

October 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

Many thanks to you as parents for your support so far this year. Once again an exceptional year for the school in so many ways, not least of all our outstanding academic A Level 95.5% 3 A* - C and GCSE 100% 7 A* - C including Maths/English. We are so proud of all those students who completed public examinations.

Please find enclosed our Diary of Events which is also available on our school App and school website (which may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances). Note Parent Teacher Meeting dates will be during school days. Please check website/App regularly for updated version.

**Please note that Friday 26th October is a Staff Development Day (pupils should not attend).
Halloween holidays are from Monday 29th October - Friday 2nd November inclusive.**

Please see below a number of additional points to consider as the term progresses: -

Traffic Congestion

- Can we advise parents who drop off pupils at school in the mornings to **please use lower car park/turning circle adjacent to the Sports Hall. Also in the afternoon could we ask that parents use the All Weather Pitch for collection of pupils to avoid congestion at the front door of the school** during these busy times and also by waiting until the Ulsterbus vehicles have left the school at 3.40pm. (With only one entrance /exit this is further complicated when the large buses cannot enter and thus causes a further log jam on the Cullybackey Road, hence request to wait until buses are given priority at exit/entrance)

School App

- We have recently signed up to a new St. Louis Grammar School App. We thank the 500 parents who have downloaded the App to date but would be keen that the remaining 200 families have access as well. Please find enclosed our School App promotional card. It is our intention to move to the App in the next few months to share circulars and all information regarding school matters. With this in mind Parent/Guardians are advised to download the school App, any issues please contact the school for advice and support.

Internal Exams for whole school

- **Week commencing Tuesday 27th November – Tuesday 4th December**, details to follow. Please avoid booking appointments/events for this period.

Please turn over

New Build Refurbishment - Update

Moving along swiftly at present and next week should see roof and windows being installed to make buildings water tight for Winter. Things are shaping up well and the building will be a superb resource judging by its size and construct. Details to follow on next briefing.

CEIAG

- UCAS personal statements for U6th students to be completed and submitted to the Careers Department by Thursday 4th October 2018. UCAS forms to be paid and sent by Thursday 25th October 2018 so applications can proceed to Universities.
- Work experience for Lower Sixth students can be arranged for the month of June, after the pupils last exam. Students can be preparing for this event now. Increasingly, work experience is needed for high demand courses to prove commitment to chosen courses.

Voluntary Contributions

As we work through increasingly challenging financial times in education, be sure at all times we will prioritise our students needs and that outcomes will not be compromised as we plan for the future.

Thank you to all parents who have signed up to direct debit or have paid Voluntary Subscriptions in full so far this year. (£100 per student/£200 per family).

If you have overlooked the matter you can still pay via the school office by cheque/cash or direct debit (contact the Bursar 02825649534 option 5).

For your information Voluntary Contributions are used by the School Governors to cover a range of expenditures not funded by the Department of Education. This year your Voluntary Contributions are planned to fund the following improvements to the school environment

- Subsidised transport to and from Extra Curricular School Events including sport of which there are many
- Subsidised Pastoral/Academic Workshops for specific Year Groups
- Refurbishment and new Study area for Sixth Form
- Recovering of corridor floors with vinyl
- New floor in Assembly Hall
- CEIAG events (Careers)

As you can see, everyone benefits from the Voluntary Contribution along the way throughout the year so please make a contribution if you have overlooked this in the past.

Lost Property

- Quite a number of students are leaving PE kits behind in school and this is causing concern. Can we ask you to reinforce to students to **bring belongings home each day and label all items** so they can be easily identified in the Lost Property Room when being retrieved.

Thank you once again for your co-operation, support and loyalty towards St Louis Grammar School as together we pursue our goals in education.

Yours faithfully



Mr S. Rafferty
Principal