



13th December 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Reminder: End of Term Arrangements – Thursday 19th December

The term finishes on Thursday 19th December with pupils being dismissed at the earlier time of 12.00 midday. Pupils should bring snack items for their break. The college re-opens again for pupils on Monday 6th January 2025.

Safeguarding

All members of St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College staff, both teaching and support, are trained in safeguarding, are alert to the possible signs of child abuse and are aware of the guidelines and procedures to follow if abuse is suspected. We have now expanded our team to include Ms A Mellon. Ms Mellon has now completed both her Operation Encompass training and Child Protection & Safeguarding training.

Please see the named contacts below if a parent/guardian needs to report any concerns:

Designated Lead - Mr B Rainey

Deputy Designated Teacher – Ms A Mellon

Deputy Designated Teacher – Mr P McCullagh

Support Services:

Learning Mentor - Ethel (Yr. 8, 9 & 10)

Wellbeing Lead – Blinne (Yr. 11 & Yr. 12)

Counsellor – Michaela

Additional Support Agencies:

Childline – 0800 1111 www.childline.org.uk

NSPCC – 020 7825 2500 www.nspcc.org.uk

Action for Children – 0300 1232112 <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk>



NSPCC



Christmas Hamper Draw for SVP – Prize Winners & Sponsors

Thank you to Siobhan McLaughlin for organising the Christmas Hamper Draw. =

Congratulations to Mr Shaun McLaughlin (1st prize) and Mrs Una O'Connor (2nd prize). Many thanks to the following groups who kindly provided items for the Hampers:

- O'Kane Meats
- Lynch's Spar
- Fat Fox Café
- CYB Barbers
- Arch Rival Nails
- Costcutters
- Bradley's Chemist
- Macons Bar
- Glamour Hair &
- Staff members from St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College.



Canteen

Thank you to the team of staff who prepared a turkey dinner for our pupils and staff members on Wednesday and Thursday this week. It was delicious!



Christmas Jumper Day for SVP – Tuesday 17th December

On Tuesday 17th December, pupils will be allowed to wear a Christmas themed jumper in place of their school uniform jumper. All the other uniform requirements remain the same. Pupils may choose to wear one of their Christmas jumpers already purchased or they may decorate any jumper with some tinsel or other Christmas decorations. We are not expecting families to purchase a new Christmas jumper for this event. If anyone needs help with decorating a jumper, please ask your child to see his/her Form Tutor for assistance. Pupils are asked to donate

£1.00 and staff members will be donating £2.00.

Carol Service – Wednesday 18th December

On Wednesday the 18th of December we will have our annual Carole service in the local Church. This is for Key Stage 3 pupils and will be live streamed to Key Stage 4 pupils. Pupils will share scripture readings and prayers welcoming the coming of Christ with the encouraging message of growing in trust and patience.



Advent Reflection – Thursday 19th December

The final Advent reflection will take place before school on Thursday morning in the R.E department. This is for both staff members and pupils. It will start at 8.50 a.m. and end at 9.05 a.m.

Support at Christmas

Here are two options of support schemes for parents/guardians at Christmas:

Option 1: £200 electric with Brysen Electric, for low-income households. You will need a screenshot of Universal Credit award, a photograph of your current electric balance from keypad, and a photograph of your last top up receipt as well as electric card number. Speak to Waterside Neighbourhood Partnership for referral by either them or they will signpost you to nearest Community Centre who will act as referral hub.





Option 2: Another scheme is through The Churches Trust, it's called 'The Pantry Project'. For families struggling with groceries not just this Christmas. Families pay £5 per week and depending on family size they will receive up to 30kg of groceries weekly, for 6 weeks. After 6 weeks it will be £5 per month up to 9 months. Included in this is financial help to ensure families are receiving the correct entitlements.

Sport - GAA

Congratulations to our Yr. 9/Yr.10 boys' team who won Ulster's Nannery Shield competition. The defeated St. Patrick's, Dungiven 6-12 to 1-9 in yesterday's final in Owenbeg. A superb second half performance saw the boys pull away. Thank you to the coaches Mr Ball and Mr White for their commitment. Comhghairdeas Naomh Phádraig & Naomh Bríd's Coláiste, Cloídígh!

Starting team: Jarlath McTaggart, Ryan O'Hara, Orran McGivern, Joe Peoples, Aidan McKeever, Eoghan O'Connor, Caolan Loughery, Daithi O'Doherty, Shea McCloskey, Paddy Donaghy, Darragh O'Connor (Capt.) (0-4), Kai Loughnane (0-1), Cahan Dalton-Murphy (2-0), Liam Gillespie (1-1), Sean Hargan (3-6)



Sport - Soccer

Good luck to our Yr. 9 and Yr. 10 Soccer team who play in the U14 NIFSA Cup against Lisneal College on Monday. The team will be leaving the college at 10.30 a.m.

Key Dates

Tuesday 17th December
Wednesday 18th December
Thursday 19th December
Monday 6th January

Christmas Jumper Day & Prize Draw for SVP
Carol Service at 2.40 p.m.
Term 1 ends at 12.00 p.m.
Term 2 begins

Final prayer

All-powerful God,
increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to
his side in the kingdom of heaven,
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen

Yours sincerely,

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

