



St Benedict's College

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1 July 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the school year draws to a close I want to draw your attention to a number of key information items.

School Report

Your child's End of Year Report is enclosed, please take some time to review it and to discuss with your child the key messages contained within it. The report provides him/her with important direction and guidance for the next academic year. If you have any comments or concerns relating to your child's report please contact the office to set up an appointment with your son/daughter's Head of Year.

School Uniform Requirements

In accordance with the Education Minister's directive we have been very flexible about uniform wearing this term. However, in September we will again insist on the highest standards of uniform and footwear and all students will be expected to comply with our Uniform Requirements.

We want all of our students to wear their uniform with pride. When they are in uniform our students are ambassadors of the school, so it is important that they look and behave appropriately at all times, whether they are in school, travelling to and from school or representing the school at outside events.

I would particularly like to draw your attention to the following expectations around uniform:

- **Shoes** must be plain, flat and black leather. Trainers of any sort will not be permitted. Trainers will only be worn during PE lessons.
- **Skirts** must be knee length and not too tight.
- **Trousers** must be regular school trousers. Skinny or stretch styles will not be permitted.
- **Hoodies** are not permitted. Blazers should be worn at all times and school jumpers are also available for purchase.
- **Hair** must be clean, tidy and of a natural colour and style. Boys' haircuts shorter than a number 2 will not be permitted.

It is very important that students return to school in August wearing the correct uniform. If they do not, it will cause issues and the replacement of inappropriate items will be an additional and unnecessary expense for you. If you require clarification on uniform regulations, please do not hesitate to contact school to speak to myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Pastoral Support

Whilst we will not be available to provide support over the next few weeks, the Family Works Counselling service will be. It will be available from 28 June to 14 July and again from 16 August to 27 August. Referrals can be made directly via the digital referral form on the Family works website or via the telephone helpline numbers, which are 02891821721 and 02891820341. Counselling will then be delivered via online, telephone and instant messaging.

The Text a Nurse can also be accessed using the helpline number, 07480635982

School Calendar 2021-2022

Calendar dates are always subject to change but rest assured I will endeavour to keep this to a minimum and inform you of any changes required as early as possible.

Return to School

Looking forward school will re-open as follows:

- Year 8 Induction – Thursday 26 & Friday 27 August 2021
- Year 11 Induction – Tuesday 31 August 2021
- Whole School Induction – Wednesday 1 September 2021

Please note more details will be issued in relation to School Return in due course but school buses will not be available on Thursday 26 August, Friday 27 August or Tuesday 31 August.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your patience and support during the last year which has seen us all face unprecedented circumstances and challenges. I would also like to applaud your son/daughter for the positivity and resilience they have displayed in dealing with the unavoidable disruption to their learning and school experience. Like you, I have no real idea what the new academic year will bring but I am hoping for a return to normality and a period of stability. Whatever it brings though I am confident that we can and will continue to work together to ensure that every child is “happy, safe and successful” in St Benedict’s College. I hope you and your family have an enjoyable and relaxing summer break and I look forward to welcoming your child back to school in September.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catriona McAteer
Principal

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