



13th September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some important information for you:

Death of former pupil



Our college community has been devastated to learn of the tragic death of former pupil, Noah Karran, who was only 18 years old. Noah died in a single vehicle car crash in Park yesterday morning. Noah was an outgoing pupil during his time at the college. He was humorous, generous and was very well liked by all. Noah was kind and had a great interest in Business and I.T. We will keep Noah's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

Parent Information Evenings

Many thanks to the parents/guardians who attended the Parent Information sessions this week. A copy of the booklet shared with parents/guardians is available on the college website. Go to the '**Learning**' tab and select '**Parents Events 2024/25**'.

History Department

All Year 11 and Year 12 History groups have been added to a History Team Chat. Parents/guardians are asked to ensure that their child accesses this information if they are studying GCSE History.

Collective Worship

The themes for this half term's Collective Worship are as follows:

W/b 2nd September: '**Welcome**'

W/b 9th September: '**Self-regulation**'

W/b 16th September: '**Creation**'

W/b 23rd September: '**Leadership**'

W/b 30th September: '**Biodiversity**'

W/b 7th October: '**St. Francis of Assisi**'



2025: 'Year of the Jubilee'

2023 was the 'Year of the Council', 2024 was the 'Year of Prayer' and 2025 will be the 'Year of the Jubilee'. Pope Francis said: *"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision. The forthcoming Jubilee can contribute greatly to restoring a climate of hope and trust as a prelude to the renewal and rebirth that we so urgently desire..."*

More information about the 2025 Jubilee Year can be accessed from the following link:
www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/lettera-di-papa-francesco.html

R.S.E

During this academic year, the college will be delivering Relationships and Sexuality education (R.S.E) in line with our statutory obligation. We will be exploring topics which will be delivered in a very sensitive and age-appropriate way. The college's programme will be delivered firmly within the context of the Church's teaching on sexuality and the college will be using approved resources from the Catholic Schools Trustee Service (CSTS) which you can access here: <https://catholiceducation-ni.org/post-primary-rse-resource-living-love/>

A copy of the school's draft policy has been available on the School App and if you would like to provide any feedback then email info@spbcollege.claudy.ni.sch.uk Please put 'R.S.E Feedback' in the subject of the email and all feedback is requested by 12.00 on Monday 30th September.

School Levy

I am appealing to parents/guardians to donate to the school levy to help fund the numerous opportunities for extra-curricular development. Over the years the generous donations of our parents/guardians have supported the extensive extra-curricular programme of which the college is rightly proud.

We ask for a contribution of £30.00 per pupil.

Extra Curricular Activities

In last week's newsletter, you will have read our range of sports clubs available and these are also listed on the School App. We offer an Eco Club, the College Choir, Journalism Club and an Art club in addition to our sporting provision. Research suggests that attending extra-curricular clubs regularly helps to extend pupils' social networks; develop new skills and enhance pupils' academic motivation, aspirations and achievement. Please encourage your son/daughter to get involved.

Music Department

Music lessons are available in the following instruments: Violin, Woodwind, Brass and Drums. A specialist tutor from the Education Authority Music Service will be providing quality tuition in the college during the school day. Pupils should speak to Mr. Doherty for more information if they are interested. There is also information on the School App regarding Singing lessons and instrumental tuition in Guitar and Piano. Choir rehearsals will take place in the Music room on Mondays from 3.40-4.30pm and these begin on Monday.



Homework Club

Homework Club will take place Monday-Thursday (3.45pm-4.30pm) in Room I.T 3. Homework Club begins on Monday. This is a great opportunity for pupils to complete their homework in a supervised environment with access to I.T hardware.

Examinations

Parents/Guardians of Yr. 11 & Yr. 12 pupils are asked to record the dates of the GCSE examinations taking place in November 2024 and in February 2025. These timetables are also available on the School App. There is also helpful information for pupils on the college website under '**Learning**' and '**Exams & Assessments**' on '*preparing to sit your exams*'.

Yr. 12 Study Skills

On Friday 20th September, Yr. 12 pupils will be delivered sessions on 'Study Skills' by an external company called 'Learn Spark'. It is imperative that all Yr. 12 pupils are in attendance on this day.

Medical Information/Dietary Requirements

The college should be notified about any new/existing medical conditions. All medication required for example, inhalers and epi-pens etc. should be in date. We should also be informed of any dietary needs and parents/guardians are reminded that we are a Nut-Free school. Please ensure that your child is aware of this and does not bring any nut-based products to the college at any time.

Key Dates

Monday 16 th September	Homework Club starts in Room IT3 (3.45-4.30pm)
Monday 16 th September	Choir rehearsals begin in the Music Room (3.45-4.30pm)
Friday 20 th September	Study Skills for Yr. 12 pupils by Learn Spark

Final Prayer

*God of love and life,
We pray for every member of our community, both close to home and
globally, who has returned to school.
We pray for their places of education to be overflowing with creativity,
inspiration and opportunity.
We pray for your peace to fill the classrooms and dining halls, the
playgrounds and school buses.
We pray that you will equip the teachers, classroom assistants and staff with the tools they need to help
the children and young people in their care to fulfil their potential.
We commend our children and young people into your care.
Amen.*

Yours sincerely,

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