



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

BROUGHSHANE ROAD
BALLYMENA
CO. ANTRIM BT43 7DZ
Telephone: (02825) 656984 / 645059
Facsimile: (02825) 655932
Email: info@stpatricks.ballymena.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.stpatricksballymena.com

Principal: Dr M Knox B.A.(Hons) PGCE M.A. PhD PQH (N.I.)

26th August 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I hope that you and your families are all well.

Year 10 students will be returning to school from Wednesday 1st September. They will NOT be in school on Friday 3rd September, as students in Years 11-14 return on that date.

Year 10 should enter the Lower Building on arrival to school. They will have Registration with their Form Teacher each morning. Year Group and Key Stage Assemblies will not be taking place at this point, although we hope to resume these later in the year.

Break time for all Year Groups will be from 10.35 to 10.50. The Canteen will not be in operation at break time, so we are asking parents to ensure that your child comes to school each day with a bottle of water and with something to eat at break time (fizzy drinks are not allowed). Lunch times will be staggered for junior and senior students, to minimise contact. Key Stage 3 students (Years 8, 9 and 10) will have their lunch from 12.10 to 12.45pm. In addition, the end time of the school day will continue to be staggered, with students in Year 10 finishing for the day at 3.15pm. We ask all returning students to support our school community on our return to school by following all the prevailing public health advice in and around the school.

Online learning will still be an integral part of our lessons in the new school year. **It is therefore essential that all students ensure their tablet is fully charged overnight and that they bring it to school each day. It is also essential that students bring ALL requirements they will need (ie, pens, pencils, eraser, sharpener, colours, ruler, calculator, etc) to school each day, as we cannot allow students to borrow materials from one another, or from teachers.** Any student who is having difficulties either with their tablet or with their MySchool/email login should make the school aware of this, by emailing info@stpatricks.ballymena.ni.sch.uk. Alternatively, parents or students can telephone the school to notify us of any problems.

We are still asking that pupils arrive to school in their PE kit and tracksuit bottoms, etc, on the day of the week that they have PE, as Department of Education guidance has not yet approved the use of changing facilities in schools. On all other days, students should wear normal school uniform, and **we stress again the requirement for full school uniform, including black shoes, to be worn.** Access to hand sanitiser and handwashing facilities will be widely available throughout the school and we encourage all students to make frequent use of these.

Face coverings are still required in school, both when moving around the building and in classrooms, and we would ask all parents to please ensure that their child has a face covering when they come to school each day. The use of face coverings in school will be reviewed by the Northern Ireland Executive in October.

To support us in maintaining social distancing, we would ask parents not to come into the school building if at all avoidable, particularly at the start and end of the school day, when there are students moving around the school. If a parent wishes to speak with me or any other member of staff, we would ask you to telephone the school instead and we can arrange a meeting.

This has been a challenging time for our students; for you, their parents and guardians, and also for us as teachers. We will work together to make the new school year successful, enjoyable and – above all – safe for all of our students.

Yours sincerely

Dr M Knox
PRINCIPAL