



11th October 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some information for you:

Tuesday 19th November

The quality of learning and teaching provided at school significantly impacts your child's academic outcomes and hence, their life chances. Therefore, as with other schools, we always plan ways for staff members to receive ongoing high-quality professional development. We are contractually bound to schedule our professional development and training within certain hours of 'directed time', and I have decided that investing in additional training time this term will pay dividends in the future in terms of the progress made by your children. To create the necessary directed time for training, the college will only be open to pupils in Key Stage 4 (Yr. 11 & Yr. 12) who are sitting public examinations. There will be no lunch arrangements, but pupils may want to bring a snack item to school and a bottle of water. All pupils on site must have left the premises after their public examination. If this is going to prove problematic for you then please inform your child's Form tutor with at least one week's notice so that alternative arrangement can be made. I hope this does not cause you too much inconvenience.



National Biology Week

This week is National Biology Week. One example of activities taking place included Mr Doherty's Yr 10 class helping out with the dissection of a heart and lungs as part of their Good Health topic.

World Mental Health Day

Yesterday was World Mental Health Day.

We are fortunate to have our own full time Wellbeing Lead, Blinne. Blinne is empowering our pupils, helping them on their journey to a brighter future.

The role of our Wellbeing Lead is to promote positive wellbeing through the delivery of a wellbeing curriculum by normalising pupil psychological fitness and resilience. We have a welcoming space called the Wellbeing Hub, where pupils can go and have dedicated sessions. Key Stage 4 pupils can speak to their Form tutors regarding how they can access this dedicated support.

Photographs

School photographs for Yr. 8 pupils are now available to order. Your child will be bringing the order forms home over the next few days. All orders must be in school by **Friday 25th October**.

Prizegiving

Each year we are delighted to welcome pupils back to celebrate their achievements in their GCSE's at a Prizegiving ceremony. This year, the ceremony will take place on Thursday 21st November and our special guests will be as follows:

- Miss Aoife Harvey (*Sustainable Fashion Designer & Winner of BBC NI's 'A Stitch through Time'*)
- Mr Stephen Barker (*Head of Operations, Derry GAA*)
- Mr Chris Quinn (*Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People*)



Wear It Pink

On Friday 18th October a number of our staff members will be 'wearing it pink' for **Breast Cancer Now**. If any pupil or family would like to support such an amazing charity, then they can contribute by donating via their Form Tutor. This will help raise money for life-changing breast cancer research and support.

Prisoners' Sunday

The National Day of Prayer and Action falls on Sunday 13th October. It is an important opportunity to direct our prayers and thoughts to the needs of prisoners and their families and also those who work to support all those affected.

Reflection Morning

Reflection took place this morning and we were delighted Fr. O' Kane could join us. Reflection will take place each Friday morning before school from 8.50 a.m. until 9.05 a.m. during the month of October. This is open to both pupils and staff members.

Venue: Room 10. The next reflection morning will take place on Friday 18th October.

Gaelic



The U16.5 team took part in a blitz day on Wednesday at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown in a bid to qualify for the quarter final of the Danske Bank Ulster Schools McCormack Cup. They won two of their three group games (against De La Salle Belfast and St. John the Baptist Portadown) but narrowly missed out on qualification by virtue of score difference (one point) as three teams finished on two wins. The boys performed admirably and were a pleasure to coach. **Mr Rainey & Mr White**



Claudy U.13 Girls

Congratulations to 10 of our girls who represented Claudy GAA and who recently won the Martin McGuinness Shield.

An excellent achievement.

Soccer

St. Joseph's College, Derry lived up to their favourites tag defeating our new crop of soccer stars.

The boys put in a gritty performance against strong opposition, managing to score 3 fantastic goals, from MJ McColgan, Harry Duddy and Travis Viljoen.

Special mention to Aaron McDonnell who was excellent in goals, receiving praise from teammates and opposition coaches!



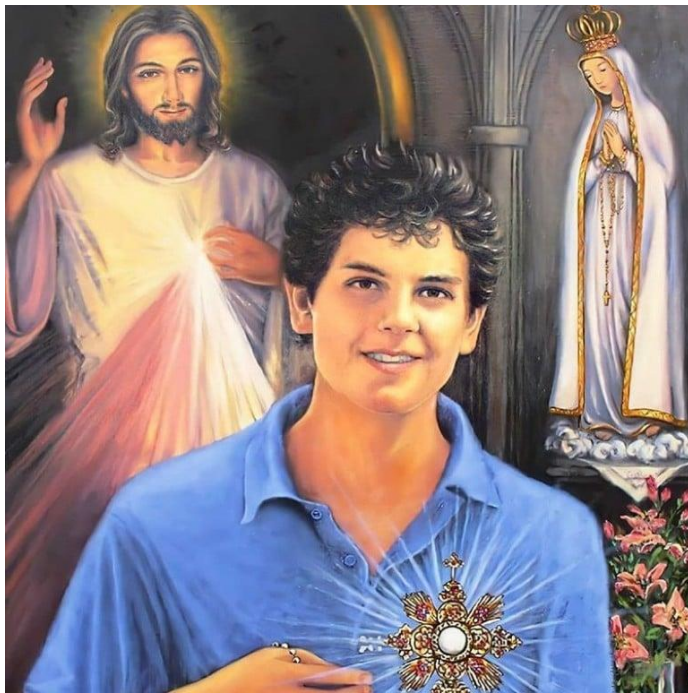
Key Dates

W/b Monday 14th October
Friday 18th October
Friday 25th October
W/b Monday 28th October

Tracking 1 Begins
Reflection Morning (8.50 - 9.05 am) in Room 10
Deadline for Yr. 8 photograph orders
Half term Break

Final Prayer

Tomorrow is the feast day of St. Carlo Acutis and here is a prayer to him:



*O God our Father,
we thank you for giving us Carlo,
a model of life for young people,
and a message of love for all.
You made him fall in love with your son Jesus,
making the Eucharist his "highway to heaven."
You gave him Mary as a beloved mother,
and you made him, through the Rosary,
a cantor of her tenderness.
Receive his prayer for us.
Look above all upon the poor, whom he loved and
assisted.
Grant me too, through his intercession, the grace
that I need (mention your intention).
And make our joy full, raising Carlo among
the saints of your Church,
so that his smile shines again for us
to the glory of your name.*

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

P. McCullagh

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

