

August 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As we embark on our new school year, I am really looking forward to seeing our pupils over the course of the next few weeks. I have attached below the induction dates for all year groups.

I am delighted to report that the A Level and GCSE outcomes have been simply outstanding with 100% of pupils achieving 3 or more A*-E grades at A Level and 99.1% of pupils achieving at least 5 A*-C grades at GCSE. I want to congratulate our pupils and their parents on their achievements and especially wish our outgoing Year 14's the very best as they progress onto university, apprenticeships, or the world of work.

I am also writing to express my thanks to all parents/guardians who have contributed to and availed of our recent Uniform Recycling Scheme.

Many parents took the opportunity to use the scheme as an exchange, bringing items and receiving some in return. Others were able to make use of the scheme as a welcome relief to the increased cost of living.

We have been able to add an additional date to avail of the scheme and I would encourage you to do so: **Tuesday 29th August 9:30am-3pm**. Please phone the school office in advance to ensure the items you need are available as stock levels are now very low.

We are also aware that many parents/guardians will be purchasing new uniform items, if they have not already done so. Please note that our official suppliers are **Sportique and Cuddy's, Magherafelt**.

Below is a visual guide to the College Uniform for your reference.



School Ties:

Parents/guardians are reminded that pupils in Years 8-10 wear our navy striped tie. Years 11 & 12 wear our navy crested tie and Sixth Form boys wear our teal crested tie.

School Shoes:

The graphic below outlines the type of shoes pupils are permitted to wear. Please note that trainers, converse, vans and similar items are not permitted, even if they are all black. Please do not purchase these items.

SHOES NOT PERMITTED



PERMITTED BLACK SHOES



Pupils are permitted black shoes as outlined above.

We encourage parents to familiarise themselves with the above and to make use of our Uniform Recycling Scheme. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Other Uniform Issues:

I want to make it clear that our uniform policy must be adhered to by all pupils. In particular KS3 and KS4 pupils are reminded that piercings of any type are not permitted. In addition, pupils should not present to school with extreme hair colour or hairstyles that are not in line with the uniform policy.

READINESS FOR WORK, BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING, PUNCTUALITY AND ATTENDANCE

As the new school year starts, I want all pupils to return to school with renewed optimism and be ready to work hard. As part of this, it is vital that all pupils' behaviour is conducive to learning, they are punctual and attend school every day. These are key components to academic success.

RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES

Please be aware of the following dates for return to school:

Wednesday 30th August 2023	Year 13 Induction 9.00am - 2.00pm No other pupils in school <i>No school buses</i>
Thursday 31st August 2023	Year 8 Induction 9.00am -2.00pm Year 14 pupils in school: 9.00am - 1.00pm No other pupils in school <i>No school buses</i>
Friday 1st September 2023	Year 12 Induction (1 &2) Normal Lessons Full Day in school Year 14 pupils in school: Normal Lessons Year 8 & 13: Team building day at 'The Jungle'. No other pupils in school <i>School buses operational</i>
Monday 4th September 2023	All year groups return to school.

Please be aware that minor adjustments have been made to the school timetable. There has been no reduction in learning and teaching time, but the school day will now end at 3:20pm rather than 3:25pm.

Please also note the changes made by Translink to the bus timetable:

	Current Departure Time	New Departure Time
Lough Fea Crossroads	0750	0740
Moneymore Potatoes	0740	0730
Old Hall Crossroads	0745	0735
Draperstown	0830	0820
Weir's Bar	0740	0730
Bellaghy	0825	0815
Slaughtneil	0827	0817
Castledawson	0745	0735
Maghera Cinema	0745	0735
Moneyneena	0810	0800
Glenvale School, Bellaghy	0740	0730

I look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school in the coming days.

Yours sincerely,



B Heron
Principal