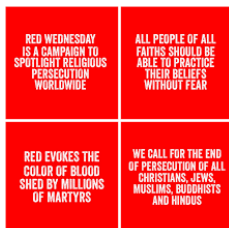




24th November 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Aid to the Church in Need – 'Red Wednesday': 22nd November

On Wednesday and during the month of November, Aid to the Church in Need encourages Catholics to 'break the silence on the persecution of Christian and all faiths, globally.' More information can be found on the following website which also allows you to make a donation: <https://acnuk.org/>

Industrial Strike Action: Wednesday 29th November

In the interests of health and safety, it has been determined that **St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College will be closed to pupils on the morning of Wednesday 29th November** due to industrial strike action taking place by five teaching unions across Northern Ireland. There will be partial opening of the college with the following arrangements in place for the afternoon:

- Pupils can only come on to the site from 12.05 p.m.
- Pupils will be going to Form class from 12.05 - 12.15 p.m.
- **All** classes will begin at 12:15 p.m. Lessons which would normally take place during Period 5B (12.55 - 1.35 p.m.) will take place during Period 5A (12.15 - 12.55 p.m.).
- All pupils and staff will have lunch from 12.55-1.35 p.m. Canteen facilities will be available for those pupils who come into school for the afternoon session.



Pupils who are not going to be able to attend on this day are expected to complete school related activities at home. There will be further information shared next week should the college become aware of the arrangements for bus services on Wednesday 29th November.



Senior Prizegiving: Thursday 30th November

We look forward to welcoming back last year's Year 12 and their parents/guardians on Thursday to celebrate their successes. Some of our current Year 12 pupils will also be attending along with members of the Head Prefect team. Any current pupils attending are reminded that they must be in uniform.

Advent Reflection Morning: Friday 1st December

Following on from the success of the Rosary Club in October there will be an 'Advent reflection' taking place in Room 9 for pupils and staff before school (8.50-9.10 a.m.) during December. The dates for the 'Advent reflection' are as follows: Friday 1st December, Friday 8th December, Friday 15th December and Wednesday 20th December.



Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day: Friday 1st December

We look forward to welcoming Year 8 parents and guardians to the college next Friday. Year 8 pupils will not be in lessons on this day but must attend the meeting with their Form tutor.

Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 Parent/Teacher Day on Tuesday 12 December: College closed for pupils.

Tuesday 12th December is Parent/Teacher Day for Year 11 (12.45 - 3.15 p.m.) and Year 12 (9.30 - 12.00 p.m.) so the **college will be closed for all year groups**. Year 11 and Year 12 pupils are asked to attend with their parents/guardians to meet their teachers but do not have to be in uniform. All other year groups will be at home working on school related tasks. The morning and afternoon sessions for Year 11 and Year 12 will run on a first come, first served basis. Meetings will be 5 mins and teachers will be prioritising their class groups rather than their Form group.

Christmas Hamper Appeal

Please check that your son/daughter has contributed to our Christmas Hamper Appeal. We are also accepting any unwanted presents as well as food items.

Gaelic Games

We are delighted to inform you that one of our Year 12 pupils, Blain, has been selected for the Derry Minor Gaelic Football panel. Blain is a great athlete, and we wish him the very best for the season ahead. He is an excellent role model for our younger pupils!



Key Dates

Friday 1 st December	Year 8 Parent/Tutor
Tuesday 12 th December	Year 11 & Year 12 Parent/Teacher Day (college closed for pupils)
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas lunch
Last Day of Term is on Thursday 21st December – 12.00 p.m. finish.	

Final Prayer

Tuesday 21 November marked the day of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary when we celebrated the dedication which Mary made to God from her childhood, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit who filled her with grace.

*As we venerate the glorious memory of the most holy Virgin Mary,
grant, we pray, O Lord, through her intercession,
that we, too, may merit to receive from the fullness of your grace.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

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

