



All Saints' RC Secondary School

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Head Teacher
Mr Brian McDermott

Tuesday, 1st April 2025

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, 4th April at 2:30pm**, for the Easter break.

School returns for all young people at **8:50am on Tuesday, 22nd of April**.

Termly Newsletter

Our Spring Term 'Sway' will be sent out via link later this week with a lot of information about the goings on of the last term, so please look out for it.

S1 Parents' Evening / S1-S3 Tracking

A reminder that the S1 Parents' Evening is on **Wednesday, 30th of April** from 4:15pm. Mr Rainey will remind you nearer the time and will provide information about how pupils can make appointments with their teachers.

A further Tracking Report will also be issued early in May to parents of S1, S2 and S3 young people.

Supported Study S4, S5 and S6 / Easter School

We offered multiple weeks of supported study and two 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 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 wonderful team effort in our community.

During the holidays, this offer continues with **Easter School** running every day from **Monday, 7th of April – Wednesday, 9th 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.

In addition, we will also be offering Grade Booster Classes on the days before scheduled examinations. We did this last session and feedback from the pupils was incredibly positive. The details of these will be communicated on your child's Year Group Teams page.

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 would 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 useful. It is important that our Senior Phase young people *are* studying – but equally important that they do not 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 **22nd of April** and will attend full-time until **Thursday, 25th of April**** inclusive.

*Note: for S6 young people, their last day is Wednesday, 23rd April. Mr Rainey will communicate further details later this week. Thereafter, they will commence full-time study leave, attending only for their timetabled examinations.

**Note: those undertaking SQA exams in N5 or Higher Computing Science will commence study leave on Thursday, 24th April, finishing school on Wednesday, 23rd.

The exam diet commences on **Friday, 25th of April** and extends until **Friday, 30th of May**.

All Senior Phase pupils had 'SQA Assemblies' today and the key messages will be reinforced in the week before the exam diet.

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 and prior to attending on any given day. **Any pupil attending school at any time must attend school wearing full school uniform. They must also report to their year heads who can help to ensure supervision.**
- 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 taster programmes during the month of May. Details will be provided via Mr Gallagher, head of S4.

Subject Choices / Timetable for 2024-2025

Our S2, S3, S4 and S5 young people have been completing their subject choices in recent weeks with the final discussions to be completed in the first week back post-Easter.

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 **Tuesday, 27th 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.

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.

I trust you have found this letter useful. As always, there is a lot to update on. Please do not 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

