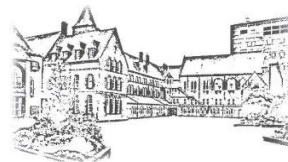


St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have had a good summer break. As we are now preparing to open the College to all pupils on a full time basis. I am writing to inform you about our plans to do so. Firstly, I want to thank you for your support over the past number of months when normal school life was severely disrupted and everything was plunged into a remote style of existence. Our Year 11 boys have had a particularly challenging number of months and we will be continuing to support them emotionally as well as academically. In the first few weeks of term each class will have a prayer service lead by our College Chaplain, Fr Spence. Counselling and mentoring support will also be available. Covid-19 still remains prevalent and so we must proceed with caution and great care. We are still waiting to find out if there are further instructions to be received from the Department of Education regarding the re-opening of schools to all pupils. However, in the mean time we have plans in place to open the College for pupils in the week beginning 24 August. This will be done in a staggered way, enabling us to re-introduce each year group in a safe and orderly way preparing for and practising important aspects of our new "norm".

The first day for our Year 11 boys will be Thursday 3rd September. This will involve our Year 11 boys attending from 9.00am until 12.00pm for an induction session. The boys should attend in full uniform and with regulation hairstyles. Pupils should enter via the Main College gates and proceed to tutor classrooms (see end of letter). The boys have been organised into Tutor groups that fit with their selected options and, while we understand that some boys may not be with some of the friends they are used to, we would ask that you encourage your son to adopt a positive attitude towards this essential restructuring of classes. It will not be possible to change Tutor group, however, if you do have pastoral concerns you should contact your son's Head of Year, Mr Cooke. Your son will be with his Tutor group for a number of core subjects but will be with other boys in his option groups. Our experience is that the boys adjust to these changes and have the opportunity to develop further friendships both within their Tutor group and their new subject classes.

Year 11 pupils are not required to attend school on Friday 4th September. I am happy to be able to inform you from Monday 7th September, our Year 11 boys will be attending the College every school day from 9.30am until 3.05pm.

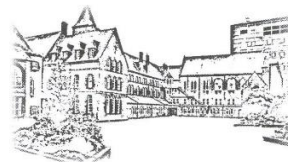
Please note that if your son has recently been on a holiday to a destination which requires quarantine on return, he should not attend until the end of the quarantine period, please advise us if this is the case.

With regard to the practicalities of the new way of school life, attached is a document **outlining KS4 return to school important information**. Please read this in conjunction with the **Education Restart - Letter to Parents and Carers from the Minister of Education**. It must be stressed that these are working documents, as you are aware the situation remains fluid. We must all play our part in ensuring that our boys, staff and families are as safe and healthy as possible. **To this end I ask that you spend time reading through the enclosed leaflet and do so with your son.** Social-distancing will be rehearsed and practised. There will also be one-way systems in place for movement around the College. Break and lunchtime areas will be allocated and there will be staggered times for each year group. The College may request pupils to wear **plain face masks** during some lessons to protect vulnerable pupils and staff.



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It is important that we adhere to our agreed procedures and the boys must understand if they do not do this then it will be viewed as a serious breach in conduct and be dealt with in accordance with College policies. This may also lead to exclusion from class or school. I am confident that our Year 12s will act in the correct manner, at a time when it is extremely important to do so.

We understand that this has been a worrying time for you, as parents and for our new Year 12s. If you have any further queries or concerns please contact Mr Cooke, Head of Year 11 or me. The above arrangements will remain in place for the month of September. In the meantime, if the situation changes we will then contact you about this. Please also continue to consult our various social media platforms and ensure that you have signed up for ParentApp so that you keep up to date with events and developments. Our parent information booklet will be available in due course on these platforms.

We look forward to welcoming our Malachians back to the College and we wish them every good health, happiness and success for many years to come! Many thanks again for all the very kind messages of support and continuing to work closely with us at the College.

Yours sincerely

Mr F Toner
Head of Key Stage 4

Form Class	Form Room	Class Tutor
11A	A10	Mrs E Douglas
11B	D10	Dr J Thompson
11C	E9	Miss P Morris
11D	E15	Mr K McKenna
11E	D11	Mr C McIvor
11F	E3	Mr T Rocks