



St Benedict's College

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29 September 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we come to the end of September I would like to draw your attention to a number of issues:

Friday 1 October - Staff Development Day

Students will not be required to attend school on Friday 1 October as it is a Staff Development Day. Students will return to school as normal on Monday 4 October.

Continuous Monitoring Tasks

Monday 4 October – Friday 15 October is the first Assessment Window of this academic year. All students will be completing CM tasks in every subject. These tasks are our first opportunity to see where our students are in terms of their learning this year. Please support us in ensuring that your child takes them seriously, prepares properly for them and does their best in them. The CMs are particularly important for Year 12. Students and parents should be aware that outcomes could be used to determine Centre Determined Grades in subjects, if moving forward, they were required.

Uniform and PE uniform

Thank you for your support in terms of equipping your child with the school's PE kit. We are delighted to report that the majority of our students wear their PE kit with pride as they travel to and from school. We do however have a number of students who are choosing to wear sports gear that is not the school's PE Kit. Our position on the wearing of the full school PE kit remains the same. If your child does not have the prescribed school PE kit they should wear their ordinary uniform to school on the days that they have PE, until such times as they are in a position to come to school in school PE kit.

As the weather is getting colder hoodies are beginning to present themselves as an issue. Hoodies are not permitted. School jumpers are the recommended alternative and they can be purchased from school. Prices range from £17.95-£24.95 depending on size.

Remember too that trainers are not an alternative to black school shoes.

Face coverings

Please continue to ensure that your child brings a face mask to school every day and help us by encouraging them to wear them in classrooms, on corridors, in the canteen and on school buses. It is vitally important that they are reminded to wear them properly, they must cover both their mouth and nose.

Free School Meals

Please ensure that you have submitted your application to the Education Authority (EA) for Free School Meals if your child is entitled to receive them. It is important that your child has the opportunity to avail of this provision but it is also important to us as a school, as funding reflects FSM entitlement.

Extra - Curricular activities

We are delighted that our enrichment and extra - curricular programme is now up and running. Enclosed is an overview of the opportunities being offered this term. I would ask you to encourage your child to get involved in as many clubs as possible.

I would draw your attention in particular to Project AM. We are delighted that our Library is able to re - open in the mornings and will again be available to students from 8.00 am - 9.00 am, Monday – Friday. This supervised morning provision has always been very popular with students and we hope that it will be again. It is our belief that “If we win the morning, we win the day!”

Parent App

We are hoping to launch the Parent App within the next fortnight. Thanks to those parents who have provided us with an email address for the identified key contact. If you have not given us an email; address as yet, it is imperative that you now do so as you will not be able to receive key information through this vehicle which we hope, in time, will become our key communication platform.

Please send your email address to stbenedictsdatacollection@outlook.com

If you have any concerns about this request, please contact Mrs D Watters at Reception (028 94472411).

I am delighted with the positive start that we have made to the academic year and am confident that, working together, we can continue to move forward to ensure that all members of the school community are happy, safe and successful.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catriona McAteer
PRINCIPAL