



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



29 September 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As communicated to you at the start of term, we have been reviewing our procedures with regard to Covid. Since the College reopened on 24 August, our boys have shown great resilience and have adapted well to the new procedures. We are very proud of the way the students have risen to the challenges of the new term.

The main change that we will be making is to the staggered start times. This means that from **Monday 5 October, all students will have morning registration as usual at 9am.** Years 10 and 11 students may enter the College grounds from **8:50am**. On arrival the students should make their way directly to their registration area.

The PE and Music departments will be introducing a limited range of extra-curricular activities and DE/ PHA guidance will be adhered to during these. Arrangements will be communicated to the boys by the PE and Music staff.

For now, the staggered finish times will remain in place. The vast majority of our boys travel by public transport with Translink and with the reduced capacity on buses, the staggered finish times enable the boys to avail of public transport.

There are a number of areas where we would appreciate your continued support:

- Please ensure your son has a face covering with him. This must be worn while in communal areas of the College, in certain classes and on public transport. We have a number of clinically vulnerable and extremely clinically vulnerable students and staff and many of our boys have a household member who is vulnerable. Please encourage your son to wear his face covering.
- At present, boys may wear PE gear to school on days that PE is scheduled. PE gear must not be worn at any other time. Please note that PE gear should be College gear and any tops/ bottoms that are not official College gear should be a plain dark colour. No football tops or brightly coloured jackets may be worn.
- During these times, our routines and regulations remain important. Full uniform must be worn and haircuts must be regulation. This means no shorter than a number 2 and no longer than collar length. Students must also be clean shaven.
- All Year groups have designated toilet areas and students must not use another area to avoid mixing of year groups.
- If your son has been absent from school, please email his tutor with the reason. This will avoid any unauthorised absences being recorded. If your son has an appointment during the day, please email his Form Tutor and Head of Year. He should then report in and out to reception.

Finally, I would like to remind you that the counselling service is now running again in school. So far, the service has been busy. If you feel your son would benefit from seeing the counsellor, you can contact his Form Tutor or Head of Year or your son can speak to them himself. We are providing an additional support service through "Lighthouse" on Mondays. Details of external agencies available for supporting students and families are available on the College Website and are also listed in your son's Homework Diary.

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving further details on aspects of the curriculum including arrangements for assessment and reporting on your son's progress.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

Deirdre McCusker

Ms D McCusker
Vice Principal (Pastoral)

Principal: Mr Paul McBride MA, MEd, B.Mus, PGCE, PQH (NI)

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