



St Benedict's College

5 Craigtown Road, Randalstown, Co. Antrim, BT41 2AF

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13 May 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have decided to dismiss the Year 12s on Friday afternoon. Since our return to school, teachers have been working hard with your child to complete the assessments required to allow them to decide on a centre determined grade for each of their students. This has been a difficult process for all and I pay tribute to your child for their positive response to the significant challenges presented to them.

The work has now been completed in the majority of subjects. The exceptions are GCSE Art, GCSE Construction, GCSE History, OS Bench Joinery. Students who study these subjects will be expected to attend school on the days and times below.

Monday 17 May	GCSE Construction
Tuesday 18 May	GCSE Construction and GCSE History
Wednesday 19 May	GCSE Art and OS Bench Joinery
Thursday 20 May	GCSE Art and OS Bench Joinery

The next stage in the awarding process does not involve your child. It is teacher led and involves marking, internal standardisation and moderation. This work will be undertaken internally and will be completed on Thursday 20 and Friday 21 May, two Qualification Procedure Days, awarded to schools by the Department of Education. Please be assured that the grading procedure will be carried out professionally and with integrity and fairness.

Final GCSE grades will be submitted to CCEA on 4 June 2021. GCSE grades will be issued to students on Thursday 12 August 2021. Unfortunately, at this point we can not be sure what arrangements will be put in place for the distribution of results but we will clarify this closer to the time.

Transition Plans

We are acutely aware that this is a key point of transition for our Year 12s and that you and they are making plans for their future after St Benedict's. Some will transfer to another post primary school or regional college to continue their education, while others will move in to an apprenticeship or employment.

Mrs Devlin, our Head of CEIAG, has been in touch with local schools and education establishments that might be of interest to your child and she has produced the table on the next page which outlines how your child can apply to these institutions. We recognise that some students have already made application to NRC, Belfast Met and CAFRE and they can still do so but now is the time to make applications to local schools. We would encourage you to actively support your child in contacting the schools they are interested in and in making applications to them asap. If you require advice and support in this process please contact Mrs Devlin directly pdevlin756@c2kni.net or Mr Bonnes nbonnes629@c2kni.net

Further Education & Training Centres	Web Contact Details	Application method
NRC	www.nrc.ac.uk Course Enquiries: admissions@nrc.ac.uk	Apply online now for September courses
Belfast Met	www.belfastmet.ac.uk Course Enquiries: studentportal@belfastmet.ac.uk	Apply online now for September courses
CAFRE	www.cafre.ac.uk Course Enquiries: enquiries@cafre.ac.uk	Apply online now for September courses
Rutledge	www.rutledgegroup.co.uk/rutledge-training/training-courses Course Enquiries: cmochan@rutledgegroup.co.uk (Antrim Branch) vporter@rutledgegroup.co.uk (Magherafelt Branch)	Contact Branch directly to apply. Antrim: 02894487848 Manager (Christine Mochan) Magherafelt: 02879634666 Manager (Vanessa Porter)
Schools	Contact Details	Application method
St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena	(028) 25649534 mail@stlouisgrammar.com	Applications for sixth form are available to download under the sixth form tab on the school website. The form can be completed by hand and posted to the school or filled in electronically and emailed to aallen637@c2ken.net
St. Patricks College, Ballymena	(028) 25656984 info@stpatricks.ballymena.ni.sch.uk	Interested applicants can view the school prospectus and complete an online application form on the school website. All enquiries regarding sixth form can be sent to pfitzpatrick867@c2ken.net
Park Hall Integrated College, Antrim	www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org (028) 94468556 info@parkhallintegratedcollege.antrim.ni.sch.uk	Contact the school directly for a sixth form application pack. An interview will then be arranged to discuss subject options.
Antrim Grammar School	www.antrimgrammar.org (028) 94464091 Info@antrimgrammar.antrim.ni.sch.uk	Pupils interested in applying for a place in sixth form are asked to download and complete an Expression of Interest For Entry to Sixth Form and send it to the school by post or using the email address included, for the attention of Mr. McMahon, current Head of Sixth Form. If you would just like to chat about your options then call the school directly and ask to speak to Mr. Mc Mahon.

St. Marys Grammar School, Magherafelt	www.stmarysmagherafelt.com (028) 79632320 info@stmarys.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk	Applications can be downloaded from the sixth form admissions section of the school website and returned by post to the school address. Alternatively completed forms can be emailed to cmcerlean314@stmarys.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk
St Pius X College, Magherafelt	www.stpiusxcollege.org (028) 79632186 info@stpiusx.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk	The Sixth form prospectus is available to view online, pupils that are interested in applying are recommended to contact the school directly with any queries.
St. Patricks College, Maghera	www.stpatricksmaghera.org (028) 79642451 info@stpatricks.maghera.ni.sch.uk	Application forms for sixth form and the school prospectus can be downloaded under the Careers section of the school website and returned to the school address. Pupils are advised to contact the school directly to discuss sixth form options.

All pupils in Year 12 have had the opportunity to speak with our school careers advisor, Mr Ronan Mc Ateer via a phone call or a Webex meeting. If you require further information or advice, please contact Ronan directly.

Careers Service Northern Ireland	Contact details
<u>Ronan Mc Ateer</u> Careers Service Antrim	C/O JABO Antrim 20 Castle Street Antrim, BT414JE Tel: 02894426450 ronan.mcateer@economy-ni.gov.uk Chat online with a careers advisor at: https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/chat-with-a-careers-adviser

Our SLT also are available should you require them. Their email addresses are below:

Mr Shivers, dshivers751@c2kni.net , Mrs Coulter ocoulter691@c2kni.net

End of term arrangements

As you will know school budgets are extremely tight. Many Year 12 students have school textbooks that we can-not afford to replace and need to re-use next year. We would be most appreciative therefore, if all textbooks could be returned to school tomorrow.

We are also very aware that many families are facing particular hardship at this time. To support families, we plan to start a Uniform Re-Use Programme in June. If your child has any pieces of school uniform which are still in good condition we would respectfully ask then you wash them, place them in a plastic bag and drop them in to the school office to be re-used.

All students will spend tomorrow afternoon with their Form Tutor and Form Class where small celebrations are planned. We are hoping to hold a Year 12 Leavers' Mass in St MacNissis's Parish

Church, Randalstown, with students and parents invited, between now and the end of June. Further details will follow but Health and Safety guidance will dictate final arrangements made. Rest assured it is our very real hope that the Year 12s will have the Leavers' Mass and Leavers' Celebration they deserve.

Can I finish by thanking you for entrusting your child to us and for your constant support, particularly in the last two academic years which have been so impacted by COVID. Please be assured that myself and the team will continue to be here to help and support you and your child.

Yours sincerely

Catriona Mc Ateer (Principal)