



19th August 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope that you have all enjoyed a peaceful summer period. We look forward to welcoming your daughters back to school next week. In advance of their return, I enclose the return to school schedule and some general news from our school community.

General News

- We extend our best wishes to Deirdre McNally and Aoife McLoughlin who have accepted teaching positions in schools closer to home. We also wish Anne Marie McConnell well as she begins a career break this year. We are very grateful for everything that they have contributed to life at Mount Carmel.
- We welcome a number of new teaching and SNA staff to the school this year. Amy Prescott (English), Pádraig O hAonghusa (Career Guidance, French), Alyssa Campion (SNA), Patricia Diaz Garcia (SNA). We wish them all well as they join our school community.
- Significant building work has taken place over the summer. We have spent €280,000 on rewiring the entire building and installing new emergency lighting. We have also renovated the ground floor student bathrooms, as we begin the initial process of rejuvenating the building.
- The Board has employed Chloe Murphy as a new secretary in the school. Chloe will act as my assistant, and she can be contacted on principalsec@mountcarmel.ie. We are fortunate to have two very experienced and capable admin staff members in Tara and Chloe and I know that you will extend Chloe a very warm welcome when you meet her at reception.
- The Board has engaged the services of a new cleaning company. They will begin work in the school on Monday 24th August, as we strive for the highest standards possible for your daughter.
- School books will again be provided free of charge this year through the free book scheme. Please note that books become the responsibility of the student for the period of their learning. All books should be kept in good condition and ready to be returned to the school when they are no longer needed by the

student. Any books that are damaged or lost will need to be replaced at the cost of the student.

- I am delighted that we will be providing free school meals for all students in the school this year. The menu will be designed by the student council, to reflect the wishes of our student population.
- School Costs- We have taken on board parental feedback and we will simplify school costs this year. A flat cost of €130 will be asked of every student in the school, excluding Transition Year students who will be charged €385 for the TY programme. The cost of €130pp is vital to the operational running of the school. As a school in the Voluntary Sector, we receive only 70% approx of the funding needed to run the school each year from the Department of Education. As such, this cost covers pupil insurance, mock exam corrections, the very significant bus rental bill, referee costs, competition entry fees, privately paid coaches for teams, guest speakers etc. Our aim is to provide an exceptional academic and co-curricular offering for your daughter, and this contribution enables us to do so. You will receive a prompt to pay the amount on the school app and I would be grateful if you could do so at your earliest convenience. We can also accept payment in cash at reception. All cash payments will receive a receipt.
- Admissions to 1st Year 2027- Please note that we are significantly oversubscribed due to the popularity of the school. If you have a younger daughter who is due to come to us in 2027, please make sure to watch out for application details in the next few weeks, so that you do not miss out on a place.

I wish your daughter a year of academic progress, co-curricular achievement and above all, I hope that she has a lot of fun! We are here to help, so please make sure to contact if and when an issue arises, so that we can intervene at the earliest possible stage.

Yours sincerely,

Cillian O'Riordan

Principal

Student Return Schedule

Wednesday 26th August

11.30am- 6th Year Prefects

12pm-1pm- 6th Year Registration

Thursday 27th August

8.40am-9.40am- TY Registration

11am-12pm- 5th Year Registration

Friday 28th August

9.20am-11am- 1st Year Registration

10am-10.45am- 3rd Year Registration

11.15-12.15pm- 2nd Year Registration

Monday 31st August

8.40am-10.45am- Classes for 1st Years only

Tuesday 1st September

8.40am-10.45am- Classes for all year groups.

Wednesday 2nd September

8.40am- Class resumes as normal for all year groups.