



Welcome to 5<sup>th</sup> Year in  
S.P.S.

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# + Contact Details

- [sean.obrien@sps.ie](mailto:sean.obrien@sps.ie)
- Endeavoring to reply exclusively between 7.30am and 5.30pm during the week.
- Will reply as receipt.
- Can organize meetings within the school hours.



# + Subject Choices

- Ideally 7 or more subjects. Minimum of 6.
- 3 core: Irish, English & Maths
- Foreign language very often crucial for access to certain 3<sup>rd</sup> level institutions. (French, German & Spanish)
- Arts & Humanities: Art, Music, History, Classics, Geography
- Business: Business Studies, Economics, Home Economics & Accounting
- STEM: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, DCG & Applied Mathematics

# + Changing Subjects

- Students encouraged to become engaged early with their choices in order to determine whether or not it is for them.
- Option changes are common and not a problem, but it would be strongly advised to figure it out sooner rather than later, or there will be a lot to catch up on.
- Level changes: A change in level for a student in a subject (most commonly Higher to Ordinary) must be agreed upon between myself, the parents/guardians, students and the relevant teacher(s) before a change is made. Unless otherwise stated already, it is presumed that a student will take the Higher Level paper.

# + Assessment & Reports



The major assessments that a student completes in 5<sup>th</sup> year are...

- Winter House Exams (29<sup>th</sup> Nov – 8<sup>th</sup> Dec)
- Summer Exams (28<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> May)

These exams come with a comprehensive report.

There are a number of other reports that will be sent out at various points throughout the year...

-October Mid-Term

-Easter

Parent Teacher Meeting: 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018



Pre-2017 Grade Scheme (Current)	% marks		New Grade Scheme from 2017 (Higher / Ordinary)
A1	90-100	90-100	H1 / O1
A2	85<90	80<90	H2 / O2
B1	80<85		
B2	75<80	70<80	H3 / O3
B3	70<75		
C1	65<70	60<70	H4 / O4
C2	60<65		
C3	55<60	50<60	H5 / O5
D1	50<55		
D2	45<50	40<50	H6 / O6
D3	40<45		
E	25<40	30<40	H7/O7
F	10<25	0<30	H8/O8
NG	0<10		

### New Grades and Common Points Scale for Leaving Certificate 2017

Grade (%)	Points	Grade (%)	Points
H1 (90-100)	100		
H2 (80<90)	88		
H3 (70<80)	77		
H4 (60<70)	66		
H5 (50<60)	56	O1 (90-100)	56
H6 (40<50)	46	O2 (80<90)	46
H7 (30<40)	37	O3 (70<80)	37
H8 (0<30)	0	O4 (60<70)	28
		O5 (50<60)	20
		O6 (40<50)	12
		O7 (30<40)	0
		O8 (0<30)	0

# + Target Grades

- It is a two year journey, but we need to take it a day at a time.
- Targeting particular grades in subjects for each assessment rather than looking at June 2019.
- Correlation between 5th year Winter Exams & Leaving Certificate Exams.
- **I will have individual meetings with students if there is a large discrepancy between how a student feels they ought to be performing and how they have performed.**



<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
Irish	Option 4	English	Option 2	Option 4
Option 3	P.E.	Maths	Option 2	Language
Option 3	P.E.	Option 2	Language	Language
Option 4	Option 3	Option 4	Option 1	Maths
Option 4	Maths	Option 3	Option 1	Option 2
Option 1	English	Option 3	Irish	Option 2
Language	Language		Maths	Option 1
Maths	Irish		English	Option 1
English	Maths		English	Irish

# + House-keeping

- Lates: Not being present for registration (08:30-08:40)
- Absences (Templated e-mail sent out)
- If you are aware ahead of time of a student being late or absent please e-mail ahead.
- Uniform (Dark shoes/runners, blue jeans, school top or shirt, dark coat when necessary)
- P.E. gear: P.E. takes place on a Tuesday for 5<sup>th</sup> years and all students must bring their gear.
- Disciplinary action: Lunchtime detention & Wednesday penalties
- **Parents/Guardians will be notified of Wednesday penalties, but only notified of a lunchtime detention if it is a repeated infraction.**

# + Prep & Evening Study

- I need to be informed via e-mail if a student is not going to be present for after school prep. An e-mail at the beginning of the year is fine.
  - Evening study is an option offered in the school library.
    - Times: 17:30 to 20:15
- If interested, please contact me.





# Student Council, Prefects & Student Leadership Groups



- 5<sup>th</sup> Year students can be an active part of the student voice with active student council members. 3 members per year.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Years apply to be prefects towards the end of 5<sup>th</sup> year.
- Head Boy & Girl positions are removed in the hopes of forming working groups of students that will look after different concerns throughout the year (Debs committee etc.)

# + All work and no play...

- Correlation between grades & extra-curricular involvement within the school.
- 3 pillars of SPS (Music, Sport & Science) provide ample opportunities to involve a student in the culture of the school.
- Countless papers relating physical fitness, healthy diet and sleeping patterns with better cognitive functioning abilities and academic achievements, aside from all of the other benefits.





# “You are what you consistently do”



- It is not necessarily the case, and is frequently not the case, that students who *appear* to be working hardest are performing the best. Stress  $\neq$  Success
- Students who get into good routines of handing their work up on time, who are engaged in class and ask questions, who deal with their strengths and weaknesses in a healthy and honest manner will thrive. The machinery is all there.
- Hard to put a final figure on time spent on homework & study throughout a week. A student who says they did all of their work in school is probably leaving some work uncompleted, a student who is up until the wee hours trying to finish homework is not working effectively.
- Audit.

# + Study Skills

- Regular communication with teachers. Some teachers may provide revision plans that are incorporated into homework.
- List // Rate // Plan
- Be specific & set small achievable goals.
- Have a time limit.
- Study should not take precedence ahead of homework.

# + “The Growth Mindset” - Recommendation

- Practical philosophy that can be routinely applied to our work.
- Written by Carol Dweck of Stanford University.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hiiEeMN7vbQ>

# + Note on Mathematics

- Very demanding subject with regards time required.
- No options in the exam and no real patterns to the questions that are asked, and a very broad syllabus.
- Approximately 30-40% of students who take Higher Level at Junior Certificate will take Ordinary Level at Leaving Certificate. That move is strongly advised to be taken earlier rather than later if it looks like it is going to happen.
- 25 extra points only awarded if Mathematics is already one of a student's top 6 subjects.
- There are less stressful ways of finding 25 points in one's studies for a student who may be struggling a lot with the subject. Much more likely to gain those points and more by improving 3 other subjects by one grade mark.
- Requires consistent work ethic and regular communication with teachers, leaving misunderstood work untouched will not help.