



13 October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to this week's newsletter.



### SPBC Heritage Club

Mr Lovell and Mrs O'Connor will be trialling a new Heritage Club after school each Monday starting on Monday 16 October. Pupils who are interested are asked to go to Room 7 for a 3.45pm start. The Club will end at 4.30pm.

### Guardian Angels

Members of our senior prefect team will be supporting Yr. 8 pupils during some PSE lessons to act as their 'Guardian Angels' and continue to help the pupils transition to the college.



### Performing Arts

One of our Yr. 8 pupils, Liza Kennedy-Gurney, has been selected as an extra for the television drama series, 'Blue Lights'. Congratulations Liza!

### World Mental Health Day

We were raising awareness of mental health this week when it was 'World Mental Health Day' on Tuesday. This year's theme was 'Mental health is a universal human right'. St. Dymphna, an Irish Saint, from the 7<sup>th</sup> Century is the Patron of Mental Health. I will finish with a prayer at the end of this letter asking her for her intercession.



### Action Short of Strike: From Monday 16 October - Monday 20 November 2023

The Education Authority (EA) has warned of expected disruption to school services as a result of industrial action notified by UNISON. This action will consist of action short of strike from 16 October 2023 to 20 November 2023. The impact is likely to be most significant across classroom assistants regarding the covering of absent colleagues. There will be times when some pupils may not have an assigned classroom assistant as a result of this action short of strike.

### Uniform and Appearance

Some pupils have started to bring a hoodie to college. Can I please remind you of the uniform requirements. The only hoodies permitted are those with the college branding which can only be worn with sports kit. White socks are not part of the school uniform and socks will also be checked each morning at the gate. If a pupil

should arrive at school without a tie, then he/she is asked to report to either myself or the Head of Year on duty before entering the site.

### Personal Safety

Pupils are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves safe when in their local communities. This would include avoiding walking down alleyways, especially alone. Not having headphones in, but being alert and aware of their surroundings, not engaging with people they do not know. Please ensure your son/daughter knows what he/she should do if concerned for his/her safety when in their local areas particularly with the darker evenings during Autumn and Winter.

### Geography Field Trip

Yr. 11 Geography pupils will be going to Magilligan on either Tuesday or Friday next week to carry out their GCSE Geography fieldwork. Pupils are expected to catch up with any missed work.

### Gaelic Games

Congratulations to our Yr. 9 pupil, Daithi O'Doherty whose team Na Magha won a U13.5 Hurling Tournament at Ballinascreen last week. The team remain undefeated this season!

### Soccer

Best wishes to our Yr. 8 Soccer team who will be participating in the U12 NIFSA on Wednesday and to our Yr. 9 & Yr. 10 pupils who will represent the college in the U14 tournament on Thursday. All of the pupils involved are expected to catch up on any work missed in class and to find out the homework tasks set.

### Key Dates

|                                                          |                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Friday 20 Oct                                            | Careers event for selected Yr. 12 pupils          |
| Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov                            | Ski Trip meeting in the Main Hall (4.30pm start)  |
| Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> Nov | Half-Term break                                   |
| W/b Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov                           | National Chemistry Week                           |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov                               | Diocesan Mass for Deceased Children and Young     |
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov                            | Staff Development Day (school closure for pupils) |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov                            | Prize Giving Evening (7.00pm start)               |
| Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec                               | Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day                            |
| Thursday 21 Dec                                          | Last Day of Term (12.05pm finish)                 |

### Final Prayer

May Jesus speak to hearts and reassure them:

*'My peace I give you. Let not your heart be troubled nor let it be afraid. Pray for those suffering from poor mental health, St. Dymphna, that their nervous and emotional turmoil may cease, and that they may again know serenity and personal peace. In Jesus' name I pray.'*

**Amen**

Yours sincerely,



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

