

JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER – ATHBOY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Once again, I would like to thank all existing parents/guardians for their ongoing co-operation and support for the pupils and staff of our school, especially during the time of the school closure. I would also like to welcome all our first time parents/guardians. An induction video will be posted on the School App which is now the main means of communicating with parents/guardians and pupils. You can download the School App via the link on the home page of the school website www.athboyics.ie

Hopefully, if some of the current restrictions can be lifted, it will be possible to organise more extra curricular activities next year for the enjoyment of our students and staff.

End of Year Reports

Reports for pupils of First, Second, Leaving Certificate Applied Year 1 and Fifth Year can now be previewed from ePortal via the School App or the school website. A downloadable version will be available in due course. Parents/guardians should discuss results and teachers' comments in detail with pupils. The school recognises that many families faced genuine difficulties with lack of devices or internet coverage during the period of school closure. However, most pupils have been able to engage in the work and sit their exams SA3 exams in school.

Details of Expenses Payable

Our expenses remain at €140 per pupil (limited to a maximum of two pupils per family). We have also maintained the range of books available on the Book Rental system which continues to provide huge savings for parents/guardians. Fees are payable in one single payment, via the Easy Payments Plus link on our school website www.athboyics.ie. (*An explanation sheet on how to register with Easy Payments Plus is available at the end of this newsletter*). These funds will be used to supplement funding received from the Department of Education & Science for the benefit of students. Audited accounts will be available for inspection.

The **Personal Insurance Policy** is administered by Allianz Insurance and covers pupils for school related activities, including games only. Details of the policy are available at <https://www.allianz.ie/pupil-personal-accident/documents/pupil-personal-accident-policy-2017.pdf>

Locker fees have been included in the general expenses. Lockers cannot be paid for separately. Students are not permitted to share lockers as this can cause problems with access and damage to books.

The school's **Book Rental Scheme** is now well established and allows for huge savings for all our families. This scheme will only work if all families pay the Book Rental fee. Please refer to the Book Lists which have been attached with this post in order to determine which books are not included in the scheme. A copy of the **Booklists** is also available to download from the Downloads Section of the school website www.athboyics.ie Students must buy workbooks. **First Years should not buy workbooks for taster subjects until they have made their final choice.** Application forms for Free Book Grant can be downloaded from the school website. (It may be necessary to prioritise applications). **Students who qualify will be exempt from Book Rental Fees (€35).** However, all parents/guardians must pay the general expenses (€105).

Book Rental Books will be distributed in late August. They remain the property of the school and must be replaced if they are lost or damaged. **Where books have not been returned in satisfactory condition a separate bill will issue and will be recorded as arrears on the expenses. Pupils who do not comply with the conditions of the Book Rental Scheme will not be allowed to avail of it next year.**

School Journal

A customised hardback School Journal has been ordered for each pupil in the school and this has been included in the general expenses. Each pupil will be expected to maintain a School Journal next year. The Journal will be signed weekly by the Class Tutor and **should also be checked and signed weekly by parents/guardians.**

The School App should be used to excuse lates or absences. The School App should also be used to give permission for students to leave the school early. **However, they must be collected by parents/guardians or nominated adult.** Students will not be allowed to leave the school unaccompanied. Pre-printed slips for excusing lateness/absence or giving permission to leave early have been included at the back of the School Journal for use where it is not possible to use the School App.

A page has been included after each weekly section to show details of problems with uniform, missing books/equipment, punctuality for class during the day, poor behaviour, positive achievement and leaving class. Grids have also been included for assessment results and Credits under our Credit System. A copy of the School's Code of Behaviour will also be included. This should be read and signed. Students who deface, or allow their Journal to be defaced, will have to purchase a new Journal.

School Uniform

The school uniform is available from the following outlets: Faulkner's Fashions, Athboy; and Ted Murtagh's, Trim. **Please contact the retailers if you have any concerns about the quality of uniform items. Give exact details such as item of clothing, when it was purchased, nature of problem.**

The school is introducing new obligatory PE uniform for incoming First Years. This consists of a customised navy tracksuit bottoms, dry-fit top and PE half zip. We would encourage all other student

Otherwise, pupils should have a pair of plain navy tracksuit bottoms (not leggings), half zip and existing polo top for PE. Non First Year pupils may also replace existing PE uniform items with those listed for First Years as the need arises. The new PE uniform will be introduced on a phased basis.

The school has now introduced mandatory black **walking shoes which must be worn at all times, including to and from school (black Morgan and Co. shoes for boys, Susst Gaby shoes for girls).** Runners may only be worn during PE class. Students who have a specific orthopaedic issue and need an alternative shoe must furnish a medical cert to the relevant Year Head before the start of the school year and, upon agreement, an alternative black shoe may be worn.

It may be necessary for pupils to wear PE gear in school on days they have PE until changing rooms become available for use again in line with Public Health Guidelines.

Students are allowed to wear one neat stud in the lobe of each ear. No other **piercings** are allowed, including nose, lip, eyebrow or ear bars.

Natural **hair colours** only will be allowed.

A copy of our Uniform Policy is available on the school website www.athboyce.ie

The school would welcome any **surplus items of school uniform**, which are in good condition and are no longer required, for use as replacement items. These can be left into the school office. Alternatively, you can leave them in the St. Vincent De Paul shop in Bridge Street, Athboy.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that pupils adhere strictly to the school policy on uniform and appearance. Only in exceptional cases should notes to excuse non-uniform items be written (use the grid in the School Journal). **Pupils who do not present for school in the complete uniform may not be allowed to class.** Please continue to monitor your son's/daughter's uniform on a daily basis. All items of uniform should carry a completed identity tag.

School Policies

Copies of all our school policies are available from the school office or on the school's website www.athboyce.ie Further policies will be developed in consultation with parents/guardians, pupils and staff.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones will be confiscated if they are used without authorisation anywhere on the school campus. **Students who refuse to hand over mobile phones may be left at home until the matter is dealt with satisfactorily.** Parents/guardians should not phone pupils during the school day. All contact should be made through the school office.

Homework

Homework should be monitored closely by parents/guardians so as to ensure that it is completed fully and on time. This will avoid homework not being completed or being completed hurriedly or copied before class begins.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and the related documentation. I hope that the information included will serve to clarify any questions you might have in relation to your son's/daughter's enrolment in the school. A draft calendar for the next school year has been included below. This will be updated on our School App.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any further clarifications at 046 9487894 or athboyce@eircom.net. I look forward to working with you all during the forthcoming and subsequent years.

Anthony Leavy (Principal)

Dates for Return to School

| Year Group | Return to School on |
|------------------------|--|
| First Year | Friday 27 th August (8.50 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.) |
| Second Year | Monday 30 th August |
| Third Year | Monday 30 th August |
| Fifth Year | Tuesday 31 st August |
| Sixth Year | Monday 30 th August |
| Leaving Cert Applied 1 | Tuesday 31 st August |
| Leaving Cert Applied 2 | Monday 30 th August |

Calendar for 2021/22 School Year – Athboy Community School

Term 1 (Staff Day on Thursday 26th August)

Friday 27th August to Friday 22nd October

School Closed Monday 27th September

Mid-term break from Monday 25th October to Friday 29th October

Monday 1st November to Wednesday 22nd December

Summative Assessment 1 from 10th November to 12th November

Christmas Break from Thursday 23rd December to Wednesday 5th January inclusive

Term 2

Thursday 6th January to Friday 18th February

Mock Examinations week beginning Monday 7th February

Summative Assessment 2 from 16th to 18th February

Mid-term break from Monday 21st to Friday 25th February

Monday 28th February to Friday 8th April

National Holiday Wednesday 17th March.

School Closed Friday 18th March.

School closed to pupils for Staff CPD on 28th March

Easter Holidays from Monday 11th April to Friday 22nd April inclusive.

Term 3

Monday 25th April to Friday 3th June

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May

Summative Assessment 3 from 1st to 3rd June.

Wednesday 8th June State Examinations begin.

Details of further dates and events will be posted on the School App and the School Website as they become available.

How to Activate your Easy Payments Plus Account

Step 1: Go to www.athboyce.ie

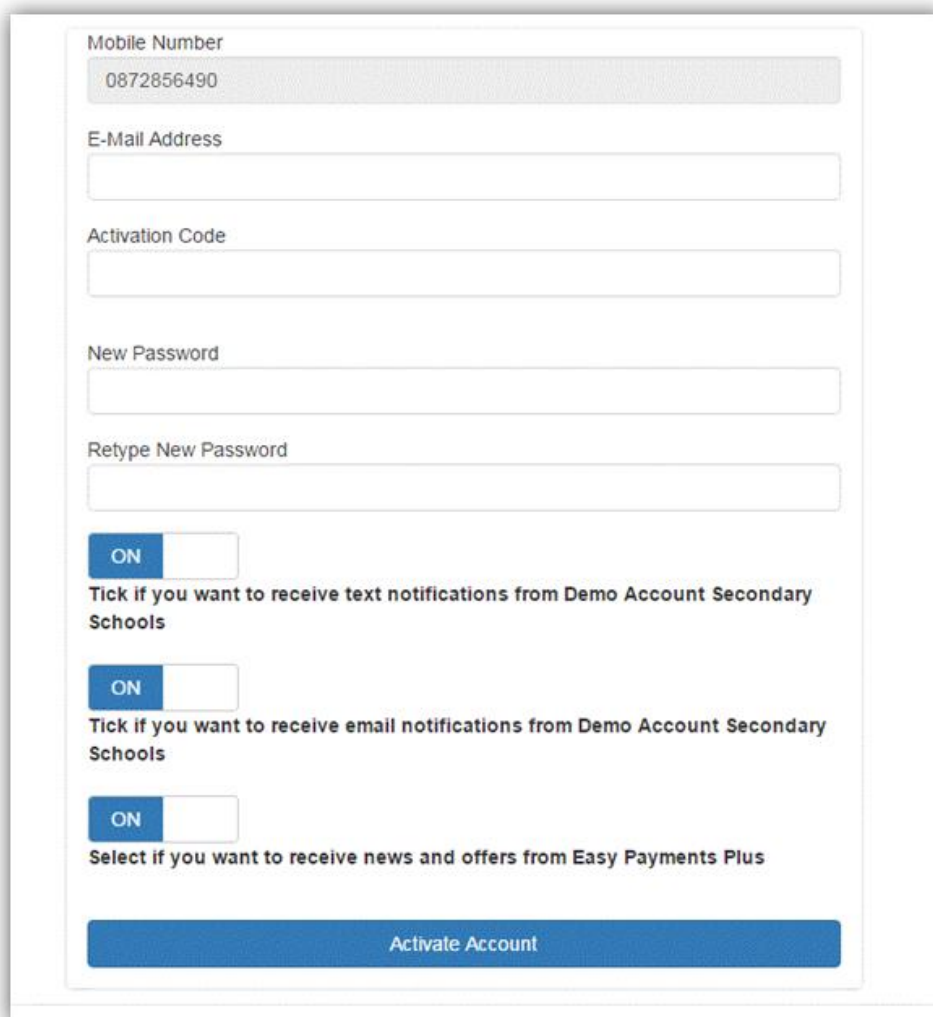
Step 2: Click on the Easy Payments Plus link.

Step 3: Click on the **Activate** button.

Step 4: Input parent's mobile number and surname

Easy Payments Plus will try to match the above data against the organisation's EPP database. If a match is successful, then the client will be texted a code to their mobile phone.

Step 5: The user then completes their account activation by inputting their information on the screen below. The user can then login using the email address supplied and the password they have just created.



The screenshot shows a web form for account activation. It contains the following fields and options:

- Mobile Number:** A text input field containing the number 0872856490.
- E-Mail Address:** An empty text input field.
- Activation Code:** An empty text input field.
- New Password:** An empty text input field.
- Retype New Password:** An empty text input field.
- Notification Preferences:** Three checkboxes, each with a blue 'ON' label to its left:
 - Tick if you want to receive text notifications from Demo Account Secondary Schools
 - Tick if you want to receive email notifications from Demo Account Secondary Schools
 - Select if you want to receive news and offers from Easy Payments Plus
- Activate Account:** A large blue button at the bottom of the form.