



21st June 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

A Celebration of Arts Exhibition

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Celebration of Arts' event. Children from Cumber Claudy P.S & St. Colmcille's P.S visited in the afternoon and we were joined by the new Mayor for Derry & Strabane, Cllr Lilian Seenoi Barr, in the evening. Inspirational speakers included former pupils Aoife Harvey (Sustainable Fashion Designer) and Leona Devine (Ceramic Artist). The standard of work on display from our pupils was incredibly high. Other artists who were exhibiting included R Coyle, B McWilliams, C O'Kane & D McNutt.



HURT NI

Thank you to HURT NI who facilitated workshops this week. Leanne Doherty from HURT NI was presented with a cheque for £250.00 from Mr Ball, Rory M (Yr. 12) and Donal M (Yr. 11).

Thank you to everyone who supported with the fundraising.



Sports Day & Colour Run

Today was a fantastic day of sport. Well done to our large number of participants. Here are the results of our Sports Day display competition:

8P (Tyrone): 1st place

8S (Derry): 2nd place

8B (Donegal): 3rd place



Day trips to the Lake, Kilrea (Yr. 9, Yr. 10, Yr. 11)

Thank you to those who have paid their money and returned their child's permission slip for the day trips taking place to the Lake in Kilrea in the W/b Monday 24th June.

Pupils who are not going on their year group day trip are expected to attend school as normal.

The expectations for all of the year groups going to the Lake are the same and are as follows:

- **Mobile phones are not allowed on the trip.** Mobile phones should be left at home or at school. If your son/daughter brings their mobile phone to the college on the day of the trip then it will be collected in before the coach departs, stored securely in the building and returned when the party arrives back at school.
- **Pupils must wear their PE Uniform.** If a pupil refuses to remove any non-branded PE item on the morning then they will not be permitted to go to the Lake and no payment can be re-issued.
- Pupils must bring a packed lunch and a drink. No food items with nuts should be brought and energy drinks are not permitted. Lunch will be provided for anyone on Free School Meals.
- Medical items should be brought on the trip such as inhalers. Pupils will not be able to attend if they do not have the relevant essential medication. It should be the correct, in date medication.
- Pupils should wear suitable swimwear under their wet suit.
- Pupils should bring a towel and plastic bag to store any wet items in.
- Pupils should bring an old pair of flip flops/trainers to walk from the changing area to the water.
- Sun cream might be required. Check the weather in advance.

Here are some other important points:

- Wet suits and safety equipment will be provided on the day.
- If a parent/guardian needs to make contact with their son/daughter in an emergency then this can take place via the school's administrators. Please do not attempt to contact the venue directly.
- Photographs will be taken on the day to capture the experience and will be circulated on the school's social media platforms.
- Pupils may not be permitted to attend if there are any incidents of misbehaviour in the period leading up to the day trip. This would include any matters relating to defiance.

Careers Portal Survey

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is planning to develop a new online Careers Portal to provide citizens with a single digital starting point for Careers related information in Northern Ireland.

To make any new portal as impactful as possible, we are seeking input from potential users about what are the most important factors for us to consider as part of the development process. The purpose of the survey is to seek input from users and stakeholders on the key factors the team need to consider to ensure the new portal is as impactful as possible. Please note the survey closes on **Friday 5th July 2024** and should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

Survey Link - <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfe/careers-portal>

Behaviour on buses and impact on wider community

We have received a concern about the behaviour of a small number of pupils on buses on the way home from school. Whilst the pupils are in uniform they are representing the college and as I am sure you can appreciate this type of behaviour is at odds with our core values and ethos. Any pupil identified demonstrating disruptive an/or antisocial behaviour will be sanctioned. This will be addressed with pupils in Form groups, but it does need a collective effort from all as behaviour, both positive and negative reflects us all. We value 'Community' and this extends beyond the college grounds.

Fathers

Last Sunday was Father's Day.

In his apostolic letter "Patris Corde" on the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph as the patron of the universal Church, Pope Francis comments that:

"Fathers are not born, but made. A man does not become a father simply by bringing a child into the world, but by taking on the responsibility to care for the child. Whenever a man accepts responsibility for the life of another in some way, he becomes a father to that person."

In that broad sense involved fathers can be teachers, uncles, grandfathers, older brothers and family friends. In caring for young lives, they can bring the benefits of fatherhood to young people listed above. Pope Francis holds up St Joseph as a model father in scripture even though he was not the biological father of Jesus. The Church is full of such models of spiritual fatherhood from St. Augustine to St. John Bosco is a shining example of spiritual fatherhood.

Key Dates

Some key dates:

Monday 24 th June	Year 8 Trip to Carrowmena Activity Centre
Monday 24 th June	Year 11 Celebration Assembly
Tuesday 25 th June	Year 9 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Wednesday 26 th June	Year 11 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Wednesday 26 th June	Year 10 & Year Celebration Assemblies
Wednesday 26 th June	'Claudy's Got 60 Years of Talent' competition (£1 entry fee)
Thursday 27 th June	Year 10 Trip to The Lake, Kilrea
Thursday 27 th June	Year 9 Celebration Assembly Trip
Friday 28 th June	End of Term (12.00 finish)

Final Prayer

In last Sunday's Gospel we hear of two short parables. One is of a seed which is sown; growing quietly and mysteriously until it is ready to be harvested. The second is of a mustard seed, tiny and insignificant when, planted, yet becoming, in time, a large, flourishing tree. We are called to point at Jesus and follow him without fear and say, "Look, just like the tiny mustard seed becomes a huge tree, so will God's Kingdom grow. Stay awake and watch, be witness to it, gently and without ever losing hope."

*Father in heaven, who sent your only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sin,
show us how to honour you and bring glory to your name, by walking in the way of Jesus.
Give me grace and mercy as I try and fail,
give me guidance when I am not sure which way to go,
and give me wisdom to trust you in all things.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,



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

