

Saints Peter and Paul Catholic College



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END OF TERM INFORMATION AND UPDATE

Dear Parent/Carer

It is hard to believe that 10 months have passed since I took up the post as Acting Principal. It has been an incredibly rewarding time thanks to the hard work of our superb staff and students, as well as the encouragement given by you, our parents and carers. There have been a huge number of student achievements (too many to list!) that have been recognised during the inspiring 'Presentation Evenings' we have hosted in recent weeks.

Our lovely Year 11 students left us after a beautiful celebration assembly, after which they transformed themselves to look stunning for their Prom in the evening. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Year 11 parents for their support. You have been instrumental in helping us successfully navigate the exam period in which students have sat through more hours of exams than ever before.

Staff and students also celebrated the end of our Year 13 students' journeys with us with another fantastic Prom. Furthermore, we dedicated time at the Catalyst Museum with those Year 12 students who are leaving us this year. We hope that their next steps as Sixth Form students will be taken with courage and hope, and we wish them every success.

We have made great strides this year to ensure our college is the very best it can be. Our School Improvement partner has recognised significant improvements in our final report, and we have clear plans in place to build on this year's work. Our students have been absolutely wonderful, many of them have been involved in providing feedback about different aspects of the college, about teaching, behaviour, our facilities, student support and opportunities. Likewise, a huge thank you needs to go to the Parent Partnership Group who have worked closely with Mr Boulton (Vice Principal) to help shape our plans and developments.

There are a number of changes coming into effect in September which we would like to share with you:

Staffing Updates

Our Executive Strategic Advisor Wendy White has been successfully appointed as the Director of Education for the Wrexham Diocese and so sadly leaves us this summer to take up her post in September. As Principal, Wendy led the college through two full Ofsted inspections where we were judged to be "Good" on both occasions. Her leadership and guidance developed many of our staff both professionally and personally, for which we will all be thankful. We wholeheartedly wish her the best in her new post.

Following this news, the Governors advertised the substantive post of Principal and I was successfully appointed to the role on 4th July. I have made some new appointments to the Senior Leadership team, namely Mrs Woan as Assistant Vice Principal, while Mrs Forber and Mrs McComas have been appointed in Senior Assistant Vice Principal roles.

As is the case every year, we have a number of staff members leaving us for pastures new. Significantly, Mrs Wilde (who many of you will remember as Mrs Greaves) is retiring. Mrs Wilde has given many wonderful years of service to the college and we will miss her dearly. We are extremely grateful for everything she has contributed to our community.

I'm pleased to report that we have some great new staff joining us in September: Miss Daltry (Maths), Mr Shone (Maths), Mr Bowers (Geography), Mr Chapman (Science), Miss Sheerin (RE), Miss McCormack

(English) and Mr Lynch (Director of Maths). I am confident that these new staff members will make a positive contribution to the fabric of our college.

Pastoral System Updates

Following evaluations and the work we have undertaken with a National Leader of Education around our pastoral system and behaviour, a number of new developments are being implemented in this area. These will be led by Mrs Forber in her new role as Senior Assistant Vice Principal.

Chiefly, a new Positive Behaviour Policy and an Anti-bullying Policy are being introduced in September which are based on our key value of 'RESPECT'. These policies include increased focus on celebration and reward in recognition that the vast majority of our students are conscientious and are a credit to this college. More information on this topic will come out in September.

A New College Day

To help ensure students are effectively set up for a day of high-quality learning we have made some changes to how the day is organised, bringing form-time forwards to 8.45am. Additionally, the Sixth Form Centre has also been refurbished to provide a large canteen area which includes increased toilet facilities.

The start and finish times of the college day have not changed.

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| 8.00am onwards | Breakfast served in canteen areas |
| 8.40am | First Bell Students to move to Form lines |
| 8.45-9.05am | Second bell -Registration |
| 9.05-10.05am | Lesson 1 |
| 10.05-11.05am | Lesson 2 |
| 11.05-11.20am | Break |
| 11.20-12.20pm | Lesson 3 |
| 12.20-1.00pm | Lunch (The lunchtime clubs programme will be advertised once we return in September) |
| 1.00-2.00pm | Lesson 4 Close at 2pm every Wednesday Y7-10 |
| 2.00-3.00pm | Lesson 5 |

Y11 PARENTS/CARERS PLEASE NOTE

All Year 11s are expected stay in college during P5 on Wednesdays to attend a full exam preparation programme throughout the year. They will receive timetables for this in September.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance: At college we expect a minimum of 97% attendance which is equivalent to no more than 5 days absent.

In order for your child to achieve their potential they must be in college. There is a direct link between great attendance and great exam results, and this will directly improve learning and employment opportunities for the future.

Students and form groups will be regularly recognised and rewarded for full attendance. 90% attendance over 5 years sounds good, however it means that half a year of college, and countless learning opportunities have been missed. Parents/carers whose child attendance levels do not improve or those with unauthorised absences will be given intensive support by the college and the Education Welfare Service to ensure the necessary steps are taken.

Term dates for next year are available on our website. May I remind parents/carers that we are not able to authorise term-time holidays, weddings or events.

Being late into class causes disruption to your child, the teacher and other children in the class. If your child arrives late (after 8.45am) they will be marked as late on the register and a text message sent home. They

will be expected to attend a catch-up session during their lunchtime that day. Here, you can see the impact that even a few minutes can have:

**5 minutes late a day is equivalent to missing 3 college days per year.
15 minutes late a day is equivalent to being absent for 2 weeks a year.**

Communication reminders

It is crucial we work in partnership to support your son/daughter. Ensuring we have open home-to-college communication is key to success. Ensuring your contact information is up to date is essential and we are committed to communicate with you in a clear and efficient way.

We have invested in a more extensive journal this year that we expect students to take pride in and look after throughout the year. These journals are a valuable tool of communication between college and home and we ask that you encourage your child to use this to its full potential. Journals will be checked and must be signed weekly by both parents/carers and the form tutor.

Uniform reminders

Our uniform remains the same for September whilst we plan for the launch of our new College uniform in September 2020. **As part of the new college day there will be uniform and standards checks every morning before students enter college.**

May I remind parents/carers and students of some key points to help ensure our students have the highest standards:

- **Plain black shoes that can be polished**– no coloured symbols/bows/badges and trainers or trainer style shoes are not allowed. Please refer to the website for guidance and reference images.
- **Socks** – **Grey socks only** for students wearing skirts
- **Jumpers** – College jumpers must be worn at all times and students must ask permission to take off their college jumpers at appropriate times. During hot days we of course make allowances for this but ask students to wear their tie length to show at least 5 stripes.
- **Coats – From September, coats will no longer be allowed in the buildings. Students will be expected to put these in their bags before they enter college.**

Standards and expectation reminders

- **Mobile phones** – must not be seen or heard in around college, they will be confiscated without exception.
- **Nails** – Nails must be kept free from nail polish, acrylics and gel nails.
- **Plastic bottles** – In line with our commitment to recycling, students must only bring drinks in hard, reusable drinks containers.
- **Bikes** – students have responded really well to the 'dismount at the gate' policy and are sensibly using the two bike sheds to lock away their bikes before college. This policy will be continuing next year.

Equipment reminders

- **Bag** – Must be large enough to fit student coats in and an A4 folder
- **Pencil case** – Must contain pens in a variety of colours, pencil, ruler, rubber, colouring pencils, highlighters, protractor and scientific calculator.
- **Full PE kit – PE kits are now only available from O'Neill's website which can be accessed via our website.**

Thank you again, for everyone's commitment and hard work. I'm confident we will be able to build on our strengths in the coming year. On behalf of everyone here at college we wish you and your child a happy and safe summer holiday.

Yours faithfully

D Scott

Mrs D Scott
Principal