



December 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian

I trust this letter finds your family and you well. It was great to see so many parents and members of our community at the BAA Craft Fair and the incredible school production – The Wizard of Oz, a truly professional production with over 300 pupils involved. Likewise, it has been an extremely successful sporting season to date with the 1st XI Girls' Hockey team reaching the semi-final of the Ulster Schools' Superleague and the 1st XI Boys' Hockey team winning the Ulster Schools' McCullough Cup. The 1st XV Rugby team remain unbeaten throughout the season and for the first time in years progress in the New Year into the last 16 of the Danske Bank Ulster Schools' Cup. There have been many more events and success stories and I encourage you to keep up to date via the school website and our Twitter/X accounts.

I take this opportunity to remind you of the key dates that I have previously communicated and please find below a copy of the bus timetable for the final day of this term.

DECEMBER

Tuesday 19 December – **Annual Carol Service** (7.00pm) in Holy Trinity Parish Church

Wednesday 20 December – Last day of term for pupils (Carol Service finishes at approximately 11.30am)

JANUARY

Wednesday 3 January 2024 – **First day of term for all pupils**

Monday 15 January 2024 – Winter Examinations start

Monday 29 January 2024 – Open Night (7.00-9.30pm)

(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm)

FEBRUARY

Monday 12 & Tuesday 13 February – Year 13/14 Work Shadowing

Monday 12, Tuesday 13 February & Wednesday 14 February – Staff Training Days

Tuesday 13 February – **Year 10 Parent Consultation** (9.30am-12noon)

(A Year 10 Parent Information Talk re: Careers/Subject Choices will also be scheduled)

Tuesday 13 February – **Year 9 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

Thursday 15 & Friday 16 February – Half Term Break

MARCH

Monday 18 March – Bank Holiday

Wednesday 20 March – **Spring Concert** (7.30pm in the School Assembly Hall)

Wednesday 27 March – **Year 11 Parent Consultation** (1.15-3.15pm)

(Early closure – normal classes will end for all pupils at 12.35pm)

Wednesday 27 March – **Last Day of Term**

APRIL

Wednesday 10 April – **First day of Summer term for all pupils**

Wednesday 17 April – Staff Training Day – Moderation

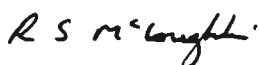
Please note that your child will participate in on-going assessment in class and target setting. We would encourage you to engage actively with your child in helping to review these targets. You are also encouraged to check and sign the Student Planner on a regular basis to ensure that it is being used effectively.

Note the dates above carefully and please make use of the opportunity provided to discuss the progress of your son/daughter. **Please note that all parents need to have downloaded the Parent App** to access their son/daughter's Reports and the information regarding the SchoolCloud system.

The School Carol Service will take place for pupils on the final day of term, Wednesday 20 December. Pupils will start school as normal at 9.00am and will be escorted to Holy Trinity Church for the service starting at 10.15am and finishing at approximately 11.30am. Pupils should make their way home following the service.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a Happy Christmas and a fulfilling 2024.

Yours faithfully



R S McLoughlin OBE
Principal

**Bus Arrangements for 11.30am closure
on Wednesday 20 December 2023**

Translink are unable to provide buses to the School grounds on days of early closure. Bus times are set out below to assist you. **Boarding points for these service buses may be checked via the Translink website or by calling the appropriate bus office.** For further information or alternative travel arrangements please visit <http://www.translink.co.uk>

Route No.	Destination	Time
238	DROMORE (From Church Square)	11.45 12.15
538	DROMORE (From Banbridge Bus Station)	12.50 14.45
56	LURGAN (From Lurgan Road opposite school)	11.40 12.40
62	PORTADOWN (From Lurgan Road opposite school)	12.00 13.00
29	RATHFRILAND (via Annaclone) (From Kenlis Street)	13.35 15.45
66	SCARVA (Connection to Tandragee) (From Banbridge Bus Station)	13.30 15.35
538	NEWRY (From Banbridge Bus Station)	13.40
238	NEWRY (From Church Square)	11.58 12.28

NB: No. 31 Service bus to Rathfriland does not leave from Banbridge Bus Station until 15.45pm

Education Authority bus (Dromore & Gamblestown via Dromore) both buses will run at 11.30am

Rooney's Coaches will be available at 11.30am for Waringstown & Maralin