



22nd November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

End of Term – Thursday 19th December (12.00pm)

Message from Chair of Governors:

*'Firstly, I wanted to congratulate the college on its ETI inspection. I know how much effort went in from the team of staff as I was in school over Halloween as well as the weekend prior to the inspection. I felt so incredibly proud of the many successes the inspectors shared during the feedback meeting last Friday. In light of all the hard work from the staff and pupils I have asked Mr McCullagh if term could end 1 Day earlier so that our staff and pupils can have a Wellbeing Day on Friday 20th December. Governors are aware that there are a number of events still to take place over the next few weeks and how much the staff will be in need of a break at the end of term. The school management have informed the bus companies and the E.A Catering team that term will be ending at **12.00pm on Thursday 19th December** and not Friday 20th December. Finally, thank you to yourselves as parents/guardians for your level of engagement during the inspection via the questionnaires. The Wellbeing Day on Friday 20th December for our staff and pupils is a small gesture to thank you on behalf of the Board of Governors.'* H. Crossan.

Year 8 Parent/Tutor Day

Reminder for Yr. 8 Parents/Guardians: Parent/Tutor Day takes place in the Assembly Hall on Friday 29th November.



Advent Reflection

Advent reflection begins before school on Friday 29th November in Room 10. This is for both staff members and pupils. It will start at 8.50 a.m. and end at 9.05 a.m.

Key Stage 4 Prizegiving

Our Key Stage 4 Prizegiving had to be postponed on Thursday due to the weather. It will now take place at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 28th November. We look forward to welcoming back or former pupils and their parents/guardians.

Week of Witness



This week we participated in Aid to the Church in Need's 'Week of Witness'. The Week of Witness is an invitation to Christians across the island of Ireland to stand in solidarity with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ across the world. We prayed for persecuted Christians each morning during Collective Worship. Mrs Loughrey's Yr. 9's prayed the rosary in solidarity. Our Sacred Space was dressed in red as a symbol of their martyrdom. For more information visit <https://www.acnireland.org/>

Eco News

On Thursday we welcomed Gareth Lamrock from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to the college. Gareth delivered a Wheelie Big Challenge waste workshop to our Eco-Council. Pupils carried out a waste audit and are now ready to begin their waste campaign to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill from the college. SPBC Eco-Council will compete against other schools in the Wheelie Big Challenge; we wish them every success. Thank you to Gareth, for a very informative and enjoyable workshop.



Bun Sale

There will be a bun sale at break time on **Thursday 28th November**. All proceeds will go towards St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) who are our chosen charity this half terms. All donations of baked or bought goods will be gratefully appreciated.

SVP Hamper Collection

We are delighted to launch our Christmas Hamper Appeal for SVP. The RE Department kindly ask that all non-perishable food donations be brought to school on **Tuesday 3rd December**. Collection boxes will be in each Form room. These hampers will go a long way to help those in our community this Christmas. Thank you for your generosity.

Craft Fair & Santa Experience

We will be having a Craft Fair & Santa Experience here at the college from 12.00 - 4.00pm on **Saturday 30th November**. Please come and support what will be a lovely event to get you in the festive spirit.

The school is seeking donations from Parents/Guardians of the following items for the event.

The Bottle Stall – Any 'round' bottles e.g. Lemonade, body sprays, shampoo, wine bottles*, sauces etc.

Luxury Hamper Raffle – Items such as Boxes of Chocolates, Share bags of Crisps, Bottles of Wine*, Family size packets of biscuits etc.

The Refreshments Stall – Small cakes, biscuits, cupcakes, traybakes, kitkats, twixs (no nut-based foods please) etc.



The Santa Experience – Any old Christmas Trees, Working Lights or Decorations.

*Wine / Alcohol-based drinks should be delivered by the parent / an adult to the school.

All items should be left in the office for safekeeping.

All money raised from this school Christmas Event will be going to the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

Thank you for your support in advance and we hope to see you there!



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Key Dates

Thursday 28 th November	Key Stage 4 Prizegiving (7.00 p.m.)
Friday 29 th November	Yr. 8 Parent/Tutor Day
Saturday 30 th November	Craft Fair & Santa Experience (12.00 - 4.00 p.m.)
Monday 9 th December	Winter Tests Begin
Wednesday 18 th December	Carol Service (PM)
Thursday 19 th December	Term ends at 12.00 p.m.

Final prayer

Father, we remember how your Son,
during the time of his ministry on earth,
had great compassion for those who suffered.

We bring to you those who still suffer as the result of war.

Hear our prayer, Father, for those who live with the pain and scars of bodily injury;
for those whose minds are shattered by the horrors which they witnessed or endured;
for those who have been bereaved; for those who do not believe in you or trust their neighbour.

Grant to them peace of mind and heart, and relief from all their suffering,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Yours sincerely,

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

