



## All Saints' RC Secondary School

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**Head Teacher**  
Mr Brian McDermott

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and yours well. I am writing with some general information, some SQA updates, and to remind you that school stops on **Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> of March at 2:30pm**, for the Easter break.

School returns for all young people at **8:50am on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> of April**.

### Supported Study S4, S5 and S6 / Easter School

We offered 6 weeks of supported study and 4 Saturday schools across the last month and a half. There were a wide range of subjects on offer three/four nights per week and these, along with the Saturday sessions, were generally well attended.

Our young people have been working so hard and have been supported brilliantly by staff who have been giving up their evenings and weekends to help. A great team effort in our community.

During the holidays, this offer continues with **Easter School** running every day from **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> of April (9:15am – 1:45pm)** for S4, S5 and S6 pupils. Details have been shared via year group Teams pages and via assemblies as well as via our social media channels.

I would ask that you highlight these sessions to your child as an additional source of support pre-examinations and encourage them to get along and take part. Every little bit of support helps. **Pupils can also attend school during these times for quiet study, if they'd rather not attend a class.**

## Study Planning and Balance

During the holiday period, it is important that those preparing for examinations strike a healthy balance between ensuring they look after their wellbeing whilst making sure they are preparing for their examinations.

Supporting your child to set up a sensible study plan – with plenty of free-time built in and plenty of days off – will be really useful. Our young people have had support via PSHE around how to plan their studies and manage their time; you might want to ask them about this as a way to start that dialogue.

It is important that our Senior Phase young people *are* studying – but equally important that they don't suffer burn-out; they both deserve and need a break too! If you want any support or have questions about how best to help your child in preparation for the examinations, please get in touch.

## SQA Examination Diet

Young people in S4, S5 and S6 will return to school on the **17<sup>th</sup> of April** and will attend full-time until **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> of April** inclusive. Thereafter, they will commence full-time study leave, attending only for their timetabled examinations.

The exam diet commences on **Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> of April** and extends until **Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of May**.

All pupils will have 'SQA Assemblies' on the **17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of April** and the key messages will be reinforced in the week before the exam diet. Mr Houston, our SQA Coordinator, will also be sending a letter to parents of Senior Phase young people this week with details of the exam timetable.

During study leave, there will be some provision in school for S4, S5 and S6 pupils as follows:

- On a planned basis, study space will be available for those young people who wish to attend school for a quiet place to work. These young people should communicate with their Year Heads in the first week of the new term; they should also attend school wearing full school uniform.
- For those young people in S4 sitting one or fewer National 5 examinations, there will be a bespoke timetable on offer as well as the possibility of some college taster programmes during the month of May. Again, details will be provided via Mr Shannon, head of S4.

## Subject Choices / Timetable for 2023-2024

Our S2, S3, S4 and S5 young people have completed their subject choices in recent weeks. What happens next is that these are collated and an initial draft of the school timetable is generated over Easter and into the first couple of weeks of the new term.

Year Heads will communicate the outcome of the subject choice process with young people throughout May and into June.

For current S1, S2 and S3 young people, our new timetable starts on **Wednesday, 31<sup>st</sup> of May**; those young people currently in S4 and S5 will return in **early June**, following the conclusion of the SQA exam diet. Year Heads will be in touch with specific details in due course.

### School Uniform

The standard of uniform in our school has been fantastic all year. Thank you so much for your support with this. Wearing full school uniform is an equitable way to support a positive school ethos and learning environment, supports our work-ethic and is also a great advert for our school.

I'm sure you'll agree that there has been significant improvement in this area of our school in the last year or so.

It is the expectation now that all pupils attend school in full school uniform, as follows:

- **School blazer**
- **School jumper** (optional) / plain black jumper (unbranded, no hoodies)
- **All black shoes or trainers** (no Converse or equivalent)
- **White shirt and school tie**
- **Black trousers** (not denim/sports leggings) or **black skirt**
- Outside jackets are permitted, of course, but should be removed upon entry to the building

If any parent/carer needs support with any aspect of the school uniform, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

### iPad Engagement

Increasingly, learning is being supported through the use of digital technology. In Glasgow City Council, this is supported via the iPads which were distributed to all secondary pupils.

Classwork, revision, homework and other learning at home activities are now more and more being delivered and completed digitally. As such, it is essential that your child has developed positive habits around the use and management of their iPads.

Not having an iPad, charged and ready for use, in school will have an impact on the learning experience of your child. Please ensure that they charge and pack their iPads each and every day.

If there are any issues with the iPads or if you have any questions about how you can support their use, please get in touch.

## Staffing and Recruitment

There will be a number of changes to our teaching staff over the coming weeks and months. This is a normal part of the school calendar with probationer teachers and fixed-term staff moving on to new posts; retirements, secondments, external promotions and such like.

I will write to you early in the new term to update you and again before the end of the session to keep you posted.

## Parent Council

We have a very strong and vibrant Parent Council which meets around 4-5 times per session. We are always looking to recruit more parents to be involved in this key part of our school community; it is vital that the voices of parents/carers play a significant part in school improvement and the life of the school generally.

Please get in touch if you feel this is something you'd like to do or to learn more about. All parents/carers are welcome.

I trust you have found this letter useful. As always, there's lots to update on. Please don't hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's learning or wellbeing. We are always happy to help.

I wish you and your families a lovely break and a wonderful Easter period.

Kind regards

Brian McDermott  
Head Teacher  
All Saints' RC Secondary