



9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here are this week's messages.

### Uniform & Appearance Expectations

We will be starting off the next half term by reinforcing the college's expectations on Uniform and Appearance. Please check before your child returns that he/she is not replacing his/her school jumper with a hoodie. If the weather remains cold, then your child should bring a black/navy coat to school. We will be checking that your child is wearing their tie, is not wearing white socks and is wearing appropriate footwear. Any non-school items of clothing will be confiscated, and consequences issued. Boys are not permitted to have lines in their hair so please remind your son prior to any hair cut which might be taking place over the break.

### Trocaires' Lent Appeal 2024



As you will know Lent starts early this year. We will be supporting Trócaire's 2024 Lent Appeal which will focus on **the impact of poverty and climate change on a family and community in rural Malawi**. The theme for Collective Worship in the W/b Monday 26 February is 'Lent' and there will be talks taking place to Yr. 9 (Thursday 7 March) and Yr. 8 (Friday 9 March) by a representative from Trocaire. This representative will also lead the Lent Reflection before school on the morning of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We will be identifying pupils to be part of Trócaire Ambassador Scheme when they can play a leadership role in promoting the Lent Appeal and organising how to raise money. Each Form group will have its own Trocaire box and pupils will be encouraged to contribute. The dates of the Lent Reflection mornings before school in Room 9 will take place on the following Fridays in the next half term: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

### Yr. 10 Parent/Teacher Day & Options presentations

The Yr.10 Parent/Teacher Day will take place on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March from 12.45pm until 3.15pm. Parents/Guardians are also invited to attend an Options presentation which will take place at 12.30pm. This will then be repeated at 3.15pm for anyone unable to attend the 12.30pm session.



### Children's Mental Health Week

As we end Children's Mental Health Week, I wanted to share the following link 10 top tips for young people, with you. This information sheet emphasises the importance of open conversations about feelings and includes practical tips about what can be helpful and supportive. This resource has been crafted and informed by young people themselves:

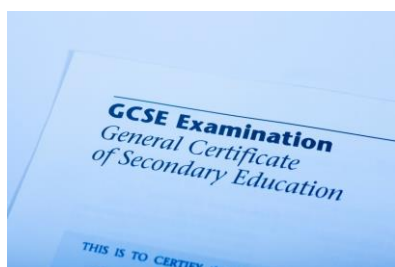
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZPm11ZtvQ9yfh1E3v\\_dzmYCUKGhvUcmY/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZPm11ZtvQ9yfh1E3v_dzmYCUKGhvUcmY/view)

## Communicating Safely Online

Pupils are regularly reminded of how to keep safe online and are supported with online safety routines. Parents/Guardians may find it useful to know that there are a number of ways to use settings on social media and through mobile phone technology to ensure that offspring are communicating safely.



Whatsapp in particular can often present issues with pupils being invited to or automatically placed into groups and group chats without their permission. One way of making your child's Whatsapp communication more secure is to open Whats App and navigate to "Settings" in the menu. Select "Account" and then "Privacy." Here, you can customise who can see your child's profile picture, status, and last seen. By limiting these options to your contacts only, unknown numbers won't be able to access this information or initiate conversations based on it. It is crucial that parents/guardians regularly check their children's phones as part of a regular online safety routine to look at both social media communication and websites accessed.



## GCSE Examination Timetable – Summer 2024

Parents/Guardians of Yr. 12 pupils have been posted their child's annual report today. A copy of this summer's public examination timetable has also been enclosed. The GCSE Examination timetables for both Yr. 11 and Yr.12 pupils are also available on the School App.

## Netball

Congratulations to our Yr. 11 Girls team who lost narrowly in the final in a tournament at St Colm's High School in Draperstown this week.



## Term Dates

All pupils should return to the college on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February after the half term break. The next half term will conclude at the normal time on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> April.

## Key Dates

Some key dates:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March

College reopens after the Half Term break  
Year 10 Parent/Teacher Days & Options presentation (College closed)

## Final Prayer

Last Friday, we celebrated the day in which Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple, forty days after Christmas. Here is a prayer from the Feast Day of the Presentation of the Lord:

*Almighty ever-living God,  
we humbly implore your majesty that,  
just as your Only Begotten Son was presented on this day in the Temple in the substance of our flesh,  
so, by your grace, we may be presented to you with minds made pure.*

*Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,  
for ever and ever.*

**Amen.**

Yours sincerely,



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

