



27th October 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,



Liam Peoples RIP

We were saddened to learn of the death of Liam Peoples, Club Secretary at Claudy John Mitchel's GAC. Liam was very supportive of the college and John Mitchel's GAC have always been most generous regarding the use of their facilities. Deepest condolences to Liam's family, friends and to all connected to John Mitchel's GAC and our Parish. Thank you to the staff members and pupils who attended Liam's funeral to represent the college and be part of the guard of honour.

Mary, Queen of the Gael, pray for Liam.

Day of Prayer for Peace

Thank you to our Rosary Club who marked the occasion this morning and to the R.E department for bringing a group of pupils together during P.1 at the local Chapel and P.6 in the Main Hall. The Pope repeated his call for prayer and fasting for today for those who are suffering because of recent events in the Middle East:

"Brothers and sisters, war does not resolve any problem. It only sows death and destruction. It increases hatred, multiplies revenge. War cancels the future, it cancels the future," he said, and urged believers "to take only one part in this conflict, that of peace. Not of words, but prayer and total dedication." To this end, he announced today as a day of prayer and fasting for peace, and invited believers of various Christian confessions and those belonging to other religious traditions to join, as well as all those "who carry in their heart the cause of peace in the world."



Bun Sale

Thank you to all of the pupils, staff and parents/guardians who contributed to our bun sale yesterday. £326.00 was raised! There will be another opportunity for pupils to purchase buns on Friday 17th November which is also Odd Socks Day! Funds raised will be going towards our Christmas hamper initiative.

Celebration

As we have come to the end of the first half term of this year, we have been having celebration assemblies this week to mark the achievements of our pupils. These pupils can be justly proud of their achievements during this half term whether in the academic, sporting or other spheres. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff members and to you as parents/guardians to help make these successes possible. It is now time to recharge the batteries so that we can all face the next half term with energy and enthusiasm. On a personal level, I am grateful for the warm welcome I have received at the college – thank you!



Attendance Matters

Congratulations to Year 8 who were top of the leader board for attendance during this half term. Parents/guardians are reminded not to take their child on holiday during term time.

Year 8: **95%**

Year 9: 92.5%

Year 10: 91%

Year 11: 90%

Year 12: 91%

Parents/guardians will be kept informed regarding their child's attendance should it fall to below 85%.

60th Anniversary Celebration: 1963-2023

During this academic year we will be celebrating our 60th Anniversary at the college. If you have any old photographs from the last 60 years, then please email these to info@spbcollege.claudy.ni.sch.uk



Communication

Parents/guardians should check their 'junk folder' for any email they might be expecting from the college. On occasions, parents/guardians have stated that they have not received an email but subsequently contacted the college stating that it was in their 'junk folder'.

Examinations

Some pupils will be sitting public examinations during November once the college re-opens following the one-week break. Please ensure your son/daughter is fully prepared and brings the necessary equipment. It is essential pupils arrive on time for these important examinations.

Reconstitution of School Boards of Governors

The Department of Education (DE) and Education Authority (EA) are jointly launching a recruitment campaign on Monday 6th November inviting applications for school governor positions in all controlled and maintained schools. School Boards of Governors are normally reconstituted every four years. As the term of office for existing governors is coming to an end, there is now a need for people with a range of skills and experience to support the management of schools across Northern Ireland. Applications are being encouraged from a diverse range of people from various backgrounds with different skills and experiences. Applicants interested in applying to become a school governor can apply at the following:

- for DE governor positions at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/school-governorappointments>
- for EA positions at <https://www.eani.org.uk/schoolgovernance/becoming-a-school-governor>

A range of content will be made available on the DE, EA and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS) websites and social media platforms.

Music Department

Drum lessons and brass tuition is now available for pupils. Those who might be interested should see our Subject Leader for Music at the college, Mr Doherty.

Singing lessons are also available from an experienced musician/tutor and each lesson will last 30 minutes. An individual lesson will cost £12.00, group of 2: £7.00 each and group of 3: £5.00 each.

All lessons have to be paid for in advance.



Give Blood

There will an opportunity to give blood at The Diamond Centre in Claudy on Friday 10th November. To book an appointment call 08085534653. Times are: 12.30pm-4.30pm and 5.00pm-7.00pm.

Clocks

On Sunday 29th October at 2 a.m. the clocks will go back by one hour marking the end of British Summer Time.

Gaelic Games

Congratulations to the Yr. 9 & Yr. 10 boys Gaelic team who played in an Ulster schools Gaelic Football blitz on Monday. The boys have progressed to the Gerry Brown Shield quarter finals.



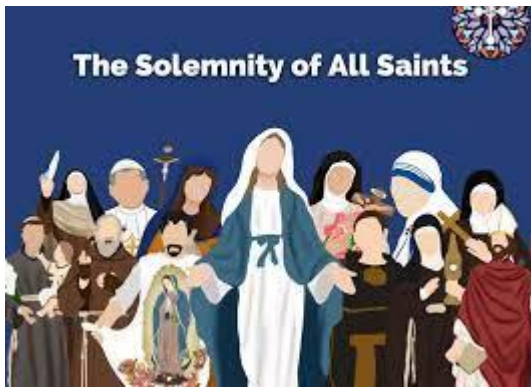
Winter Uniform

With the cooler and more wet autumnal weather now beginning, some pupils have started to wear outdoor coats. Please can I therefore remind you of the outdoor uniform requirements. We would like pupils to be warm when travelling to and from the college and pupils are able to wear an outdoor coat over their blazer - any plain black or navy coat is acceptable. In addition, any hats, scarfs, or gloves should be plain black or navy only. Outdoor clothing can be worn outside but is not permitted to be worn inside. The heating will be on every day until the weather warms again. Please ensure your son's/daughter's over coat enables his/her blazer to be worn. Layering keeps in the heat more and pupils should not be carrying their blazers whilst wearing outdoor clothing.

Key Dates

Monday 30th Oct – Friday 3rd Nov
W/b Monday 6th Nov
Sunday 6th Nov
Thursday 16th Nov
Friday 17th Nov
Thursday 30th Nov
Friday 1st Dec
Thursday 21st Dec

Half-Term break
National Chemistry Week
Diocesan Mass for Deceased Children and Young
Staff Development Day ([school closure for pupils](#))
Odd Socks Day
Prize Giving Evening (7.00 p.m. start)
Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day
Last Day of Term (12.00 finish)



All Saints and All Souls Day

All Saints Day, followed by All Souls Day on Thursday 2nd November 2023 occurs during the half term break. This is an opportunity for our community to commemorate the faithfully departed and pray for the dearly departed souls of people who are in purgatory.

*Merciful Father, hear our prayer and console us.
As we renew our faith in Your Son, whom You raised from the dead, strengthen our hope that all our departed brothers and*

sisters will share in His Resurrection, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.

Amen.

Wishing you a restful and enjoyable half term break and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 6th November for the final half term of Autumn.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. McCullagh'.

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

