



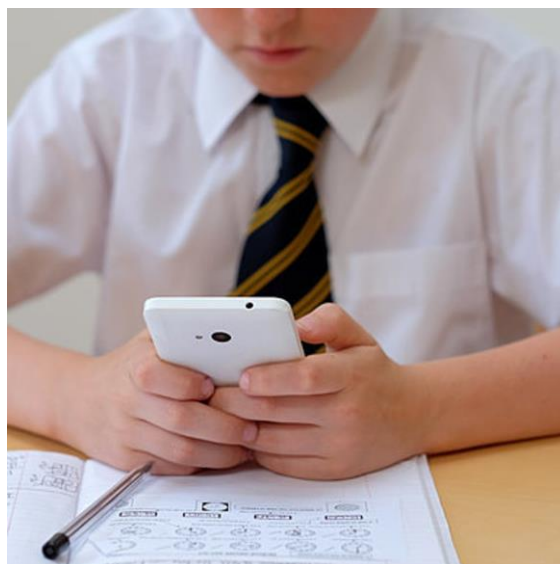
23rd February 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Here are this week's messages.

Uniform & Conduct Assemblies

This week, each year group have had an assembly reinforcing the college's expectations on Uniform and Conduct. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you about the rules regarding mobile phones as it has had media coverage over the last few days. Whilst mobile phones can be brought to the college, they are not to be seen, heard or used at any time whilst on the premises. This includes at break and lunch times, during transitions, and before the bell goes to mark the start of the school day. Under no circumstances can mobile phones be used to or from the College to photograph or film any pupil or member of staff, without their permission. If a pupil breaches any of these rules then his/her mobile phone will be confiscated and sanctions issued. Last year, Unesco called for smartphones to be banned from schools as evidence showed it was linked to reduced educational performance and that excessive screen time had a negative impact on childrens' wellbeing. Please monitor your child's screen time at home.



Industrial Strike Action

The Unite, GMB and Siptu unions have notified Translink of a 72-hour industrial strike action for 27th, 28th and 29th February. Pupils may have to make alternative plans to get to school on these days if this industrial strike action should take place as it would impact on bus transport.

Year 11 Reports

Parents/Guardians of Yr. 11 pupils have been posted their child's annual report. Please take note of your child's attendance, achievement points and behaviour points. A copy of this summer's public examination timetable has also been enclosed with your child's report. The GCSE Examination timetables for both Yr. 11 and Yr.12 pupils are also available on the School App.

Yr. 10 Parent/Teacher Day & Options presentation: Tuesday 5th March

The Yr. 10 Parent/Teacher Day will take place on Tuesday 5th March from 12.45pm until 3.15pm. Your child's report will be available for collection on this day. Parents/Guardians are also invited to attend an Options presentation which will take place from 12.15pm until 12.45pm in the Main Hall. Yr. 10 pupils are asked to attend with their parents/guardians but do not have to be in school uniform. It is asked that parents/guardians

demonstrate respect to our staff members at all times on this day particularly in the presence of their child. The college does not want to be put in a position where a meeting has to be terminated due to the conduct of a parent/guardian. If this was to happen, then the parent/guardian would have to leave the premises as no further meetings with any staff members would be permitted to take place. Many thanks in advance for your cooperation.



Closure

The College will be closed for all pupils on Tuesday 5th March due to the Yr. 10 Parent/Teacher Day. The only pupils who are expected on site are the Yr. 10 pupils to accompany their parents/guardians.

A Message for the parents/guardians of Yr. 12 pupils

A social event is taking place involving Yr.12 pupils on the evening of Friday 15th March. Staff members have been informed not to be involved in any transactions relating to this gathering as it is not a school event. No staff member can be involved in distributing letters or collecting money. There are apparently other pupils from other schools attending so St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College will not be accepting any responsibility for what could take place particularly as the level of adult supervision is unknown. It is for these reasons that staff members have been reminded of the risks regarding this event and are therefore advised not to attend.

Trocaire's Lent Appeal 2024

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 next week is 'Lent' and there will be talks taking place to Yr. 9 (Thursday 7th March) and Yr. 8 (Friday 9th March) by a representative from Trocaire. This representative will also lead the Lent Reflection before school on the morning of Friday 8th March. Our first Lent reflection took place before school this morning. The dates of the next Lent Reflection mornings before school in Room 9 are Friday 1st March, Friday 8th March and Friday 22nd March.



Netball

Training for Year 8 Girls continues to take place on a Thursday during 5A lunch. Key Stage 3 Girls will be playing St. Colm's, Draperstown on Thursday 29th March. Best of luck!

Gaelic Games

Gaelic football training takes place for girls in Key Stage 3 on a Thursday after school. Venue: 3G pitch. The girls will be playing a provincial game on Tuesday 27th March. Best of luck!



Thank you to our Yr. 8/9 Boys Gaelic Football team who represented the College brilliantly at a blitz today.

Congratulations

Congratulations to one of our Yr. 12 pupils, Aidan, who secured the junior prize at the Strabane-Lifford Triathlon Club 5kms with a time of 16 mins & 52 secs.

Key Dates

Some key dates:

Friday 1st March
Tuesday 5th March

Lent Reflection in Room 9 before school (8.45 - 9.05 am)
Year 10 Parent/Teacher Day & Options presentation (College closed)

Final Prayer

Ash Wednesday (last week during the half term break) marked the start of Lent. This Lenten period allows us time to repent, fast and pray in the preparation for the Resurrection of Jesus.

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth;

you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism.

Look upon us during these 40 days bearing the mark of ashes,

and bless the journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth.

Amen.

Yours sincerely,



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

