



5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some important information for you:

Parental Information Evenings – W/b Monday 8th September

Please note the Parental Information Evening dates to launch the new academic year are listed below. These information evenings will be held in person in the Assembly Hall. These are important evenings for parents/guardians to attend without their children. Examples of topics which will be covered include Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), mobile phones, important dates regarding assessments/examinations and information regarding Parent/Teacher & Parent/Tutor events. The dates are as follows:

Year 8:	<u>4.00pm on Monday 8th September</u>
Year 9:	<u>5.00pm on Monday 8th September</u>
Year 10:	5.00pm on Tuesday 9 th September
Year 11:	5.00pm on Wednesday 10 th September
Year 12:	5.00pm on Thursday 11 th September



Traffic Management

You are asked to be extra vigilant for our pupils as they can be hard for drivers to see. You are kindly requested to park further from the school to avoid congestion and not to park at our gates or at the bus bays. Encourage your child to walk or cycle to school when possible.

Pupils have been asked during our Expectations Assemblies this week to:

- ***Remain on the pavement whilst waiting on a bus and not to run to the bus until it has stopped.***
- ***Always try to cross at safer places, like pedestrian crossings or corners with clear visibility.***
- ***Walk or cycle to school when safe to do so.***

Data Information

All year groups will be given an envelope during PSE on Tuesday. The envelope will contain a data form with an additional country of birth, this is a new requirement of our school system, we ask that this is completed promptly and returned by Tuesday 16th September.

School Levy

In these difficult times for schools, I am appealing to parents/guardians to donate to the school levy to help fund the numerous opportunities for extra-curricular development. Over the years the generous donations of our parents/guardians have become a lifeline, supporting the extensive extra-curricular programme of which the college is rightly proud.

We ask for a contribution of £30.00 per pupil.

Government funding provides the school with the resources for day-to-day teaching and learning but it does not contribute towards the wide range of extracurricular activities that make St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College so special. Envelopes will also be distributed on Tuesday. We ask that the Levy envelope is returned by **7th October**.

Acceptable Use of Mobile Policy Update – for parents/guardians of Yr. 8 & Yr. 9

In the 2024-2025 academic year St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College trialled the use of 'caddies' in classrooms. Pupils were asked to hand in their phone at the beginning of a lesson and collect it at the end. This year, as a school we are going to be requesting that Year 8 and Year 9 pupils hand in their mobile phones to their tutor at the beginning of each day and it will be returned during their last lesson. You are probably aware that similar procedures are in place in other schools and there is a larger trial taking place nationally involving over 8000 pupils as announced by Education Minister, Paul Givan, last year. The rationale for these trials is that it is believed that the mere presence of a mobile phone, even if not being used, can occupy mental space and reduce a pupil's cognitive capacity for other tasks. We are therefore hoping the findings from this pilot will be beneficial for your child. Mobile phones will be stored securely in a lockable unit.

Further information is available on the School App and this will be discussed further at the Parent Information sessions after school on Monday 8th September.

Performing Arts

- There will be a choir rehearsal after school on Monday 8th September for choir members in years 9-12.
- Auditions for the Shrek production will take place after school on Wednesday 10th September and Thursday 11th September!

Planners

Your child has been provided with his/her new pupil planner this week. The main purpose of this planner is to record homework. Parents/Guardians are expected to check their child's planner on a weekly basis. There are also many helpful subject specific pages to support pupils with their learning. The pupil planner is also a useful tool for you to give any messages to your child's Form tutor.



Homework Club

Homework Club will take place Monday-Wednesday (3.45-4.30pm) in the LRC. Homework Club begins on Monday. This is a great opportunity for pupils to complete their homework in a supervised environment.

Tempest Photography – Monday 22nd September

Yr. 8 pupils and Yr. 12 pupils will be out of lessons for a short period of time on Monday 22nd September to have their photograph taken by Tempest Photography. The photographs of pupils from any of the other year groups who joined the college in the last academic year or at the beginning of this academic year will also have their photograph taken.

New Beginnings Mass – Year 8 – Thursday 25th September

A 'New Beginnings' Mass for Yr. 8 pupils will take place on Thursday. Parents/guardians are also welcome to attend. Start time: 3.00pm.

Key Dates

Monday 8 th September	Parents Information Evening for Yr. 8 at 4.00pm
Monday 8 th September	Parents Information Evenings for Yr. 9 at 5.00pm
Tuesday 9 th September	Parents Information Evenings for Yr. 10. at 5.00pm
Wednesday 10 th September	Parents Information Evenings for Yr. 11. at 5.00pm
Thursday 11 th September	Parents Information Evenings for Yr. 12 at 5.00pm
Monday 22 nd September	Tempest Photography in school
Thursday 25 th September	'New Beginnings' Mass for Yr. 8 and parents/guardians

Final Prayer

For the cry of the Earth

We pray that each one of us will hear and take to heart the cry of the Earth and of victims of natural disasters and climactic change, and that all will undertake to personally care for the world in which we live.

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P. McCullagh – College Principal
BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH, NPQEL

