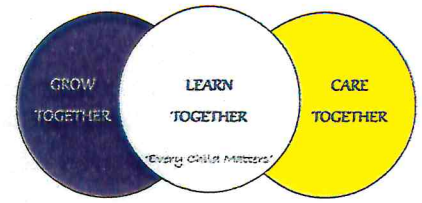




St Mary's High School Downpatrick

Principal: Ms R McLaughlin B.Ed MSc PQH(NI)



Celebrating 65 Years of Education
1957 - 2022

'Every Child Matters'

20th June 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your families have a safe and pleasant summer break. Hopefully, you will get a chance to relax over the holiday period. It has been a difficult year for the Year 11 girls as they had to sit their first set of modules. We are very proud of the way the girls rose to the challenge. I know that they felt well supported by their teachers. Hopefully, this year will be good preparation for their GCSE examinations in 2023.

Collection of Module Results

- Students can collect their module results from the school on **Thursday 25th August at 10.00am.**

Mobile Phones/Social Media

There needs to be a big focus on learning without the distractions of mobile phones and social media. It is well documented the impact that mobile phones have on a student's grades. As parents we want you to support us and we ask that you monitor your daughter's usage of social media and any other accounts.

School Uniform 2022/23

I would like to remind all our girls that when they wear the St Mary's uniform they are ambassadors for our school community. The public and wider community make judgements about the girls and our school. As a parent, I am sure you want the comments to be favourable.

In preparation for the new academic year I am asking you to discuss the following with your daughter:

- **The school skirt needs to be worn at an appropriate and decent length; otherwise it becomes a safeguarding issue.** Please bear this in mind when new skirts are being purchased. You need to check your daughter's uniform before she leaves the house each day.
- **Track shoes and converse foot wear are not part of school uniform. They look unsightly with a school uniform. I have enclosed a leaflet regarding appropriate school foot wear. If you require clarification, please contact the school and speak to the Head of Year.**
- Students have permission to wear one pair of stud earrings. Facial jewellery should not be worn.
- PE uniform can be ordered directly from the supplier.
- Your daughter will wear her PE uniform with her school blazer on the day she is timetabled for PE and **not on any other day, otherwise the privilege will be removed.**
- School uniform must be worn for all public exams.



*Spirit of Catholic Education
Award 2022*



Communication

You will be aware that we have introduced the School Gateway mobile phone app to enable parents to communicate directly with our school office about student attendance and appointments. We would ask you to ensure that you have downloaded the app to your phone before the new term begins in September as it is the quickest and most efficient way to communicate with us without having to call the school. We will be streamlining our phone service from September and parents are requested to call the office if it is necessary between the hours of 10.00 -11.00 and 2.00 – 3.00pm.


Appointments

We would request that appointments for students in Year 12 are made outside of school hours due to the impact that it has on your daughter's learning. When students are out of class it generates undue stress for them. However, where it is not feasible, please provide as much advance notice as possible to the school office by submitting a green slip (in the School Planner) to reception at least one day in advance of an appointment. There are child protection procedures to be followed before any child can be released and the school is spread over two buildings. We would ask parents to be aware that it can take between 10-15 minutes to locate a child, to get them and their belongings to reception and ensure that they leave the school safely. We ask you to appreciate that we cannot respond to last minute phone calls regarding appointments.

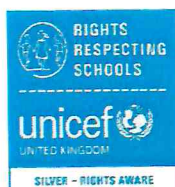
- **Year 12 students will return to school on Thursday 1st September 2022.**

As a school, we recognise that education has the power to transform the life chances of our young people; and we look forward to working with you in the new academic year. On behalf of all our staff, we hope you have a very safe and pleasant summer.

Yours sincerely



Ms R. McLaughlin
Principal



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