



## Junior Cycle Free Book Scheme 2024/25.

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Minister for Education, Norma Foley, has recently announced that the Department of Education is launching a free book scheme for all Junior Cycle students attending post primary schools in Ireland from September 2024.

This means that's all students in Junior Cycle years will have access next year to free schoolbooks and other **core** resources. It is hoped that this system will be in place for September 2024. The new scheme should eliminate the cost to parents and guardians of providing schoolbooks and core classroom resources.

“School books” includes all relevant schoolbooks at Junior Cycle level. It also covers workbooks in use in the school to support teaching and learning at Junior Cycle. Funding for the scheme in 2024/25 is being provided directly to post primary schools by the Department of Education.

There are however limitations as to what exactly can be provided and this needs to be clearly set out. The department has provided a budget to schools to provide the main books required but not all the materials or equipment are covered. All incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years will receive the necessary schoolbooks and core resources.

Existing schoolbooks, which are owned by 2<sup>nd</sup> year and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students are to continue to be used and it is only in the limited situation where the school is requesting that a new book be purchased that students in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year will receive books as part of this scheme.

**All schoolbooks and core classroom resources provided under this new scheme will remain the property of the school, so that they can be reused in future years.**

The books will be expected to be returned to the school in good condition at the end of the school year or if appropriate at the end of the Junior Cycle course. Each student will be required with their parent to sign an agreement with the school and failure to uphold the agreement may result in that student not being able to access the free book scheme into the future.

You will be notified by the school later in the summer about the specific details of the scheme and the arrangements for the collection of the books/materials.

Wishing you a pleasant summer and thanking you for your continued cooperation.

Paul Thornton.

Principal.