

# COLÁISTE ABBÁIN

Adamstown

Enniscorthy

Co. Wexford

Tel 053-9240564

E-mail [info@colaisteabbain.ie](mailto:info@colaisteabbain.ie)



Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

I hope you are all enjoying the summer holidays and enjoying a well-deserved break. I write to you today to provide advance notice about the change of finish times for our School Day. For the next academic year 2021/22, classes will finish at 4pm on Monday to Thursday inclusive. On Friday, classes will finish at an earlier time of 1.15pm. This letter explains the reasons why and how Coláiste Abbáin have changed their School Day.

Previously, the school day finished at 4pm on Monday/Tuesday and on Wednesday /Thursday/Friday students finished at 3.30pm. This meant Lunch Break was at 2 different times: Monday/Tuesday lunch was 45 minutes from 1.15-2.00pm. On Wed/Thurs /Fri lunch break was 55 minutes (12.35 - 1.30pm). This format had several associated problems:

- Having only 2 classes in-between morning break and lunch break is insufficient time to deepen learning.
- Staggered lunch break caused general confusion for students, particularly younger year groups.
- Disruption to the afternoon lessons, for instance misunderstanding what time lunch is over at and the start time of first class after lunch.
- Difficulties in staff Supervision Rosters given different lengths of lunch break on different days.
- Frustration and perplexity with different finish times.
- Complications planning student workshops and guest speakers over shifting lunch breaks.
- The 55-minute lunch break (Wed -Fri inclusive) was too long for certain student cohorts.

When all the elements were considered, it was evident from feedback from students, staff and other stakeholders in our school, change was necessary. The changes are detailed on the following page.

The reasons why Coláiste Abbáin opted to change the school day are outlined below:

## **For the Students and Parents:**

- **No learning time is lost** – students still have the exact same amount of learning time. We remove the confusion of rotating lunch break times and different finish times.
- **More productive day** – having 3 classes after small break every day provides scope for teachers to extend activities and learning without an interruption.
- **Effective use of time** – having a standardised lunch time is helpful to learning. Lunch time will be at the same time every day.
- **Student Voice** – students see an earlier finish time on Friday as a positive move.
- **Well-being** – many of our students have appointments during the course of the school day. An early finish of 1.15pm on Friday enables medical/dentist/physio appointments to be facilitated without missing tuition time.

- In line with other schools – some other schools in the county have a similar format. Currently this works very well for teaching and learning.

**For School and Staff:**

- Staff – teachers at Coláiste Abbáin have fully supported the proposal to change the school day.
- Teachers can spend more time meeting with Support Staff – because the school day finishes at 1.15pm on Friday an earlier finish would give teachers time to meet with support staff.
- Support staff training - Support staff are important educators for students; a change to the school timings would allow support staff to attend staff training.
- Running afterschool clubs – a change to the school timings would allow staff to run more afterschool clubs for students.
- The Students – we have asked our students what they think of this idea and they are very positive about the proposal -the vast majority want the school to finish at 1.15pm on Friday

**The process:**

- There were consultation meetings with the Parents Association to provide clarity on why the school is making this change.
- Responses/views from the Student Council and Focus Groups were considered.
- Staff were consulted at a full Staff Meeting and there was a unanimous decision to change the timetable because of the associated educational benefits for teaching and learning.
- School Transport (Bus Eireann) were consulted and there are no problems or issues with new collection times.
- Finally, information from the staff, students and parents was forwarded to the Board of Management (BOM) for consideration. The BOM decided to proceed with changing the structure of the school day.

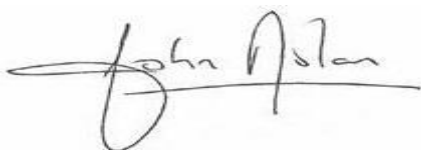
I am aware that some parents may have to make arrangements to collect their children and we would be happy to support those parents where necessary during a transition period.

If you have any questions in relation to the changes, please contact me by email at [johnnolan@wwetb.ie](mailto:johnnolan@wwetb.ie)

On another matter, the Student Contribution Fee will be sent to families in the next fortnight. A SMS text message will be sent from Way 2Pay. More information is available on [Way2Pay FAQ's](#) .

Thank you for your continued co-operation, support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Mr John Nolan  
Principal

## School Timetable

- Classes finish at 4pm Monday to Thursday inclusive.
- School finishes early on Friday at 1.15pm
- Lunchtime is at 1.15 -2.00pm Monday to Thursday inclusive.

<b>Tutorial 8.50- 9.00</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tues</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thurs</b>	<b>Fri</b>
<b>Class 1 9.00 - 9.40</b>					
<b>Class 2 9.40- 10.20</b>					
<b>Class 3 10.20 - 11.00</b>					
<b>Morning Break 11.00 – 11.15</b>					
<b>Class 4 11.15 - 11.55</b>					
<b>Class 5 11.55 - 12.35</b>					
<b>Class 6 12.35 -1.15</b>					
<b>Lunchbreak 1.15 – 2.00pm</b>					<b>No classes</b>
<b>Class 7 2.00 - 2.40</b>					
<b>Class 8 2.40 - 3.20</b>					
<b>Class 9 3.20 – 4.00</b>					