



20th May 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here are this week's messages.

Mental Health Awareness Week & Official Opening of the Wellbeing Hub

We marked Mental Health Awareness Week last week with the official opening of our new Wellbeing Hub and the introduction of our new Wellbeing Lead, Blinne. The keynote speaker was Professor Siobhan O'Neill, the Mental Health Champion for N. Ireland. Other special guests Cllr Patricia Logue (Mayor for Derry & Strabane District), Cara Hunter MLA and Richard Moore, founder of the charity 'Children in Crossfire'. I would like to thank members of MD Educational Foundation who also attended and who have supported this excellent provision. This facility will support the wellbeing of our pupils for many years to come.

Here are photographs from last Thursday's celebrations.



Industrial Strike Action

Bus drivers in the GMB union are taking strike action today and tomorrow which will impact on pupils who travel on yellow buses (apart from Lettershandoney) so the parents/guardians of the pupils impacted will have to make alternative travel arrangements. All other buses services will be operating as usual. You will be kept informed via the School App of any further industrial strike action which may impact on your child getting to the college.

Reflection Mornings - June

The month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Reflection mornings will be returning on each Friday morning before school from 8.50am until 9.05am. This is open to both pupils and staff members. Venue: Room 9. The first reflection morning will take place on Friday 7th June.

Public Examinations - Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 Revision sessions

Updated timetables of what revision sessions are on offer for Yr. 11 and Yr. 12 are currently available on the School App. Pupils must be dressed in full school uniform.

Yr. 8 & Yr. 9 Examinations

Yr. 8 and Yr. 9 will be completing their End of Year examinations, these will take place on the 29th of May until the 31st of May inclusive. Yr. 8 and Yr. 9 will have a study day on Tuesday 28th May. This is the induction day for the new cohort of pupils starting in September 2024. Pupils will be receiving their timetables on Tuesday 14th May. Pupils are asked to bring books/notes to study when they are not doing examinations. Pupils will be expected to work independently during these times. Revision booklets for Yr. 8 and Yr. 9 are currently available on the School App.

Textbooks

Please could Yr. 12 pupils who have borrowed textbooks ensure they are returned. In addition, if any pupil would like to donate any used textbooks following their examinations, they too would be greatly appreciated. Pupils can drop them off at main reception.

Uniform Donations

Parents/guardians of Yr. 12 pupils are asked to kindly consider donating any school uniform your child will no longer require after the public examinations. Please check that it is in a good clean condition. Your donations are greatly appreciated and can be left at main reception.



End of Year trips & visits

The deadline for payment for the trips to Carrowmena Activity Centre or The Lake, Kilrea has now passed. Unfortunately, we are unable to accept any late payments.

Key Dates

Some key dates:

Monday 27 th May	Baker Day 5 (college closed for pupils)
Tuesday 28 th May	Study Day for Yr. 8, Yr. 9 & Yr. 10 (Induction Day for new Yr. 8 pupils)
Wednesday 29 th May	Yrs 8 - 10 & Yr.11 return to school
Wednesday 29 th May	Examinations begin for Yr. 8 & Yr. 9
Tuesday 4 th June	Staff Development Day 5 (college closed for pupils)
Friday 21 st June	Sports Day & Colour Run
Monday 24 th June	Year 8 Trip to Carrowmena Activity Centre
Tuesday 25 th June	Year 9 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Wednesday 26 th June	Year 11 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Thursday 27 th June	Year 10 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Friday 28 th June	End of Term (12.00 finish)



Final Prayer

We celebrated The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima last Monday. On this feast day we remembered how, during the First World War, our Lady appeared to three children in Fatima, Portugal and asked them to join her in praying for peace. Our Lady of Fatima has since become a beloved Marian devotion of protection and hope for those suffering, offering comfort through times of uncertainty. Still today, we need to pray for peace., more than ever.

*Our Lady of Fatima,
we pray for your Son to come to our aid and
end the suffering and wars throughout the world.
Help us to be like the children at Fatima;
loving, trusting and faithful.
May we pray to bring peace to our own world in our own small way
by choosing to love and trust in the Lord.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

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

