

Letters to 6th Class students from the First Years at Lucan Community College

Dear Future First Years,

I know you must be pretty scared starting off in a new school leaving everything you know behind, but don't worry, I felt that way too. Everyone is as nervous as you are at first, but you'll settle in really quickly and you'll barely remember primary school after a few months.

The teachers aren't too strict and don't get mad if you're late for class if you're lost - you just have to go up to them and explain - they don't mind. The class work is not a big jump from primary school at first, but the teachers build it up gradually over time. The homework is the same as the classwork for me, but every teacher is different.

I would recommend getting to school early in the morning to ensure you've arranged your locker for the day. You don't need to bring all your books everywhere as there is time to go to your locker at break, lunch, and before and after school.

There is a wide choice of extra-curricular activities to choose from including, table tennis, basketball, soccer, debating and choir. You don't have to do an extra-curricular activity, but I'd recommend it as you can bond with people with similar interests.

The best thing that happened in first year for me, was the Festival of Music. The choir auditioned for the DDLETB Festival of Music with the song "Hey Jude" by The Beatles. We managed to get through and perform at the National Concert Hall! It was so much fun!

My experience with Lucan Community College is positive - and I know yours will be too.

Good luck!

Sarah Heffernan
Class O' Riordan



Dear incoming 1st Year,

Once you leave 6th class, it might seem like LCC is a giant school, but after a week you will get to know where all your classes are and when you have them. Once in the school, you will get lockers. They are kind of small for all your books so stack them, so it is easier to get them.

When it is lunch time, don't rush because all the students will be near the lockers and you won't get your books in time so wait after the queue has died down. Once you get your homework do it on that day and not the day later because it will get even more tricky. If you do something bold you get a note in your journal, be careful not to get any more. There are loads of activities you would never do in 6th class for example, boxing, rugby, photography to name a few. If you go on to the LCC website you will see a lot more.

All the teachers are really nice and some of them throw sweets at you!

Those are all the main things that you need to know. Enjoy your summer for now. I hope you do good in first year and we will see you very soon.

Bye for now,

Pádraic Slavin

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Dear First Year Student,

Moving from primary school to secondary school is a big change. I think the biggest difference is moving classes, but you get used to it after a while.

There are loads of extra-curricular activities to do in Lucan Community College - like different sports and clubs.

Don't worry about starting - everyone here is nice!

Good luck in LCC!

Siofra Friel
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Hello,

My name is Tracey, I am in first year in class Gonzalez. My favourite subject is music because it helps with my creativity and passion, it also improves my mood. Music is such a fun and educational subject, that I love.

For me I think the main difference between primary school and secondary school is the way of teaching, the way in secondary they teach multiple classes. Which helps specialise each subject much better.

One extra-curricular activity I enjoyed was athletics, I have always loved running since I was young, for me it's the best thing ever because it makes me happy.

My favourite highlight of first year was Wellbeing Week because it showed me lots of things, dancing, skipping, boxing, and meditation. It was so fun and inspiring to me. I wish you luck in first year and I hope you get on wonderfully starting secondary school.

Yours sincerely,
Tracey Obeng

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Dear First Year,

My name is Cathal and I am in class O'Riordan. My favourite subject is Music.

The main differences between primary and secondary school are:

- You only spend 40 minutes on each subject unless you have a double. This is good because you get to move around changing classroom after every class and you get to change teachers too.
- Secondary school is strict on uniform, you cannot wear your own jacket - you must wear the school jacket.
- Not all your homework has to be handed in the following day so keep track of dates in your journal.
- If you have any issues you go to your Tutor or Year Head.

If I could give you a piece of advice, I would recommend putting the books and copies for each subject into zip pouches and labelling them with the subject name. It makes it much easier to ensure you have all the bits you need for each class. It is also very useful to put up a copy of your timetable on the inside door of your locker. It saves you having to pull out your journal to see what subjects you have next.

There is lots of activities on at lunch and after school. I like the Badminton. It's on every Tuesday at lunch in the PE hall and chess in the games room which is on at lunch every day. After school I like the Scratch club (it's a computer coding club) on Wednesday's after school.

The best thing this year for me was I made lots of new friends.

I would like to wish you good luck in starting at Lucan Community College and hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

Cathal Conway

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Hi,

I think the main difference between primary school and secondary school is having multiple teachers and classrooms. Having a locker is pretty cool too, as long as you keep it neat. You will get used to everything after a while. I would recommend joining the school athletics team.

My favourite thing about 1st year is having so much freedom compared to primary school; you can pretty much do whatever you want at lunch time, as long as you don't break any school rules.

If you would like, you can ask someone where the class O'Riordan, 2nd year locker area is. Come find me there and I will show you around the school and help you find your classes. I also have plenty of advice for you.

I hope to see you in September. Good luck!

Cillian Murphy

Hi,

My name is Nathan and I am 13 years old. I am in Class O' Riordan and I am in First year and going into Second year. My favourite subject is Art because I love to draw and sketch.

The main difference between primary and secondary school is that there is lockers, a tiny bit of extra work more classes and Christmas and summer assessments and that you have different teachers for each class.

A bit of advice I have for you is to not be worried and arrive at school a little bit early so you can get your books and get prepared.

The extra-curricular activities I enjoyed are coding club and soccer

The highlight of first year for me was the Young Scientist Exhibition because there were so many things to do there!

Good luck starting secondary school and remember - don't be worried!

Nathan

Hi,

My name is Kaci, and I'm in Class O'Riordan. My favourite subjects are PE and Art. The main difference between primary school and secondary school is the lockers or trying to find your way around the school.

One of the best things about going into 1st year is you meet lots of new friends. It will seem hard at the start, but you will get used to it.

Good Luck 😊

Kaci

Hello new First Years,

My name is Oisín. I am currently a first year in class O' Riordan. My favourite subject is English because I like writing.

The main difference from primary to secondary in my opinion is probably the timetable because you now have new classes such as Business and Woodwork. New classes also mean that the day is longer and that you get more homework.

My advice for starting secondary is just to not be stressed stay on top of your work because if you don't do your work, you'll end up getting in trouble.

In school there's also extra-curricular activities one of the activities I enjoyed was badminton because it was a fun sport, I got to do with my friends.

A highlight of the school year is probably the lunch time concerts because you get to see many talented people to perform.

With that I wish you luck in secondary.

Oisín

Hello!

My name is Stanislaw Prusak! Most people call me Stanley or Stan. I am in 1st Year, O'Riordan class which is one of the classes in LCC (Lucan Community College) in first year.

I know you're probably asking your teachers or older friends what's different in Secondary school. From my experience, only thing that's different is the fact you have to go to different classes and have different teachers. Everything else is pretty relaxed and fun. You'll make a LOT of new friends in first year, from all classes if you engage with them.

Also one piece of advice for your first year in school, try to impress your teachers by putting in maximum effort and engagement in classes. This will definitely help you make learning and talking to teachers a lot easier and friendlier. Also make sure to organise yourself, it definitely helps and organisation is a healthy habit it's also easier to wrap your head around the work.

My highlight of the year was definitely making friends and getting opportunities to meet new people. In primary school I never really could engage with others but in secondary school people seem to be different, probably looking to make new friends and kind of figure out what people are all about.

I wish you the best of luck next year, although you probably won't need it!

Stanislaw

Hello!

My name is Sean Grice. Right out of the gate don't feel too nervous about secondary school. I definitely seems intimidating at first, but getting the hang of it after a while isn't too difficult.

When I went into first year it was pretty scary. I had no idea where most of the classes were or who the teachers were. It can also be a bit unnerving when you get split from other students you've been in the same school and class in for years, but you'll make new friends quickly enough. I was fortunate enough to have a sister in the school at the same time as me, but she was in 6th year, so she didn't stay around long.

After a while you really get used to the school and learn where everything is and who people are. The school is split into numerical areas, to make it easier to find where you're going. For example, the C area is the optional language area, where you learn French or German.

After my first day in secondary school I was panicking and nervous about the amount things you had to do. Like walking to each class, remembering where all the classes are and to do all the homework. The school felt like a labyrinth! But after a

few weeks of getting used to the school and where everything is it actually gets quite fun talking to friends while walking to classes.

Sadly, due to the virus 1st year didn't last for me, and we were due to have a pizza party the day after we had to leave school! Now I haven't had the full experience of 1st year, but at least you do. The teachers are really helpful. They support you throughout the whole year and they're very nice. The Gluais team are nice too. They're 5th years that volunteer to help 1st years for the whole year. Organizing things like pizza parties. At the end of the year there's even a bouncy castle in the field for the 1st years. I'm really jealous of you. My biggest regret of first year is that I didn't enjoy it as much as I should, even though my teacher told us at the start of the year to enjoy our last year of primary school. So I hope you did.

Good luck in 1st year!

Séan

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