



27th September 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Some information for you:



New Beginnings Mass for Yr. 8

Thank you to Fr. David O’Kane, the R.E and Music departments who organised the lovely ‘New Beginnings’ Mass for Yr. 8 pupils this afternoon.

Sincere thanks to the parents/guardians who were also able to attend.

Safeguarding

We place much emphasis on our pastoral responsibility for the young people in our care and the welfare of the child is paramount. All members of St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College staff, both teaching and support, are trained in child protection, are alert to the possible signs of child abuse and are aware of the guidelines and procedures to follow if abuse is suspected.

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

Designated Lead - Mr B Rainey

Deputy Designated Teacher - Mr P McCullagh

Support Services in school

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

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

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>



Senior Executive Officer

Monday will be Pat Gillen's last day at St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College. She has served close to a decade at the college but has contributed much, much longer to the wider education sector as a whole. We wish Pat the best for her retirement. Sincere thanks to her for her dedication, commitment, and hard work over the years. Claire Glenn will be taking up the position as Senior Executive Officer from Tuesday 1st October.



'Claudy Formal'

Some Yr. 12 pupils are organising a formal on Thursday 13th February (6.00 - 11.00pm) at the Drummond Hotel, Ballykelly. Parents/guardians should note that this is **not a St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College event**. Staff members will therefore not be in attendance. There is a risk of staff members not knowing which other minors could be in attendance and the sharing of photographs/videos on social media platforms. Yr. 12 Form tutors have been asked to remain vigilant regarding this event, to not permit the distribution of any letters during Form time and to report the exchanging of any money to the senior leadership team. The distribution of letters and collection of money are not permitted to take place in school as this is not a college event.

Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) Draft Policy & Survey

You will be aware that the college is currently consulting on a new RSE policy. The deadline for emailing your views regarding this is 12.00 on Monday. Mrs O'Connor has also created a short questionnaire on R.S.E which you are encouraged to complete: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BVR9F3V>

School Levy

Small brown envelopes were distributed to pupils on Tuesday. I am appealing to parents/guardians to donate to the school levy to help fund the numerous opportunities for extra-curricular development. We ask for a contribution of £30.00 per pupil. **The deadline for returning the £30.00 contribution in the brown envelope is Tuesday 1st October.** The envelope should be returned to your son's/daughter's Form Tutor.

Reflection Morning – Each Friday in October

The month of October is dedicated to the Rosary. Reflection mornings will take place each Friday morning before school from 8.50am until 9.05am. This is open to both pupils and staff members.

Venue: Room 10. The first reflection morning will take place on Friday 4th October.

European Day of Languages

Thank you to Mrs O'Connor and pupil representatives from the college who visited local Primary Schools this week to mark yesterday's European Day of Languages.



Homework

Homework is a vital part of independent learning. It provides opportunities to further understanding of work completed in class and enables young people to develop important skills such as the ability to study and work independently whilst taking pride in their work and developing a curiosity towards deeper learning.

Time spent doing homework will vary for each pupil but here are some recommendations:

- Year 8/9 - 60 minutes each weekday evening
20 mins: Reading, 20 mins: Maths/English, 20 mins: Subject homework
- Year 10 - 1 hour 20 mins each weekday evening
20 mins: Reading, 30 mins: Maths/English, 30 mins: Subject homework
- Year 11/12 - 2 hours each weekday evening
30 mins: Reading, 30 mins: Maths/English 90 mins: Subject homework



Lost Property

Please may we request that all items of uniform and any personal belongings (such as water bottles, pencil cases etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name and form group. This will enable us to reunite pupils with their lost belongings as swiftly as possible.

Parking

Parents/guardians are asked to not drop their children off or pick them up at the main gate. This is creating an unnecessary risk for our pupils and staff members both before school and after school. Many thanks in advance for your co-operation.



Gaelic Sports

Football: Thank you to the 59 local entrepreneurs who have paid to enter the draw to be named this year's Headline Sponsor for our Senior Boys Gaelic Football Team.

The winner will have their name branded on this year's training kit as St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College aim to regain the Ulster Schools McCormack Cup.

The draw will take place on Friday 27th September at 12.00 midday and can be viewed 'live' via Facebook.

Good luck to the players and management for the season ahead.



Camogie: Camogie training started last Monday after school and there was much interest from the girls.

Thank you to Miss McWilliams for running this extracurricular club.



Key Dates

Monday 30th September

Tuesday 1st October

Thursday 3rd October

Friday 4th October

Workshop for Yr. 8 pupils in the Assembly Hall

Workshop for Yr. 12 pupils in the Assembly Hall

National Poetry Day

Reflection Morning (8.50 - 9.05 am) in Room 10

Final Prayer

Pope Francis asks us in the month of September to pray for the Cry of the Earth, he encourages us to actively get involved in the fight against this global crisis.

Good Father, the cry of the earth strikes in the Heart of your Son Jesus and cries out to us "I want mercy and not sacrifices". Our Common Home implores us a bold and radical change in our way of life. We need courage, and a holy indignation to commit ourselves to a cultural change that welcomes the cry of the earth and the poor. We need the fire of your Holy Spirit to burn in our hearts, to contemplate and give thanks, to welcome and to care, so that we may all feel as one in you.

May our gestures of love and care for everyone and everything, rise up to You as a universal prayer of adoration, of thanksgiving and forgiveness. May our daily living reflect a temperate, and modest lifestyle that moderates how excessively greedy we tend to be with the world and each other. May we embrace this cry for help transforming it with our decisions into a loving and consoling melody.

Amen.

Yours sincerely,



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

