

Principal's Newsletter: June 2017



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Please see below some updates from St. Mary's as we arrive at the end of the school year. It has been an excellent year in St. Mary's with lots of exciting developments and improvements. Thank you for your help and support throughout the year in making St. Mary's the best school that it can be!!

Sale of Convent

The fabulous convent building adjacent to the school will be sold in the coming months. This will not impact the school and access will still be available from St. Brigid's Road. We wish our neighbours the very best in their new home and thank them for their support of St. Mary's over 50 years.

New Roof

The Department of Education has provided funding for a new roof at the school and work will commence in the coming weeks on the replacement of the flat roof which regularly caused problems when there was substantial rainfall. We are grateful for this investment in the school building.

Junior cycle changes

There is a new curriculum in Junior Cycle and from September 2017 six subjects (English, Business, Science, Visual Art, Modern Languages and Gaeilge) will be following the new specifications. Our teachers are busy planning to teach the new courses.

Growth in numbers

We are delighted to report an increase in student enrolment of almost 1/3 into first year in 2017. We will be adding an extra class group to accommodate the intake of students. If you have other children hoping to enrol in the school over the coming years, we recommend an early application to secure your place.

New Uniform into year 2

A reminder to all parents that our 'new uniform' is now in place for 1st and 2nd year girls. No other student is obliged to change their existing uniform but can change to the new uniform if they need a new item. Please note that the junior jumper and socks (1st-3rd year) is green and the senior jumper (4th-6th year) is navy.

ICT

As technology is becoming increasingly important in the lives of our young people, we are excited to open a brand new ICT Room for the next academic year. Thanks to the Board of Management and Parents' Association for making this investment possible.

Change of start and finish time

In 2017, classes will start at 9am sharp and end at 3.45pm. Roll call will be taken in the first class in the morning only. Please ensure that your daughter develops good habits of attendance and punctuality. We also hope to change each class period to a one hour block and we will liaise further on this matter in August when our timetabling process is complete.

Extra-curricular

We encourage all girls to get involved in extra-curricular activities at the school to support their all-round development and wellbeing. We will issue a calendar of activities before the end of September.

Senior Leadership team

Our Senior Leadership Team for the coming year is:

- Head Girl: Weronika Gasior
- Deputy Head Girl: Abbey Barrett
- Wellbeing: Niamh Bowe, Emily Lawlor
- Head Prefect: Emma Daly

Spanish Assistant

The Department of Education has granted the school a native Spanish classroom assistant for the next academic year. This is an excellent resource for our Spanish students to maximise their potential in the oral examination in particular. We look forward to welcoming Paula in October.

Visiting Students

We said good bye to two Spanish students who joined us for the last academic year and look forward to welcoming some more girls in 2017.

Breakfast Club

The school is delighted to have been granted a Breakfast Club for the coming year. Each girl will be entitled to avail of breakfast each morning from 8.30am-11.15am. We encourage full use of the facility.

Transition Year

Students beginning Transition Year programme should note that they are required to attend an orientation/assembly at the school on Tuesday, August 29th at 9.15am-10.15am.

Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a new area of learning for incoming 1st year students and will be promoted in all activities throughout the school for all girls attending the school.

Jubilee

We are delighted to be celebrating 50 years of educating girls in September. A range of activities has been organised to celebrate the occasion.

Parents' Association

Many thanks to our very committed parents' association for their help throughout the year. Our AGM to select committee members and Board representatives will take place on Tuesday September 5th at 7pm