



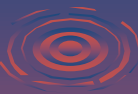
# Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan

Welcome 1<sup>st</sup> Year  
Parents / Guardians  
2023/2024

The background features a gradient from dark blue at the top to a reddish-pink at the bottom. Several sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, are scattered across the lower half of the image. The circles are rendered in a light, semi-transparent reddish-pink color.

# Second Level School

- A Whole New Experience
- It Takes Time
- Trust Us
- Things Will Go Wrong
- Please Remain Calm



# Classes

- 144 Students in 1<sup>st</sup> Year
- All Mixed Ability Classes
- 1 Red, 1 Blue, 1 Green, 1 Yellow & 1 Purple
- Classes NOT Formed until students start
- Students Dispersed Randomly Unless Family Requests Communicated
- 694 Students in 2023/2024

# Classes

- NB : CLASSES WILL NOT BE FORMED UNTIL MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023– THE DAY FIRST YEARS START
- PLEASE IGNORE ANY SPECULATION IN THIS REGARD PRIOR TO THIS

# Core Subjects for 1<sup>st</sup> Years

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- 
- Science
- History
- Geography
- French or German
- Religion
- Well Being
  - PE
  - SPHE
  - CSPE
  - Computers

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Subject Choices

- Taster Programmes
- Exposure to Subjects Before Choosing
- Three Lines
- **NO NEED TO CHOOSE NOW**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Subject Lines

## Line A

Visual Art

Wood Technology

Engineering

Business

Home Economics

Music

Graphics



# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Subject Lines

## Line B

Visual Art

Graphics

Business

Home Economics

Wood Technology

Engineering

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Subject Lines

- 1 Week Taster Rotation
- Duplication of Subjects on both Lines
- Decide By 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

# 1<sup>st</sup> Year Subject Lines

(C) French  
German

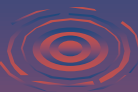
- 2 Week Taster Rotation
- Decide By 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

# Mechanics of School Life

- School starts at 9.00am (Mon– Fri)
- School finishes at 3.55pm (Mon– Thurs) – 1<sup>st</sup> Years = 3:50pm
- School finishes at 1.15pm (Fri)– 1<sup>st</sup> Years = 1:10pm

# Mechanics of School Life

- Supervision on site from 8.30am
- Be On-Site by 8.50am
- Give Them Plenty of Time
- No Lates Please



# Mechanics of School Life

- One Hour Classes
- Six Classes Per Day – Four on Fri.
- Less Books to Carry Each Day

# Lockers

- All First Years Will Get a Locker
- School Will Provide Secure Lock
- Lockerfix – Very Safe System
- Lockers Twice Size From Last Year

# School GMail Account

- Each Student Gets a School Gmail Account on Arrival
- @mercykilbeggan.ie
- Important for Communication
- Google Apps
- School Calendar



# Lunchtime Arrangements

- No Permission to Leave School
- Only for those going to their own home plus TYs, 5<sup>th</sup> Years and 6<sup>th</sup> Years.
- Subsidised Lunches Available in School
- Centra Kilbeggan
- Order Before School or Online
- 1<sup>st</sup> Years Out at 1:10pm

# Uniform

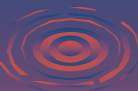
- Available as per notice on [mercykilbeggan.ie](http://mercykilbeggan.ie)
- Black Shoes/Runners With Black Laces & Black Soles
- Any Full Navy Crested School Jacket
- Only Natural Hair Colours Allowed.
- No Set PE Uniform
- NO HOODIE!
- Label your Belongings!

# Book Rental Scheme

- School Purchases Books and Rents to Students
- 1<sup>st</sup> Year Book Rental is €120
- Excellent Value
- Students Must Pay for Lost / Damaged Books
- PLEASE COVER / NAME BOOKS

# Sport & Extra Curricular Activities

- Lots of Different Sports/Activities
- Very Good for Social Interaction
- Great Experiences/Memories
- Full Spectrum for Girls & Boys



# Pastoral Care Team

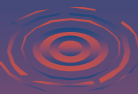
- Deputy Principal Ms Gallen
- Year Head Mr Donnelly
- Each Class Has Class Tutor
- Chaplain Ms Kelly
- Learning Support Ms Mulligan
- Guidance Counsellor Ms McArdle

# School Journal

- Provided by School
- Included in Book Rental Fee
- Important That Parent Signs it Weekly to Monitor Homework
- Watch Out for Notes Written by Teacher

# Homework

- Vital Component in Learning Process
- No Such Thing As No Homework – Always Study to be Done
- 1.5 Hours per Night



# Absences / Late

- Absences Must be Followed by Note From Home on Return to School
- Templates in Back of Journal
- Email Preferable to Phonecall to Supplement Note
- Any Student Late Must Sign In at Office & Must Have a Note

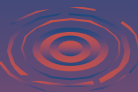


# Leaving School

- Students Must be Signed Out by Parent/Guardian at all times.
- Please Pre-Arrange Time With Student
- Ring Doorbell and Wait for Access
- Avoid Calling Students Out
- Problem of Using Intercom

# Mobile Phones

- Turned Off at All Times During the School Day and on School Activities
- Teacher Will Confiscate if Used
- Must Then Be Collected By Parent in Office

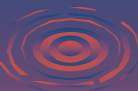


# Mobile Phones

- No Problem Using Phone in Office if Necessary
- Parents Contact Students Through Office. Phone/email
- Families Should Not Text or Call Students' Mobile Phones During School

# School Parent Contact

- Feel Free to Contact School at Any Time..... Email or Phonecall
- Don't Assume We Know Everything That is Going On
- Parent Teacher Meeting Once a Year
- Be Positive About Teachers / School

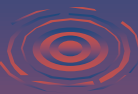


# Autism Class

- Very Significant Part of the School
- Twenty Four Students at Present
- Four Full Classes
- Mr Donnelly

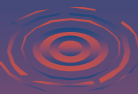
# Parents Council

- Always Looking for Members
- Important Role in School Life
- AGM Sometime in September



# Evening Study

- Only Engage in Evening Study if Essential
- Not Recommended for 1<sup>st</sup> Years



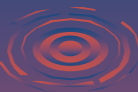
# Total Costs for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students

	€	
Book Rental	120	
Administration	40	(€50 per family)
Insurance	10	
Locker	10	
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Total	180	



# Total Costs for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students

- Pay Before 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- Pay Online Please if Possible
- Cash / Cheques Accepted at Office
- Reminder Sent Out After Christmas



mercykilbeggan.ie

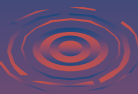


# Online VSWare System

- [mercykilbeggan.vsware.ie](http://mercykilbeggan.vsware.ie)
- Username sent by text from school
- Reset Password using phone
- Log In
- Pay School Costs
- Term Reports
- View Timetables When Students Start

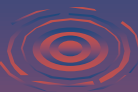
# New School

- Ready for 2023/2024 School Year
- We Won't Know Ourselves !



# 6<sup>th</sup> Year Mentors

- 6<sup>th</sup> Year Students Act as Mentors for 1<sup>st</sup> Year Students
- Work with 1<sup>st</sup> Years Throughout the Year
- "Big Brother" "Big Sister" System
- Very Successful to Date



# Ready To Launch !

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023
- School Day 9.00am – 1.15pm
- Buses Operating
- Small Break – Bring a Snack
- Lunch Provided / Chicken Roll
- Greeted by 6<sup>th</sup> Year Mentors at School Entrance
- Only Schoolbag, Copybook & Pencil-case Needed

# Keys to Success

- Attendance
  - Work With Teachers
  - Strong Work Ethic – Take Responsibility
  - Build Resilience
  - Family Support
- 