

Tuesday 15th July 2014

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am delighted to be fulfilling the role of Headteacher of St. Patrick's and I am eager and excited to take our pupils, staff and the whole St. Patrick's community to the next level of excellence.

I will be in touch in September to share with you some important school updates but there are a few details I need you to know now regarding the new school year:

First day back: Tuesday 2nd September 2014

Year 11 (and Y7)	8.30am
Years 8, 9 and 10	10.00am

New start and finish times from September 2014:

School starts	8.30am
School ends	3.00pm

New day structure from September 2014:

8.30am	Form Time
9.00am	Period 1
10.00am	Period 2
11.00am	Break
11.15am	Period 3
12.15pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Period 4
2.00pm	Period 5
3.00pm	End of school day

The bus companies are all aware of the changes. For further details about bus times, please contact the relevant bus company directly and they will be able to assist you.

Thank you for your continued support with uniform, as ever, the standard at St. Patrick's is outstanding and that would not be possible without you. The way our young people look and present themselves is essential and as with everything else, we want them to have the edge on other young people in the country who they will eventually be competing with for college/university places and jobs. Getting them used to the importance of appearance and professional dress is vital at this stage. I know that many of you buy new school shoes over summer, please ensure that they are school standard shoes. If you are unsure, ask yourself this simple question: if my son/daughter was a Barrister in a high class Law firm, would these shoes be suitable? Please note – they do not need to be expensive, just professional. A basic picture guide is attached to this letter. Be aware that some shoe shops do tell parents that a particular

shoe is a “school shoe” when they are too casual for St. Patrick’s. Please use the picture guide and the question I suggested earlier to help you in these situations.

Finally, in order for your young people to be successful, they need to be here, with us 100% of the time. The teaching at this school is outstanding and we ensure that the very best of the teaching profession are teaching your children. Lessons missed are very hard to catch up on and we know that the pupils with the best attendance have the highest success rates. We understand that there are some occasions when a child cannot attend school, but we are asking you to support your child’s education and future success by being strict with your criteria for keeping them at home. If they have a cough or a cold, they need to be in school; again, this is important preparation for their professional lives when, in order to be truly successful, they cannot take time off work for minor ailments. We are trying to build resilience into our young people and pushing themselves, especially when they feel under the weather, is important. **Our school trigger for attendance is 95%**; if your child’s attendance falls below this, it is a cause for concern and we will make contact with you to let you know and to see if we can work together to improve his/her attendance.

Finally, have a safe and happy summer break,

Yours sincerely



Mrs R Wall
Headteacher

Images attached