



1st December 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Key Stage 4 Prizegiving

Key Stage 4 Prizegiving took place last night which was a lovely event. Our special guest was BBC journalist, Odhran Crumley, who is also a former pupil of St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College. Thank you to our current pupils, former pupils and family members, staff and governors who were able to celebrate a wide range of successes.

Altnagelvin Parents Group

Altnagelvin Parents Group held a Christmas Family Event on Sunday 26 November at the Everglades Hotel.

Two of our pupils, James (10S) & Aidan (12B) volunteered at the event. The event was an opportunity to get together to celebrate the spirit of Christmas, enabling the children and parents to have fun outside of the hospital environment and away from the stresses the previous year may have brought them. The parents group wrote to the college stating '*...we wanted to get in touch and pass on our gratitude to James and Aidan. These students are credit to your school.*' Well done James & Aidan!



Advent

We had Fr. David O'Kane join us for Collective Worship this week when the R.E Department were leading on the importance of Advent and preparing for Christmas. We also had our first 'Advent reflection' take place before school this morning (8.50-9.10am). The next 'Advent reflection' will be on Friday 8 December in Room 9. All pupils and staff are welcome!

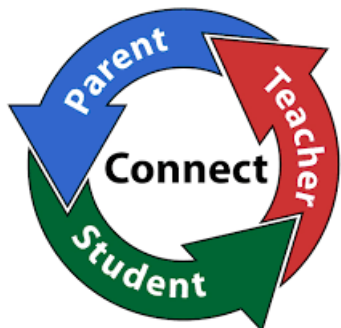
Recommended Reading for Advent – From Redemptorist Publications

Sacred Space - Advent by Irish Jesuits invites readers to develop a closer relationship with God during this season of preparation and anticipation. Throughout the Advent season, each day includes a Scripture reading and points of reflection, as well as a weekly topic enhanced by six steps of prayer and reflection. With its small size and meaningful message, Sacred Space—Advent is a simple way to build a richer relationship with God and embrace the Advent season as a sacred space.

Stick with Love, by Arun Arora: Martin Luther King famously declared that 'I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear'. In these luminous daily readings, Arun Arora helps us consider the biblical picture of the Church as the people of God, drawn from every tribe, every tongue, and every nation.

Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day

Thank you to all the parents and guardians who were able to attend the Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day today. We hope that you found it helpful.



Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 Parent/Teacher Day on Tuesday 12th December: College closed for pupils.

Tuesday 12th December is Parent/Teacher Day for Yr. 11 (12.45-3.15) and Year 12 (9.30-12.00) so the **college will be closed for all year groups**. Yr. 11 and Yr. 12 pupils are asked to attend with their parents/guardians to meet their teachers but do not have to be in uniform. All other year groups will be at home working on school related tasks. The morning session will be for Yr.12 and the afternoon session will be for Yr.11. Meetings will run on a first come, first served basis. Meetings will be 5 minutes and teachers will be prioritising their class groups rather than their Form group.

Festive Doors

Form groups will be participating in a 'Festive Doors' competition during December. Form classes will be decorating the inside of their Form class door in a festive manner (keeping the glass panel clear). There will be an external judging panel with a winning Form class chosen from each year group. The deadline for completion will be **Wednesday 13th December**. Judging will take place on **Thursday 14th December**. Pupils are asked to take in decorations to support with this competition.



Christmas Lunch – Thursday 14th December

This year's Christmas lunch will take place on Thursday 14th December. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils to come together with their peers and members of staff to enjoy a festive lunch creating a memorable experience.



Christmas Jumper Day Fundraiser (Zambia) - minimum £1.00 per family

On Thursday 14th December pupils can pay to wear a Christmas jumper rather than their normal jumper. The funds raised will be donated to Granaghan Outreach who are local charity attempting to construct a school in Zambia. The cost is a minimum of £1.00 per family and pupils are asked to give their donation to their Form tutor on the morning of Thursday 14th December. Pupils may decorate any jumper with some tinsel or other Christmas decorations. We are not expecting families to purchase a new Christmas jumper for this event. If anyone is struggling or needs help with decorating, please ask your son/daughter to see their Form Tutor for assistance.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Christmas Hamper Appeal so far. We currently have a shortage of the following:

- Gravy
- Crisps/ crackers
- super noodles
- Sugar
- Jars of cooking sauce e.g., curry/ bolognaise.
- Cooking oil
- Sauces (red, brown, cranberry)
- Tins of beans, spaghetti, tinned vegetables
- Hot Chocolate - packets or jars
- Salt/ Pepper

If you have any old wrapping paper at home which your child could bring in, then that would also be greatly appreciated. We are hoping to start wrapping and putting the hampers together from Monday 4th December.

End of Term Arrangements – Thursday 21st December

This term finishes on Thursday 21st December with pupils being dismissed at the earlier time of 12.00 midday. Please note that the college will be closed from Friday 22nd December until Tuesday 2nd January inclusive. The college re-opens again for all staff and pupils on Wednesday 3rd January 2024.

Gaelic Games

Congratulations to our U16 Girls Football team who had an excellent win last Friday. The girls were 6 points down at half time but played brilliantly in the second half to win the game by 3 points. Well Done, Girls!

Key Dates

Tuesday 12th Dec
Friday 14th Dec
Thursday 20th Dec

Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 Parent/Teacher Day (college closed for pupils)
Christmas lunch & Christmas jumper Day
Carol Service (2.40pm for all pupils)

Last Day of Term is on Thursday 21st December - 12.00 finish.

Final Prayer

Sunday 3rd December marks the first week of Advent in the Liturgical calendar and begins a four-week period of preparation for the nativity of Jesus Christ. The Advent Season is about reflecting on how we can prepare our hearts, minds, and homes for Christ's birth.

*God of hope,
Be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond,
be with us in our meeting and in our travelling together,
be with us in our worship and our praying together,
be with us in our Advent journey to the stable and beyond,
our God of hope.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,



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

