



ST. PATRICK'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
A National Teaching School



28th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

We have had a very busy but a very productive half-term! You will hear all about it in our St Patrick's vlog next half-term. Today we said goodbye to our lovely Year 11. We shall miss them so much! Please do let us know what your child is up to, as we always love to hear about their lives after St. Patrick's.

Please see the important information below to help you prepare for September. It is nice to be looking forward...

Uniform

For the remainder of this school year, we will continue to allow pupils to arrive in their school PE kit on the day they are participating in PE. Wearing PE kit does not mean general sportswear and anyone who arrives in incorrect PE kit will be sanctioned in the same way as if they are in incorrect uniform.

When we return in **September** 2021, the wearing of PE kit will be changed back to normal. PE kit must be brought into school on PE days, however, pupils will arrive in their full normal uniform everyday as changing facilities will resume as normal.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the uniform infractions we see from a **small** minority of pupils after returning from a ½ term break. I kindly ask for your support in the following areas to ensure a positive start to the final ½ term.

- No hoodies to be brought to school. A dark hoody is not a replacement for a dark coat.
- Any make-up must be minimal and natural looking, if any worn at all
- No nail varnish, gel nails, etc
- No false eyelashes
- No earrings or piercings to be worn
- No fake tan
- School shoes only-no trainers on non-PE days

Additionally, I would like to raise in advance that we are currently reviewing our Uniform policy and are specifically looking at footwear from September 2021. Attached you will find examples of appropriate and inappropriate footwear. It would be impractical to provide a

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Headteacher : Mrs A Byrne



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visual list of every type of footwear that we do/don't accept but hopefully it will be clear of the footwear standards we expect for our pupils and to ensure that there is a balance between safety, appearance and durability. **Shoes should be plain black leather.**

Therefore, if you were considering purchasing new footwear over the upcoming weeks either for the rest of this half term or for a September start then this should prevent you spending your hard earned money on footwear that is inappropriate and therefore not accepted by the school. **High street stores sell footwear under the banner of "school shoes" does not mean they are automatically acceptable at St Patricks.** If you are in any doubt please liaise with your son/daughter's Head of Year who will be more than happy to provide guidance.

Attendance and holidays during term-time

This last year has been tough for us all and we know that many families will have not been able to get away on their usual family break. Whilst we fully appreciate how difficult this will have been, and how eager families may be to get away, we must also stress the importance of not taking holidays during school time. The pandemic has caused enormous disruption to our young people's education and we must now capitalise on each and every school day to ensure that pupils are receiving the appropriate education that they require, and that they may have missed due to issues caused by the pandemic. It is likely that in the coming weeks, holiday providers will be looking at rescheduling cancelled holidays and offering great deals on new bookings. Whilst we would of course encourage families to take advantage of the relaxing of government guidelines, we must insist that this is not done during term time. We would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents that we will not authorise any leave of absence, including family holidays, except in exceptionally rare circumstances (in line with government policy) because there is clear and empirical evidence that any absence from school can and does impact on children's attainment.

Every day really does count. If a child is absent from school due to a family holiday please be warned that these absences will be marked as unauthorised in the register and a Penalty Notice fine may be issued to you by Salford City Council on your return. For your information, if you weren't already aware, the Penalty Notice fine is £60.00. If you fail to pay the fine within 21 calendar days of issue of penalty, it will be increased to £120.00 and if the penalty is still not paid within 28 days you will be prosecuted under Section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996. This prosecution will focus on failing to ensure that your child[ren] attend[s] school on a regular basis, i.e. not for the non-payment of the penalty. Also, where

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there are two parents who both have responsibility of their child(ren), you will receive a Penalty Notice fine each, per child.

We do thank the vast majority of our families for ensuring that holidays are taken out of term and do hope that we can continue to work with all our parents to ensure students are attending school as often as possible. We look forward to welcoming all Year groups back to school on:

Thursday 2nd September 2021 for the start of a new school year.

We hope that you understand we are very strict on attendance and on uniform. It is to make sure pupils come in with the right attitude to learning. When pupils are following all of our rules to the full we notice that they are on board with everything we offer at St Patrick's and they rise to our challenges. The minority of pupils who argue with staff about standards and uniform or who aren't in school at least 95% of the time do not do as well in their GCSEs. We have hard facts to back this up. We will be inviting parents in to school in September to welcome you back into the building and we will explain why we are so obsessed with uniform and standards in more detail then!

In the meantime, I wish you and your family a safe and enjoyable half term. Thank you for your support in the matters highlighted above.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Byrne

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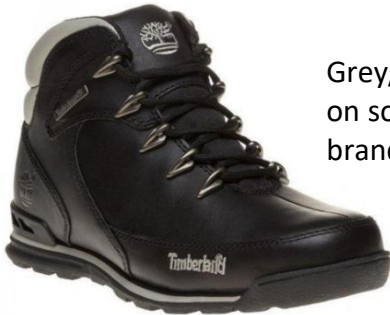


Footwear

Acceptable footwear examples: Boys



Unacceptable footwear examples: Boys



Grey/White stripe
on sole and
branding stitched



Not plain
black and a
hiking boot



Trainer style
boots



Doc Marten

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Footwear

Acceptable footwear examples: Girls



Only may be worn with trousers



Unacceptable footwear examples: Girls



Flimsy and not leather



Doc Marten Boots



Elaborate decorative flower



Leather but too flimsy

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