



24th October 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some information for you:



Book Week Northern Ireland

This week was Book Week Northern Ireland. Pupils were given additional time to read for joy and a group of our pupils visited St. Colmcille's P.S to read to younger children.

Celebration Assemblies

Each day this week we have been celebrating with each year group the successes from over this first half-term. We gathered this morning for our final Celebration Assembly of the week to share in all of the Year 8 successes. We celebrated our pupils' attendance, effort and achievement. We are so proud of how our Year 8's have settled in this half-term and continue to grow in confidence each day.



Study Skills Workshop – Year 11

A group of Year 11 pupils were involved today in a Study Skills workshop facilitated by Aidan McLaughlin from the Manchester United Foundation. We wish our pupils who are sitting public examinations after the break the very best of luck.

Canteen – New Catering Manager

We welcome Frances Gormley to the college as the new Catering Manager.





Remembering our Beloved Dead

On Monday 3rd November 2025, there will be a prayer reflection in the college memorial garden which will be attended by representatives from each Form. The reflection will be led by Fr. O’Kane. The theme for Collective Worship for the W/b Monday 3rd November is ‘Remembrance – Holy Souls’.

U16 Girls Gaelic Football

Our U16 Girls Gaelic team have progressed to the next stage of the U16 Ulster Schools Competition.

We wish them the best of luck.



Mobile phones – Year 10

You will probably be aware that we piloted a new procedure as part of our 'Acceptable Use of Mobile phone policy' from September with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils. The pilot involved collecting mobile phones in at the beginning of the school day and returning them at the end. The reason for the trialling this new procedure was the thought that restricting mobile phone access may help create an even healthier school culture and help reduce the pressure of constant digital connection. It is accepted that prohibiting mobile phone use during the school day is likely to reduce the opportunities for online harassment and cyberbullying, which can negatively impact pupil wellbeing. It has been a highly successful pilot in this half-term so we are now going to be extending this pilot to Year 10 in the next half-term. If a pupil in Year 10 needs to leave the school site for an appointment or if they are feeling poorly then they can collect their mobile phone from the office. Mobile phones are secured safely in a lockable storage unit.

The findings from our trial this half term are as follows:

- 100% of responses found the trial *Excellent* (85%) or *Very Good* (15%)
- 100% of responses said they would like to see the pilot extended to Year 10
- Some other feedback:
 - *“Great idea. The difference in focus and attention span is excellent. Very effective.”*
 - *“Great scheme and it is working very well. I have asked my form class about their phones and a number of them said " I don't miss my phone as not having it in school is normal now". Pupils are more engaged in class also and I feel I have more time to focus on teaching rather than trying to get phones off them.”*

If you have any queries/queries relating to this then please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form tutor this week before the procedure starts immediately after next week's half term break.

I hope that you and your families have a restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on Monday 3rd November. We keep in our prayers pupils who will be sitting GCSE examinations when they return.

A reminder that the clocks go back on 26th October at 2 am, marking the end of British Summer Time (BST).

Key Dates:

W/b Monday 27 th October	Half Term Break
Tuesday 4 th November	Yr 12 Parent Teacher Meeting (4.00-6.15pm)
Wednesday 19 th November	Senior Prizegiving (7.00pm)
Thursday 27 th November	Primary School Cross Country Event
Friday 28 th November	Yr 8 Parent Tutor Day
Tues 9 th – Thurs 11 th December	Shrek the Musical

Final Prayer

*Dear Lord,
thank you for this holiday and for the opportunity to rest from our daily routines.
Please watch over us as we travel and rest, protect us from harm, and bring us safely home again,
refreshed and renewed.
Help us to relax and enjoy the present moment, whatever it may bring.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,



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

