is also part of wellbeing.
- All of the above is reported on a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement certificate (JCPA).





# GRADING FORMAT

## State Examinations

- Distinction 90 -100%
- Higher Merit 75% - 80%
- Merit 55% -74%
- Achieved 40% - 54%
- Partially Achieved 20% - 39%
- Not Graded Less than 20%

## Classroom-Based Assessments

- Exceptional
- Above expectations
- In line with expectations
- Yet to meet expectations
- Not reported

**Choose one from Modern European Language:**

- French or Spanish

- **Rank these from 1-7 in order of preference (your son will get 2 of these):**

- Visual Art
- Business Studies
- Classics
- Wood Technology
- Music
- Graphics
- Applied Technology

Pro Tip !

*Choose option subjects based on **interest** not*

- *The teacher*
- *Friends/ Siblings*

# PICKING OPTION SUBJECTS

CBA's examine Oral, Aural and Written aspects of the language while the terminal exam examines Aural and Written

# French



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE

# Spanish

OR

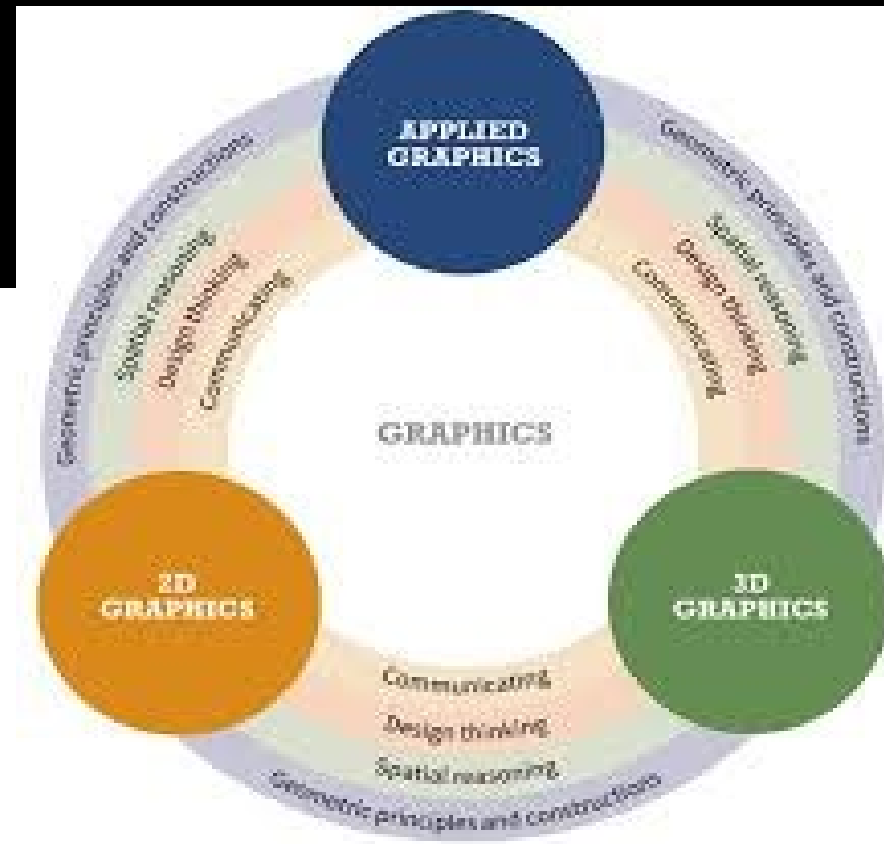
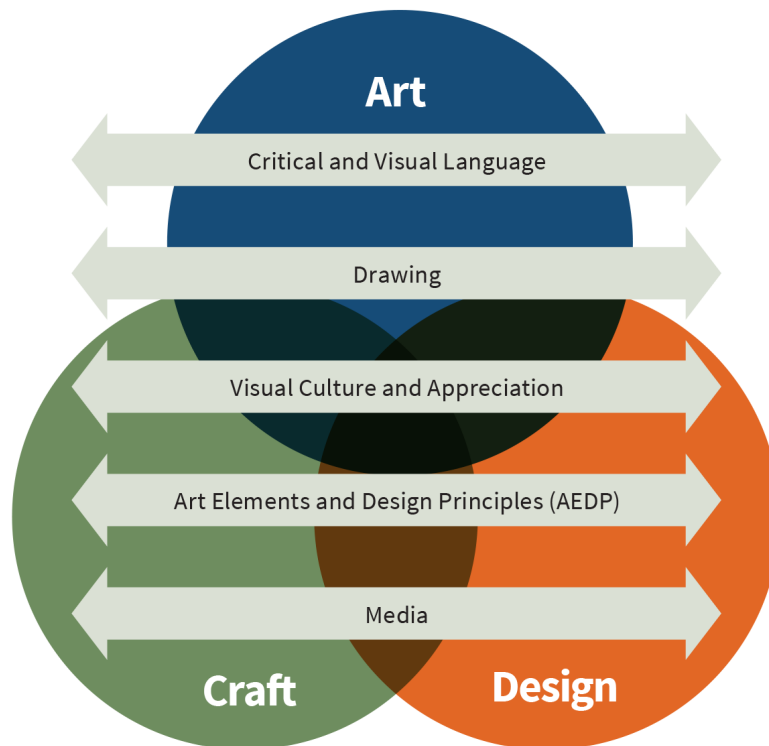


# DRAWING SUBJECTS

Visual Art

100% Project

0% Terminal Exam



30% Project  
70% Terminal Exam  
Graphics

# PRACTICAL PROJECT SUBJECTS

## Wood Technology

- Hard and soft woods.
- Composites
- Cutting, Tooling  
Assembling, Simple  
Joinery
- CBAs Then 70% Project  
and 30% Terminal Exam



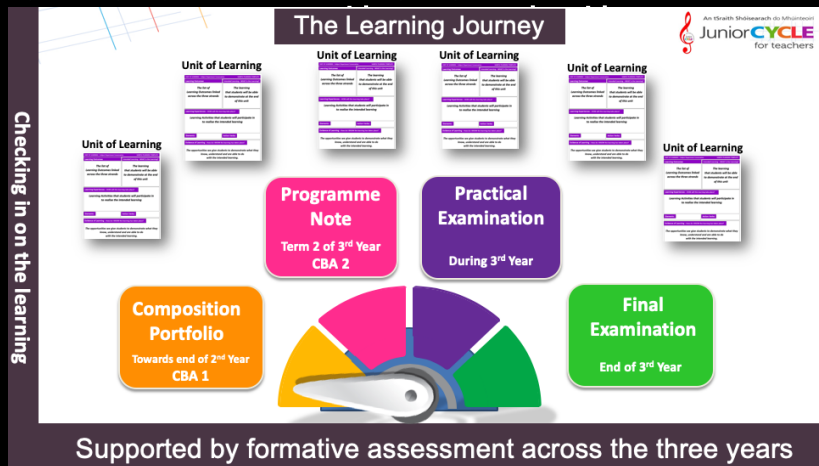
## Applied Technology

- Light Plastics/ Acrylics/  
Simple Mechanisms
- Tooling and assembling
- Planning.
- /Design,  
Communication,  
Sustainability
- CBAs Then 70% Project  
and 30% Terminal Exam



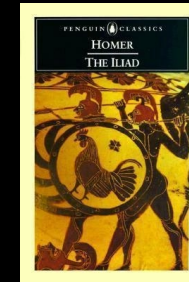
# Music

The specification for Junior Cycle Music focuses on giving students the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and cultural



CBA's Then 30% Practical  
and 70% Terminal Exam





# Business Studies

# Classics

**Business Studies offers you the chance to learn about:**

**Money**      earning it, spending it, saving it, borrowing it

**Record-keeping**      recording your income and expenditure, preparing your personal budget, acting as treasurer of your club

**Tax**      PAYE, PRSI, VAT

**The consumer**      your rights, who can assist you

**Employment**      types of jobs, applying for jobs

**Self-employment**      setting up your own business, who can assist you

**Government**      what it does, the national

- Develop an appreciation of the civilisations of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds and the ancient Greek and Latin languages
- Classics gives students the opportunity to engage with the culture, literature, languages, art and material culture of Ancient Greece and Rome in a variety of ways. The course comprises three strands, and students will study two out of these three strands. The first strand, core component – myth and daily life, will be taken by all students. Alongside this, students have the option of studying either the Classical Studies component (World of Achilles and Rome, Centre of an Empire) or the Classical Language component (Latin or Ancient Greek).



# CHOOSING OPTIONS

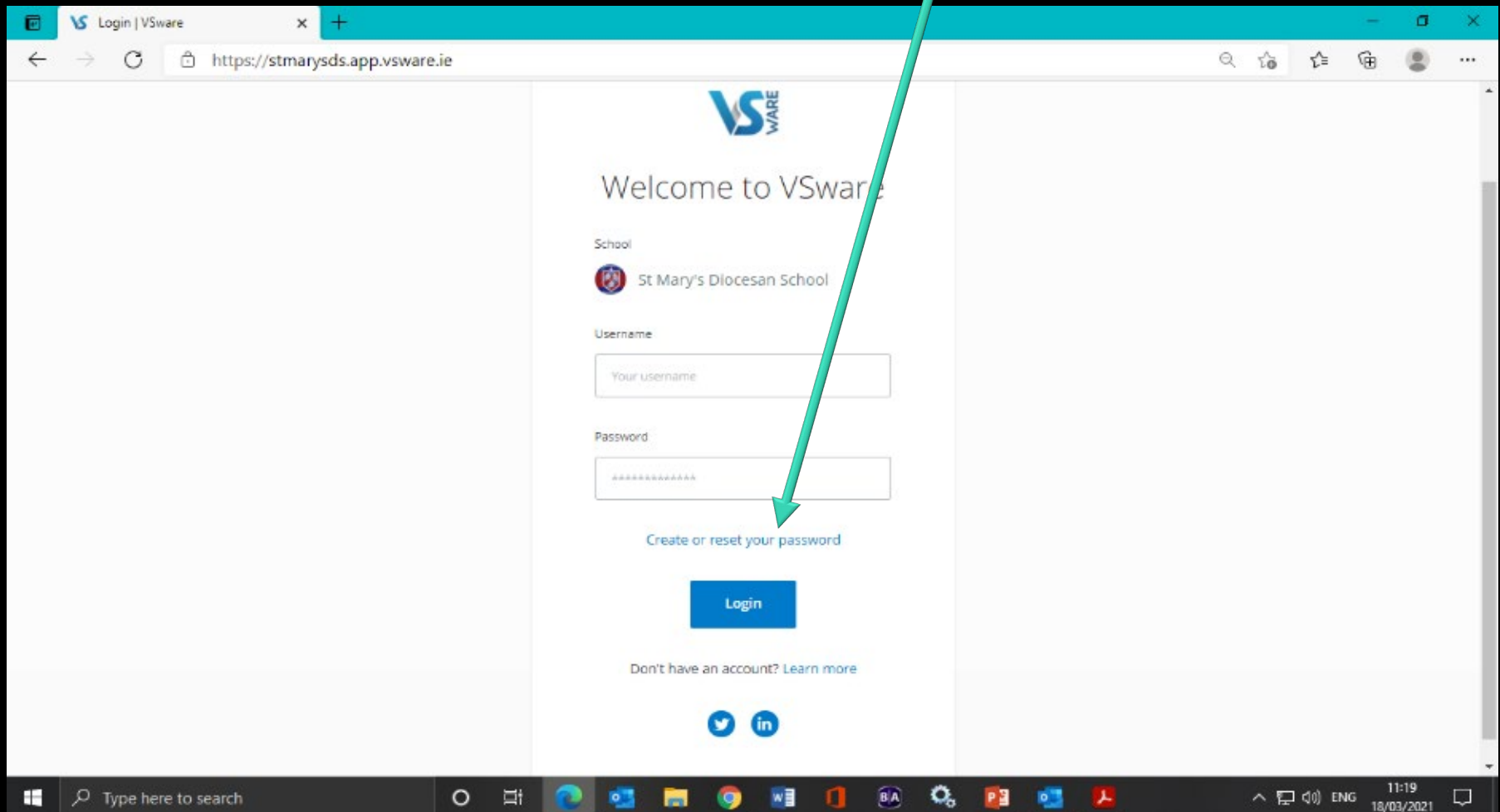
## In Preference 1-7

- The options can be completed on vsware
- The options should be completed by
- Students should list their subject choices all the way from 1 to 7.
- 1 being their most preferred and 7 their least
- **Closing date 3rd February 2023**

1. Type in  
[www.stmarysds.app.vsware.ie](https://stmarysds.app.vsware.ie)  
into address bar

**OR** Download the app as  
above in slide 21

2. Click create or reset password



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <https://stmarysds.app.vsware.ie>. The page content includes the VSware logo, a 'Welcome to VSware' message, and a login form. The form has fields for 'School' (pre-filled with 'St Mary's Diocesan School'), 'Username' (placeholder 'Your username'), and 'Password' (placeholder '\*\*\*\*\*'). Below the password field is a link that says 'Create or reset your password', which is highlighted by a green arrow. At the bottom of the form is a blue 'Login' button. Below the login button is a link that says 'Don't have an account? Learn more'. At the very bottom of the page are social media icons for Twitter and LinkedIn. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen.

VSware

Welcome to VSware

School  
St Mary's Diocesan School

Username  
Your username

Password  
\*\*\*\*\*

Create or reset your password

Login

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)

Twitter LinkedIn

3. Then insert username provided on your letter. Please note this is case sensitive and there is no

4. Then enter the last 4 digits of your phone number & click send code

Back to login

## Password Reset

Username

Last 4 digits of registered phone number

Send code

Don't have an account? [Learn more](#)

5. This will send you an activation code and you will then be able to set a memorable password unique to you. (Please keep these details safe as you will need them for your son throughout his time with us.)

# Subject Options

Click on your son's name

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `stmarysds.app.vsware.ie`. The page title is "Parent Dashboard". The navigation bar includes the VSWARE logo, "Parent Dashboard", "Your Children" with a dropdown arrow, and a grid icon with a dropdown arrow. The main content area is titled "Parent Dashboard" and contains four sections:

- Welcome to the Dashboard**: This page is your one-stop-shop to view live notifications on your child's attendance, behaviour, reports and more. If you want to explore further, click into your child's profile.
- Your Children**: This section contains a list of children. One child's name is obscured by a red rectangular box, and a red arrow points from the text "Click on your son's name" to this box.
- Your Contact Details**: This section is currently empty.
- Notifications**: Nothing to report!



## Pick an area to explore

**Attendance**

Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Assessment**

View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term reports.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Behaviour**

Keep track of your child's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Timetable**

View your child's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Personal Info**

Overview of your child's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Fees**

Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card online.

[Learn More](#) ➤

**Student Options**

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the school.

[Learn More](#) ➤

Click on student options



On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc).

Closing date: 23/04/2021

### Language

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>

### Subject Option

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
2	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
3	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
4	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>

On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc)

Closing date: 23/04/2021

### Language

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div><div>Select a subject ▲</div><div>Select a subject</div><div>French</div><div>Spanish</div></div>

### Subject Option

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
2	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
3	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>
4	<input type="text" value="Select a subject"/>

Please click on the language and select either French or Spanish

On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc).

Closing date: 23/04/2021

## Language

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>

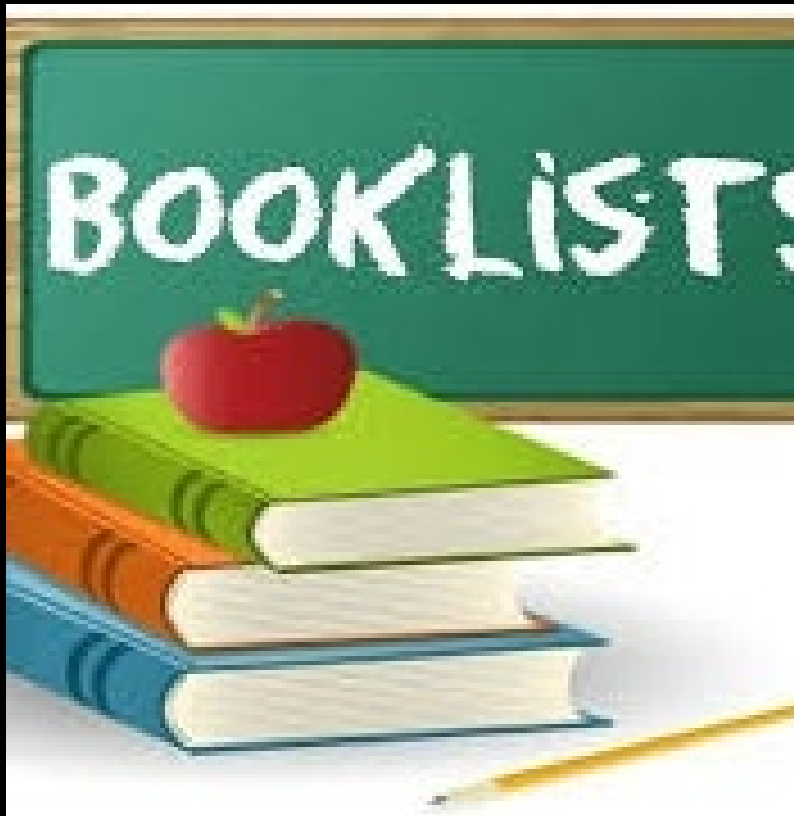
## Subject Option

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div><div>Select a subject ▲</div><div>Select a subject</div></div>
2	<div>Applied Technology</div>
	<div>Music</div>
	<div>Classics</div>
	<div>Graphics</div>
	<div>Visual Art</div>
3	<div>Wood Technology</div>
	<div>Business Studies</div>
4	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>



Then select the option subjects in order of preference from 1-7

# BOOKLIST



- Booklists will be available during the summer / June.
- They will be posted on our website
- Stationary recommendations will be made but teachers will let students know there needs in the first days back too.



# SCHOOL BUS

- Applications for School Transport for the new school year are currently open and can be accessed online at <https://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=522>
- Details of the scheme are also available on Bus Éireann's website and <https://www.education.ie/en/Parents/Services/School-Transport/>
- The closing date for applications is usually the end of April
- All enquires should be made to Bus Éireann/ Private bus companies re transport.

# SCHOOL CALENDAR



First years will be phased into school for a part day Buses may not be in operation.



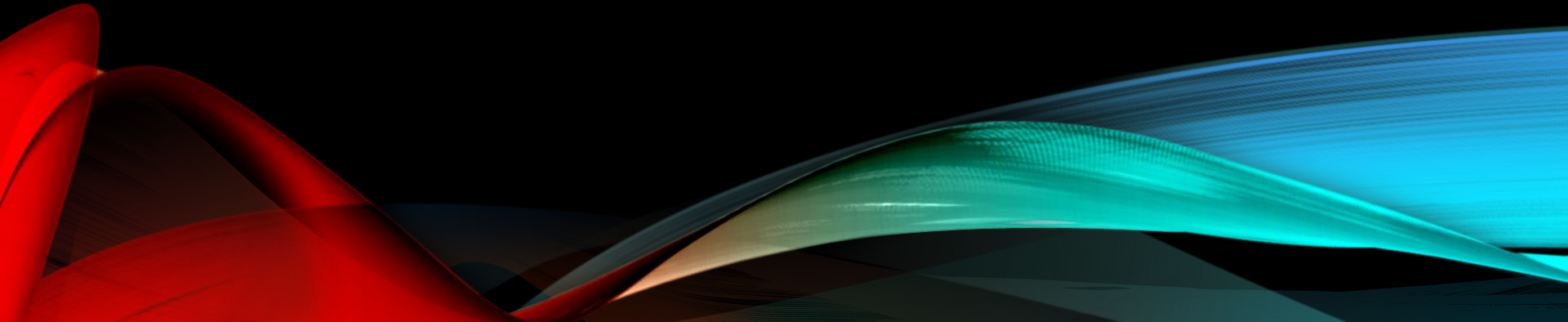
**We await clarification regarding school reopening. Further details will be posted on our website and app closer to the time.**



School Calendar will published on line ( an app notification will be sent when this goes on line) The journal will include a printed schedule of set holiday dates and proposed parent teacher meetings

*Throughout the year please feel free to make an appointment at any other time to meet with a member of staff if you have any concerns. Appointments can be made through the secretary.*

# JUNIOR CYCLE BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT SYSTEM



# CLASS RULES

THE PRINCIPLE UNDERPINNING ALL THE SCHOOL RULES IS RESPECT



BE ON TIME FOR CLASS



SIT IN THE ASSIGNED SEAT



HAVE CORRECT  
EQUIPMENT-  
BOOKS/COPIES/JOURNAL/  
PENS/PE GEAR



EYES AND EARS TO THE  
TEACHER- FACING  
FORWARD



HANDS UP TO SPEAK –NO  
CALLING OUT



HAVE MY HOMEWORK  
DONE



ENGAGE IN CLASSES AND  
DO MY CLASS WORK TO  
THE BEST OF MY ABILITY



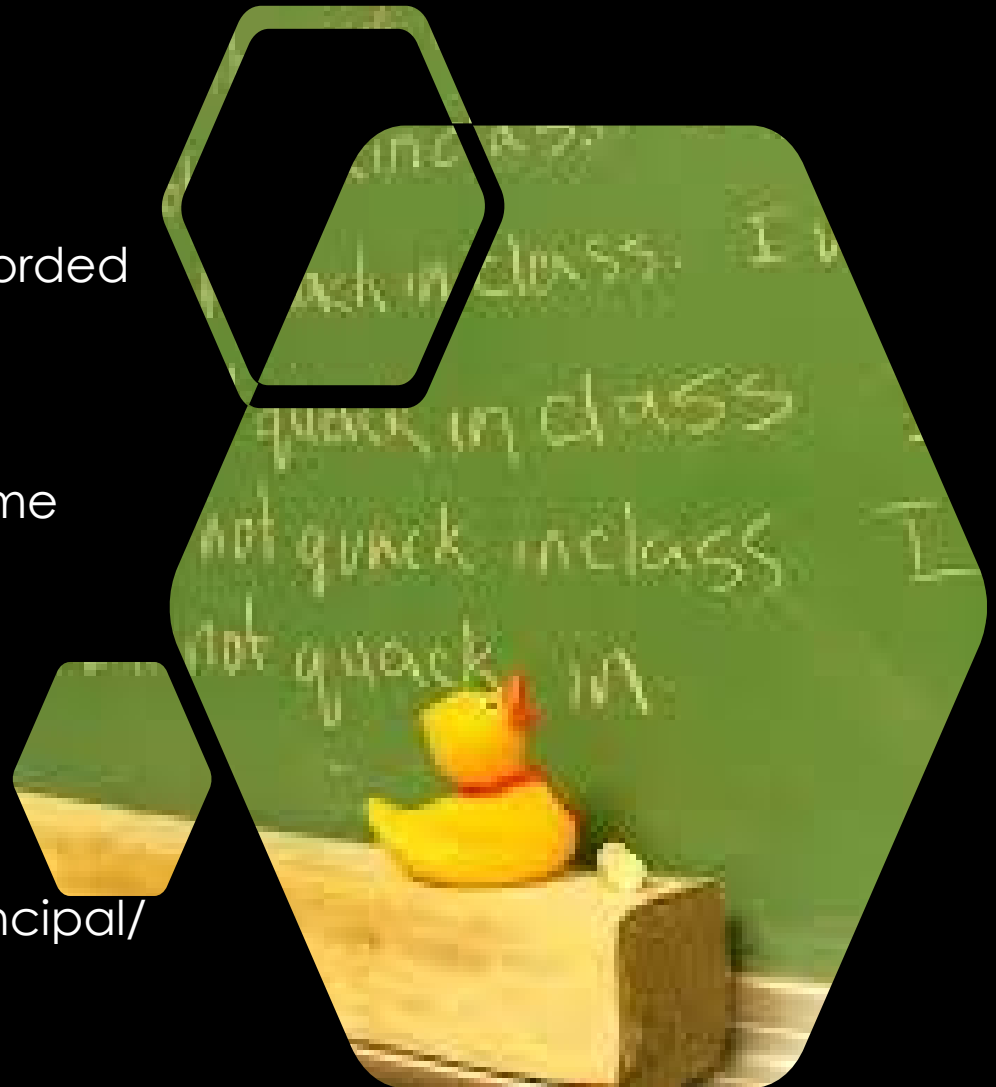
# REWARDS:

- Quiet word in class or on the corridors
- VS Ware Positive Behaviour recorded
- Extra classroom responsibilities
- Note in journal
- Green Cards
- Class Reward
- Attendance Awards
- Awards Evenings



# SANCTIONS

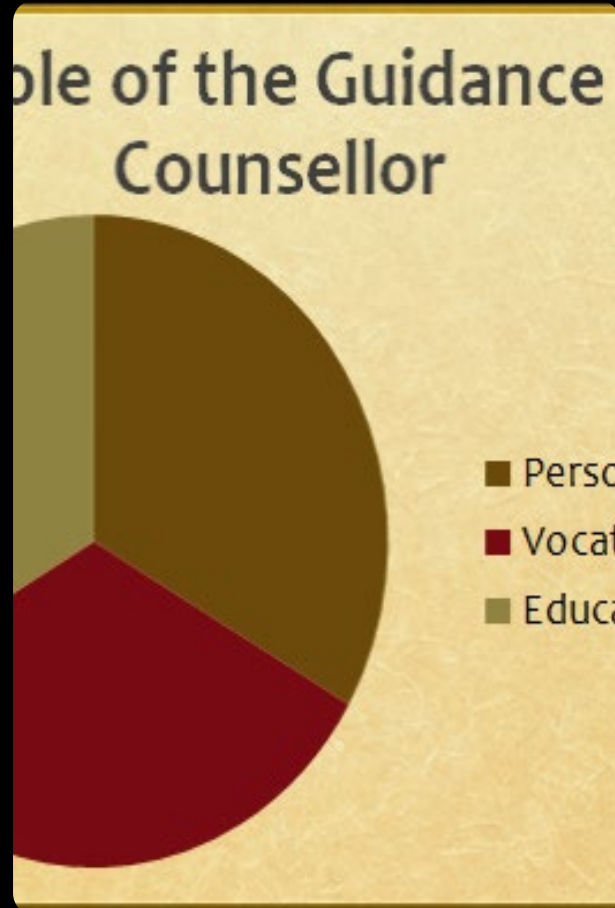
- Verbal Reprimand
- VS Ware Negative Behaviour Recorded
- Note in Journal/ Phone call home
- Writeout/ Extra Work
- Detention- half an hour at lunchtime
- Blue Card
- Year Head Referral
  - Lunchtime detention
  - After school detention
  - report card
  - report card to Deputy Principal/  
Principal
  - Suspension



# SUPPORT SYSTEMS IN THE SCHOOL

- Teachers, SNAs and all staff members
- Class tutor
  - Every class will have a class tutor
  - Takes attendance in the morning
  - Tutor class - SPHE
- Year Head
  - Meet with the year group at weekly assemblies
  - Discipline & caring role
- Guidance Counsellors
  - Ms. Joanne Deering & Ms. Sinead Delany
- Special Educational Teachers, Resource Teachers, SNAs and SEN Co-Ordinators
- Principal & Deputy Principals.

# THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS S. DELANY & J. DEERING



- Educational
- Vocational
- Personal
- Team
- Liaise with class teachers, tutors and Year Head
- Care Team

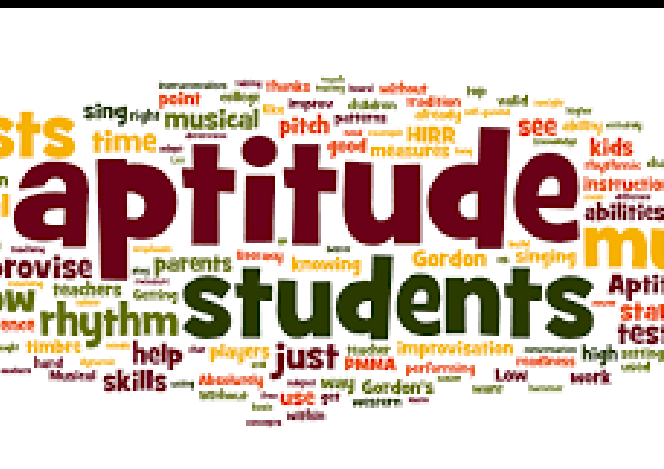
# EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

- Entrance Tests
- Study planning
- Homework Planning
- Classroom management
- Behaviour management
- Subject Choice



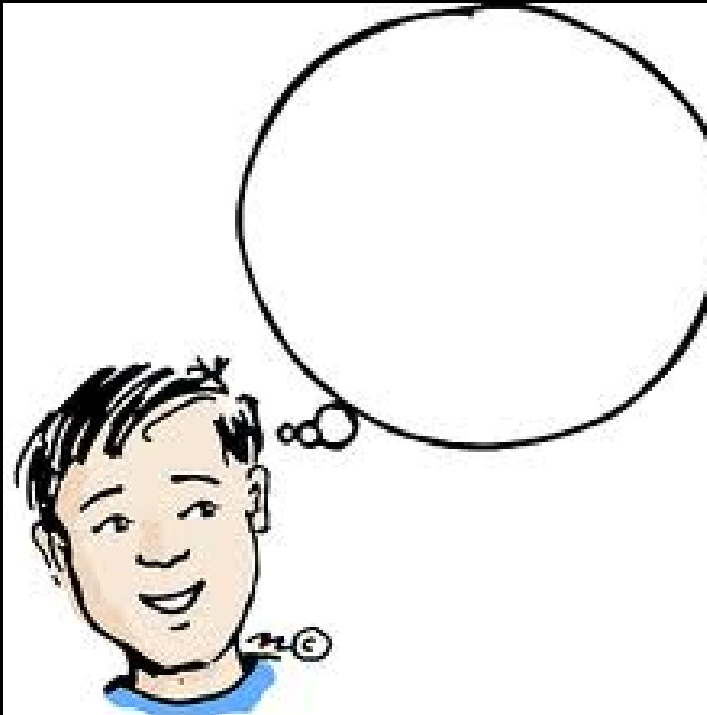
# CAO

## VOCATIONAL/CAREERS GUIDANCE



- Aptitude testing
- Trips to Open Days/Exhibitions
- Guest Speakers
- Going to College- Levels
- Apprenticeships
- College Applications- CAO, UCAS etc
- College Awareness Week

# SOCIAL AND PERSONAL GUIDANCE



- Adapting to Secondary School
- Issues with friends
- Bereavement
- Relationship breakdowns.....
- Anxiety
- Exam Pressure
- Other issues



# SUPPORT

- Students can make an appointment themselves
- Parents can ring and ask GC to see their son
- Teachers can suggest that students might like to make an appointment
- Care Team suggestion

: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

05	Student Name: _____
45	
25	Please excuse this student
20	being late for /absent
00	class, he had an appo
40	with the Guidance
00	Counsellor.
40	
20	

Counsellor: \_\_\_\_\_



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## Entrance Exams

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To be held in our  
school library.

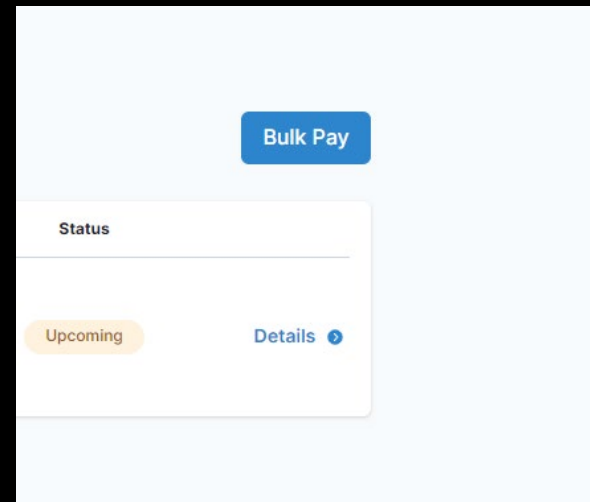
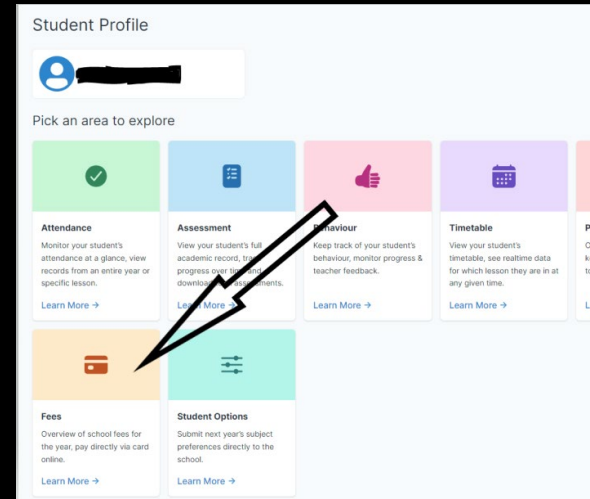
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CAT4  
standardised tests

- St. Mary's PP Pupils:  
**Monday 29th May  
9.15-12pm**
- Duleek BNS, Realt  
na Mara,  
Donacarney BNS  
& Whitecross NS  
pupils **Wednesday  
31st May 9.15-  
12pm**
- All other schools-  
**Tuesday 30th May  
9.15-12pm**

# ADMINISTRATION COSTS

- Vsware app
- Select your son
- Clicking Fees will show the administration cost:  
€120 due by 24th February



# SCHOOL CONTACT & USEFUL WEBSITE FOR SUBJECT CHOICE

Please contact the  
following with any  
issues:

[Office@stmarysds.ie](mailto:Office@stmarysds.ie)

Useful websites:

[www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie)

[https://www.careersportal.ie/school/subject\\_explorer\\_jc.php](https://www.careersportal.ie/school/subject_explorer_jc.php)



# YOUR SON

- We want your son to be happy and healthy throughout his time in school.
- We want him to reach his full potential in anything he takes part in.
- Hard work, dedication and commitment is required
- It is a team effort - If we all work together these can be achieved.