

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S DS





2024 WELCOME OUR INCOMING FIRST YEAR PARENTS

- We are delighted to welcome you here to St. Mary's D.S.
- 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 are 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 footwears.
- 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
- PE uniform from Best Wear (Same shop as Uniform)
- 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.



Times	Monday - Thursday
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

Times	Friday
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 Yearhead/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 Tutor, Year head, Deputy Principal, Principal.
- Sign out and in digitally before school from home before school starts
- 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 2nd & 3rd 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 mobile 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.





GLANMORE
— FOODS —

SCHOOL CANTEEN

- Glanmore Foods
- Healthy and fresh
- Sandwiches, rolls, paninis & wraps
- Hot dinners
- Water, Juice, fruit

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
- Payment for lockers can be made through vsware in June and your son's locker will be allocated to him in one of the first days of school.
 - The locker will require a medium sized lock
 - Please put the spare key away somewhere safe!

Pro Tip
!

- Lockers can only be used before and after school and at break/lunchtime
- Lockers cannot be used between classes.





SCHOOL APP & WEBSITE

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

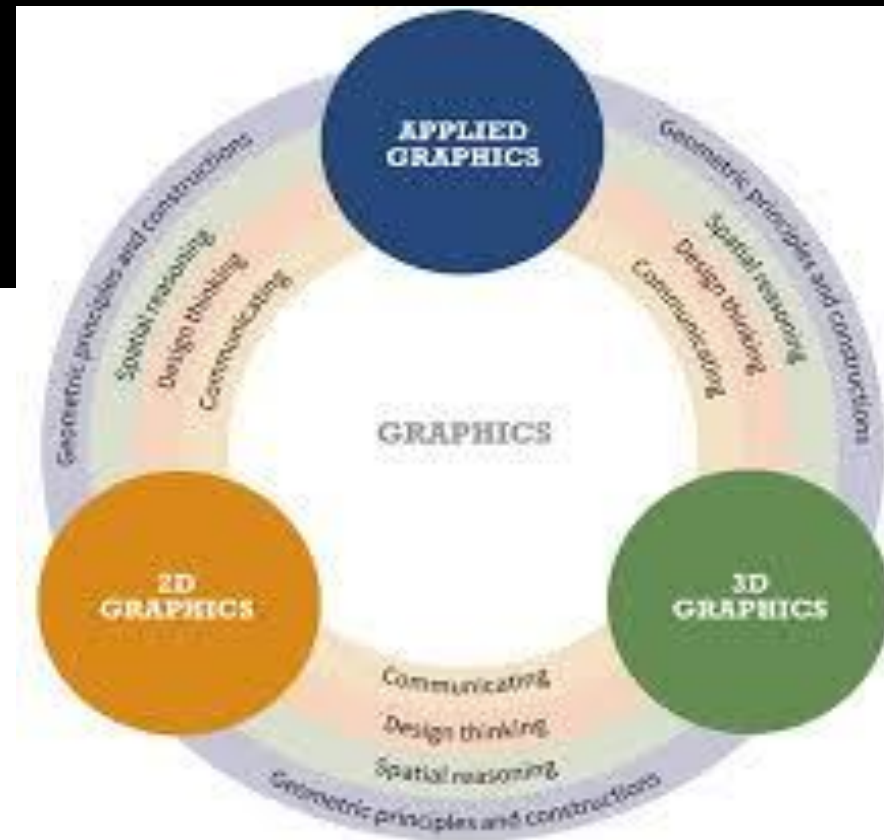
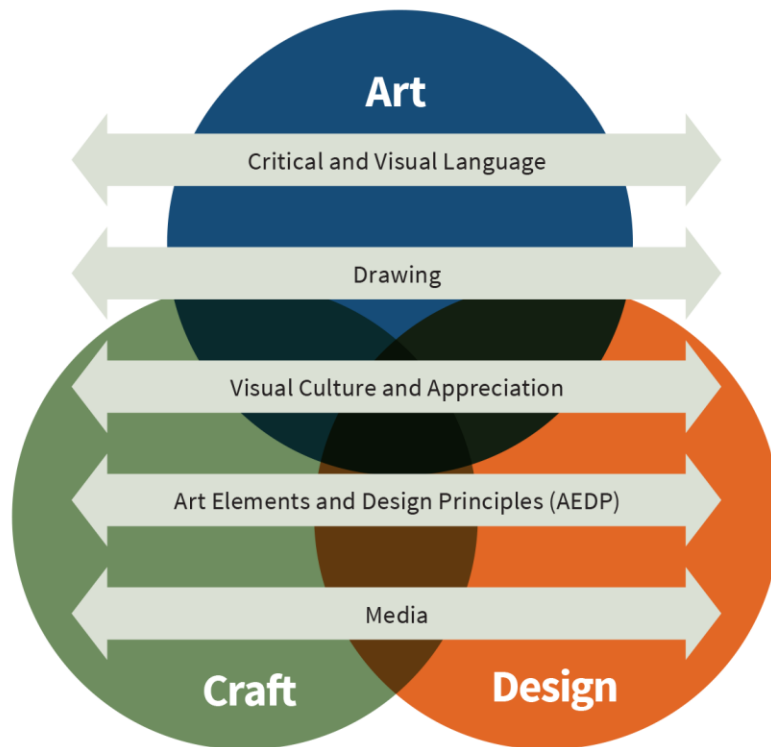


DRAWING SUBJECTS

Visual Art

100% Project

0% Terminal Exam



30% Project
70% Terminal Exam
Graphics

PRACTICAL PROJECT SUBJECTS

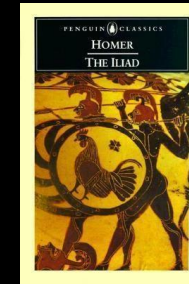
Wood Technology

- 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



Business Studies

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

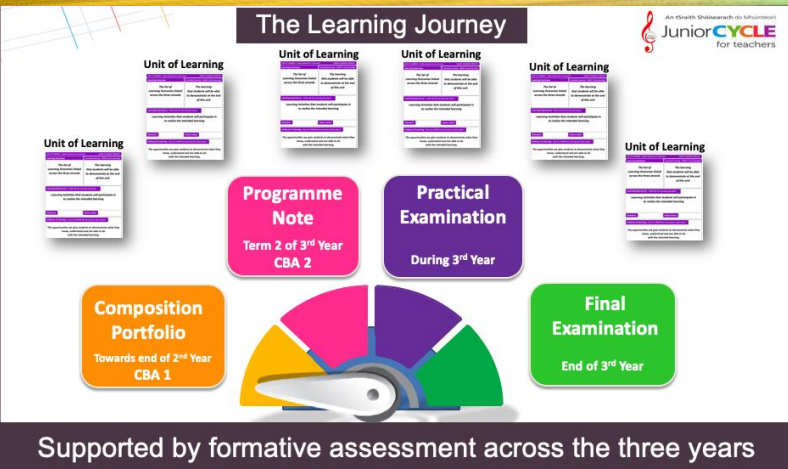
Employment types of jobs, applying for jobs

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

Government what it does, the national

Classics

- 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).



Music

The specification for Junior Cycle Music focuses on giving students the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and cultural awareness through the practical and cognitive engagement with music.

This can be achieved through the three interconnected strands: 1. Procedural knowledge 2. Innovate and ideate 3. Culture and context.

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





CHOOSING OPTIONS

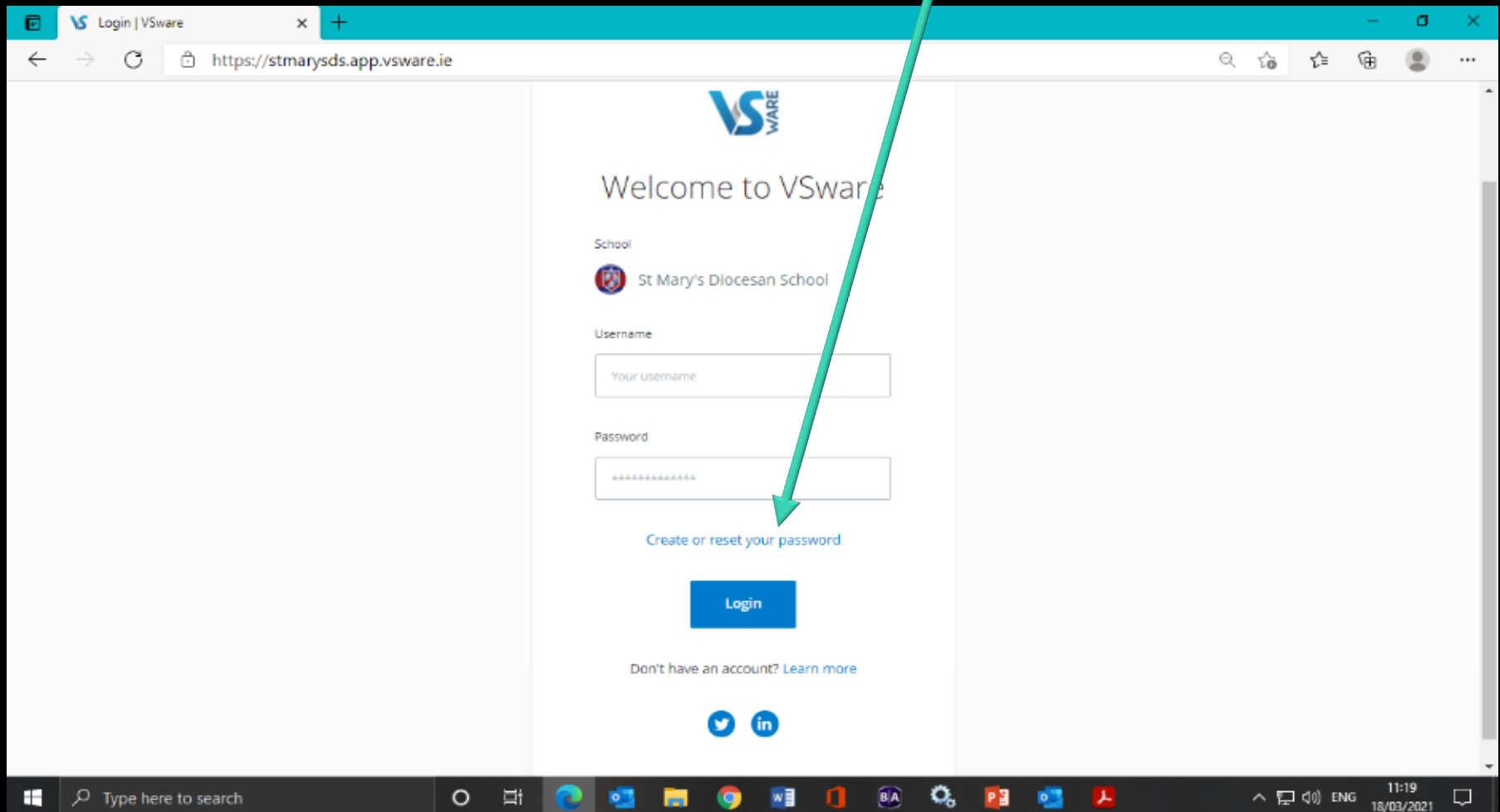
In Preference 1-7

- The options can be completed on vsware
- Students should list their subject choices all the way from 1 to 7.
- 1 being their most preferred and 7 their least
- **Closing date 9th February @ 12pm.**

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 URL <https://stmarysds.app.vsware.ie>. The page displays the VSware logo and a 'Welcome to VSware' message. Below this, the school name 'St Mary's Diocesan School' is shown with its crest. The login form includes fields for 'Username' (placeholder: 'Your username') and 'Password' (placeholder: '*****'). A green arrow points from the instruction 'Click create or reset password' to the link 'Create or reset your password' located below the password field. Below this link is a blue 'Login' button. At the bottom of the form, there is a link 'Don't have an account? Learn more' and social media icons for Twitter and LinkedIn.

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

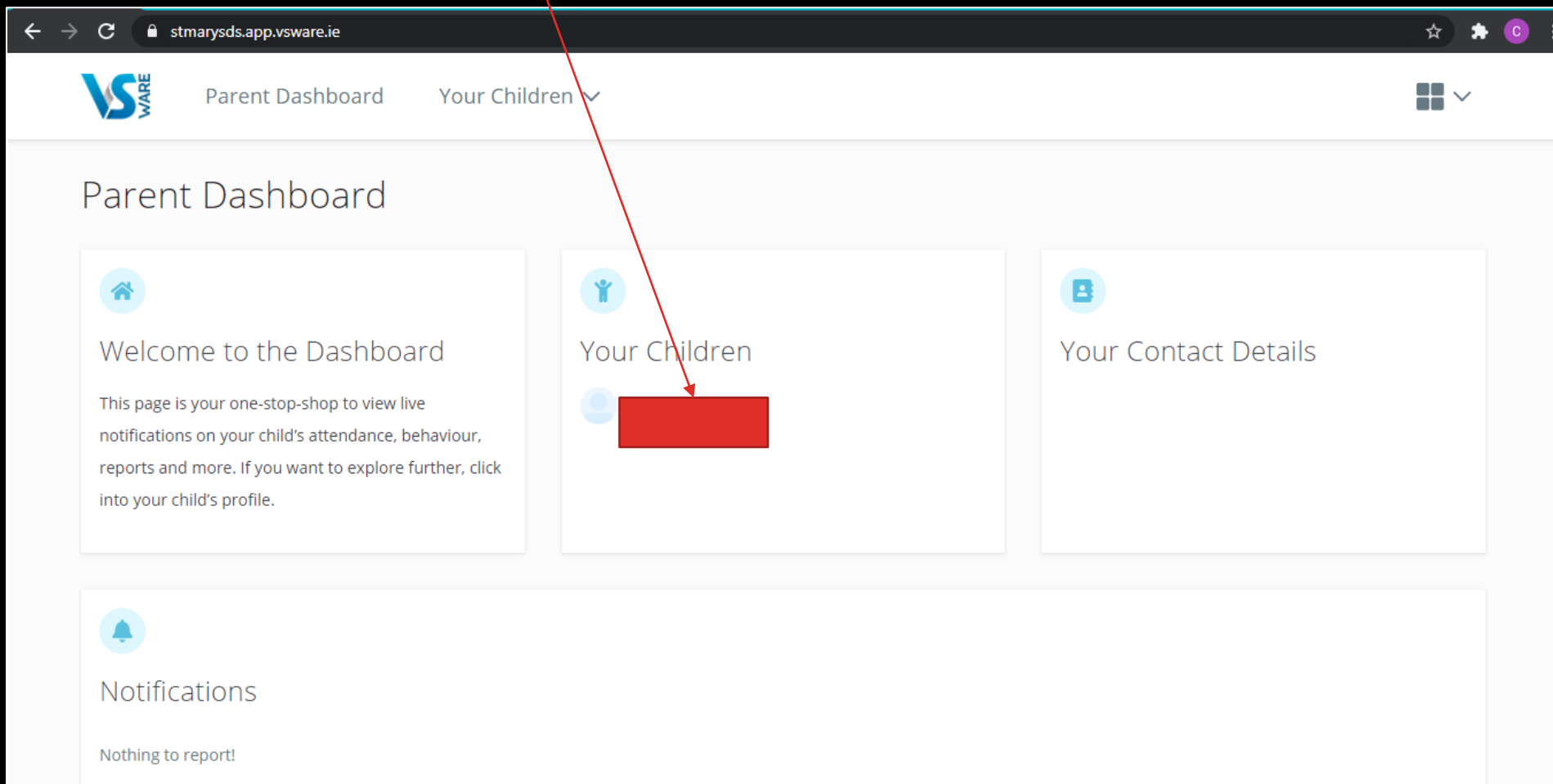
Send code

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 URL `stmarysds.app.vsware.ie`. The page is titled "Parent Dashboard" and features a navigation bar with "Parent Dashboard" and "Your Children" (with a dropdown arrow). The main content area is divided into four sections: "Welcome to the Dashboard", "Your Children", "Your Contact Details", and "Notifications". The "Your Children" section contains a list of children, with a red arrow pointing to a child's name that is partially obscured by a red rectangle. The "Notifications" section shows "Nothing to report!".

Parent Dashboard

Your Children

Parent Dashboard

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

Your Contact Details

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	Select a subject ▼

Subject Option

Preference	Subject Choice
1	Select a subject ▼
2	Select a subject ▼
3	Select a subject ▼
4	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> Select a subject ▲ Select a subject French Spanish </div>

Subject Option

Preference	Subject Choice
1	Select a subject ▼
2	Select a subject ▼
3	Select a subject ▼
4	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
- New book scheme as announced by Minister Foley
- 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 part days Buses may not be in operation.



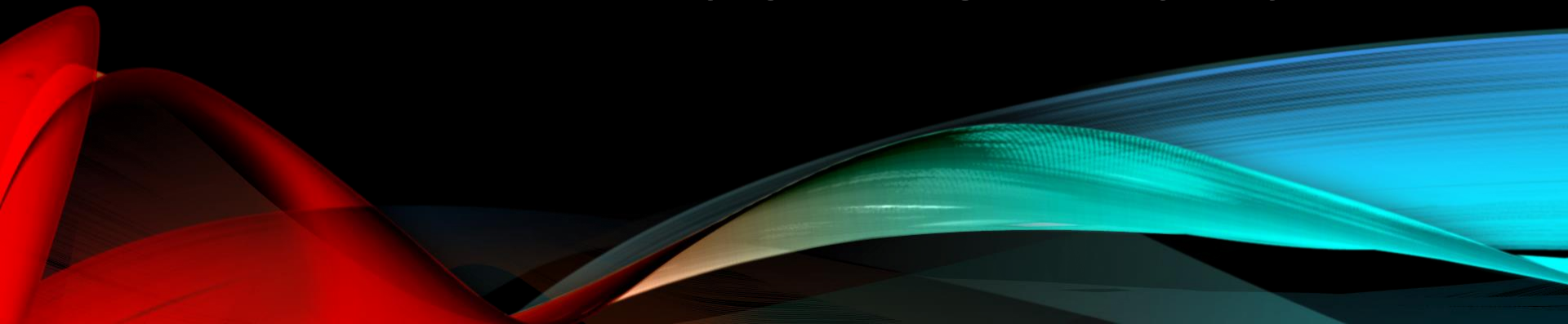
We await clarification regarding school reopening. Further details will be posted on our website and app closer to the time.



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



HAVE DEVICE CHARGED
AND READY FOR EVERY
CLASS

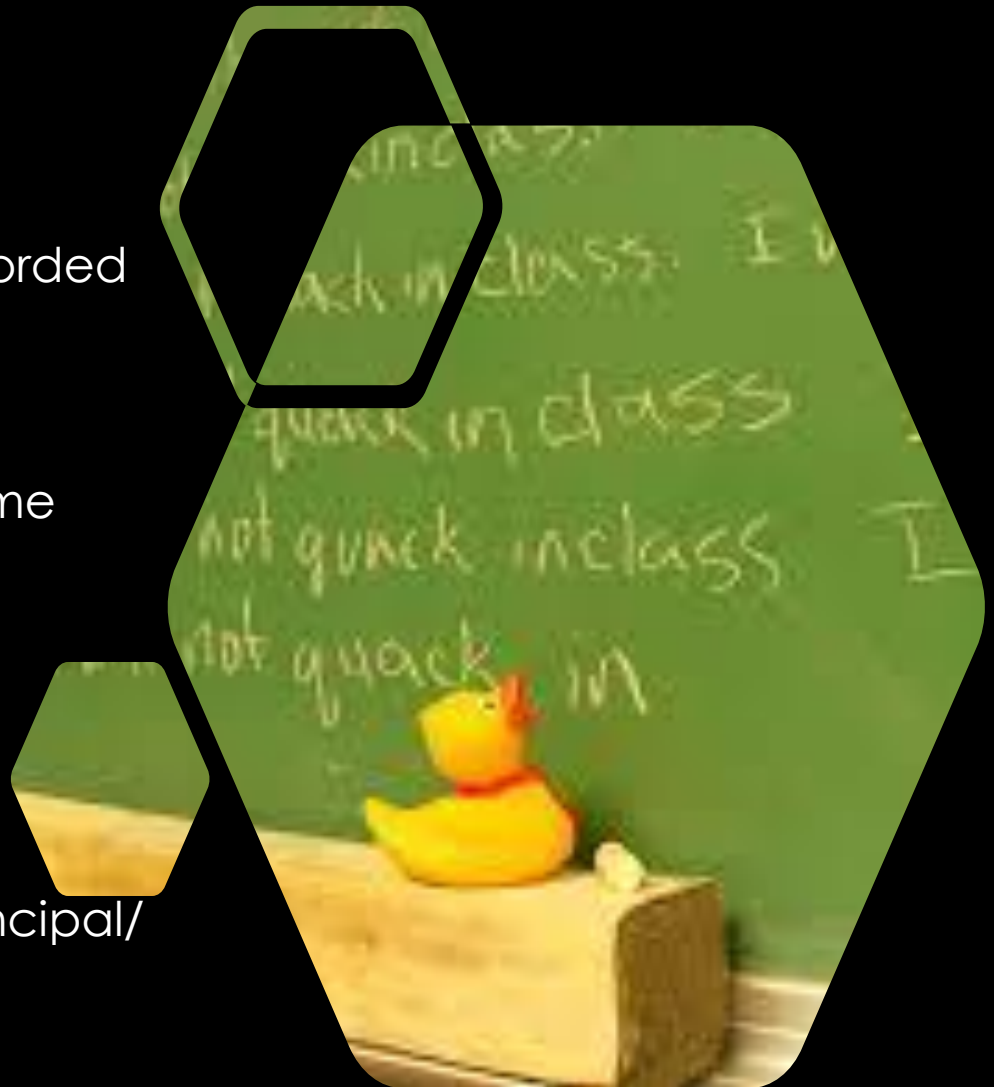
REWARDS:

- 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
- Write out/ 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



COB AND ANTI BULLYING POLICY

- <https://www.stmarysds.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Code-Of-Behaviour-Updated-May-2022-Website.pdf>
- <https://www.stmarysds.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Antibullying-Policy-2024-25.pdf>



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
- 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.



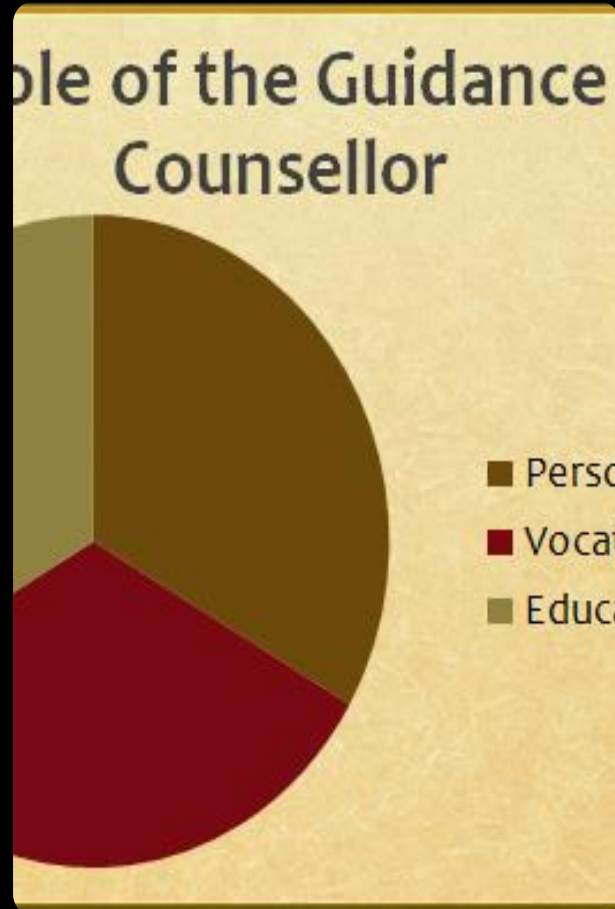
AEN

Please email office@stmarysds.ie with:

- Any details of support your son is receiving at primary level
- Any psychological assessments or any supporting documentation we should have
- Any concerns

We will liaise with primary schools but the information is best coming from home also just in case.

THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS S. DELANY & J. DEERING



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

EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE

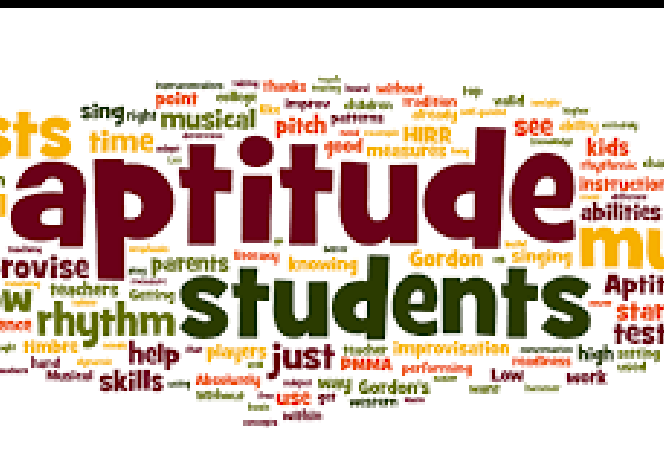
- **Testing- Entrance Tests/CAT tests**
- **Study planning/ Study Skills /Homework / Organisation.**
- **Classroom management**
- **Behaviour management**
- **Subject Choice- 3rd Years & TY's**



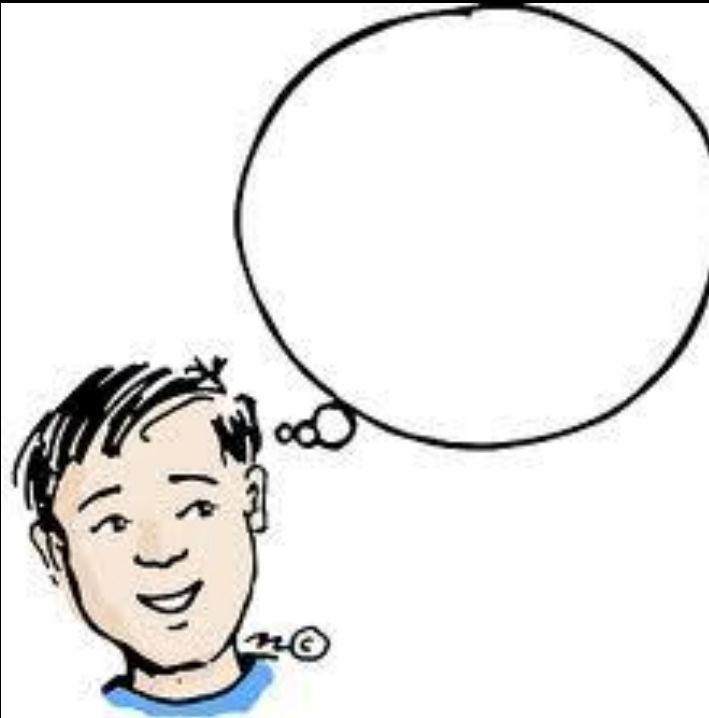
CAO

VOCATIONAL/CAREERS GUIDANCE

- Aptitude testing
- Trips to Open Days/Exhibitions
- Guest Speakers
- Going to College- types of courses/ entry requirements etc
- 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

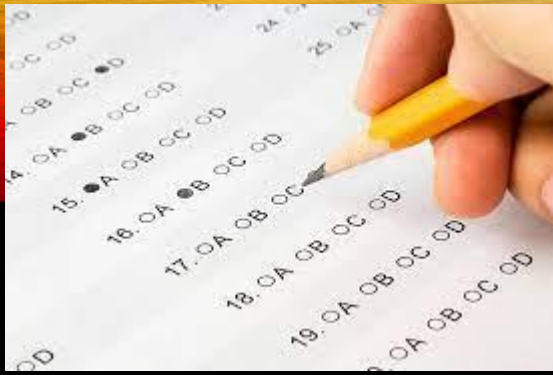
____/____/____

05
45
25
20
00
40
00
40
20

Student Name: _____

Please excuse this student
being late for /absent
class, he had an appointment
with the Guidance
Counsellor.

Counsellor: _____



Entrance Exams

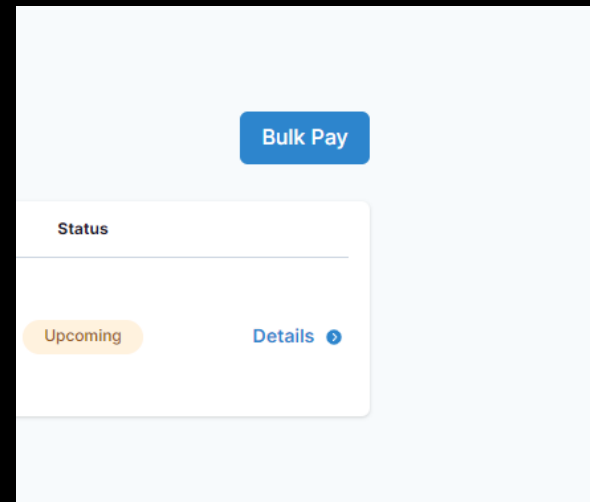
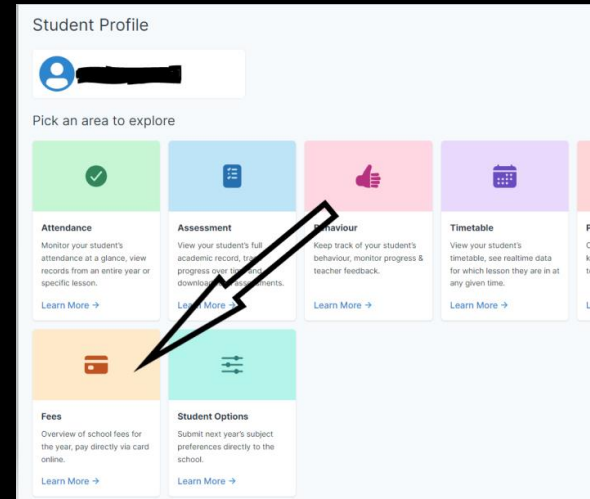
To be held in our
school library.

CAT4
standardised tests

- St. Mary's PP Pupils:
Tuesday 28th **May**
9.15-12pm
- Duleek BNS, Realt
na Mara,
Donacarney BNS,
Donore NS &
Whitecross NS
pupils 29th **May**
9.15-12pm
- All other schools-
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



If you have any issues with vsware
subject choices/ fees email:

Office@stmarysds.ie



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.