



**All Saints' RC Secondary School**

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**Head Teacher**  
Mr Brian McDermott

Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope my letter finds you and your families well.

A reminder that school closes tomorrow, **Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> June, at 1pm** for the summer holidays. Pupils return at **8:50am on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August**.

This year, whilst not without its challenges around Covid-19, has been a very successful and enjoyable year in All Saints'. Our young people have been an absolute credit and we are all incredibly proud of them. School has, in the last few months, started to feel 'normal' and we've seen a gradual return to many of the things which make our school such a brilliant place to learn and to work.

The resumption of extra-curricular clubs and activities, along with the removal of almost all Covid-19 mitigations has helped to allow our young people to flourish and to breathe life back into the place. The resilience and determination shown by our young people, and the staff, has been admirable. I am completely confident that, barring a return to significant Covid-19 mitigations, we can continue to grow and develop as a learning community and go from strength to strength.

**BGE Awards Ceremony: 2021-2022**

Last night was our first in-person awards ceremony since pre-Covid-19. It was an absolute delight to see so many of our young people in S1-S3 being awarded for their many successes throughout the year. It was also so very nice to see so many parents and carers in attendance; I can't thank you enough for your support with this – it really makes such a huge difference.

If your child was in S4, S5 or S6 this year, look out for an invitation to the Senior Phase Awards Ceremony early in the new session. We have lots to celebrate!

**Family Learning**

Our Principal Teacher of Parental Engagement/Family Learning – Mrs Irene Russell – will be in touch early in the new session with information about some learning opportunities for adults in our school. These will take place after the normal school day and we will try to make these as accessible as possible.

In preparation for next session, I just want to update on one or two key pieces of information:

## School Uniform

### Blazers

All young people were fitted for a new blazer last week in school via our uniform provider, Border Embroideries. We have subsidised the cost of blazers this session, meaning that a new blazer can be purchased via the link below for £24.50.

<https://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/schools/all-saints-secondary-school.html>

If your child is getting a new blazer, it would be very much appreciated if their old one be returned to us in school either before or immediately after the summer holidays – they can give this to their Pupil Support Teacher or to their Head of Year. We have a great relationship with the Pre-Loved Uniform Company who professionally dry-clean blazers and uniform items, making them ready for re-use. We have a sizeable stock of pre-loved, professionally cleaned, blazers in school for anyone who wishes to take one, free of charge.

Blazers are an anticipated part of our school uniform and all young people are expected to be wearing one. Our young people look incredibly smart in their full uniforms and this is an integral aspect of our school ethos. If you need any support with the purchase of a school blazer, please get in touch.

### School Jumpers

We were able last session to give every child a school jumper free of charge. The majority of this stock has now been provided to young people but there are still quite a large number of *medium* sizes left. If your child needs one, please ask them to speak to their Pupil Support Teacher.

We are working with our jumper provider (not the same company as the blazer provider) to ascertain if we can re-stock in time for autumn; where this happens, school jumpers will be available to purchase directly from the school. I will write to you about this during the first term of the new session. Denims, sports leggings, hoodies and branded jumpers are not part of our school uniform and should not be worn in school.

### Footwear

We continue to request that all young people come to school wearing **all black** shoes or trainers. This is an important part of our school uniform and helps to ensure equity among our young people. Please, regardless of requests to the contrary (and my children do exactly the same thing!), do not purchase your child a pair of *Converse* (or equivalent) trainers as part of their 'back to school' shopping basket. These are not part of our school uniform.

### SQA

This year was the first full exam diet since pre-Covid-19. Our young people, whilst understandably nervous, were superb in their attitude and application across the examination window.

The SQA invigilation team were very vocal in their appreciation of how mature, polite and focused our young people were. We knew this already, of course, but it was very nice to hear from others anyway. All our attainment tracking and estimated grades to date point to a very

successful performance; our young people deserve to do well – they have worked so hard and have been very well supported and challenged by their teachers. I am confident that their hard work will pay off.

### Exam Results

The SQA will issue examination results to our young people on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August**. For further information and FAQs, please access the SQA's website via:

<https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/100863.html>

There will be senior staff in school on **Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August**, from **9am – 12pm**, for any young person who wishes to discuss their results or for whom discussion around post-school destination is required. Thereafter, there will be opportunities from **Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> August – Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> August**, for young people to meet with their Pupil Support Teacher or Head of Year to discuss subject choices (and/or changes) as applicable.

### iPad 'Attendance'

So much of learning is delivered and/or enhanced via our use of digital technology. Our school's Digital Learning Strategy is helping to ensure that our staff and our young people are equipped to take advantage of the many digital learning resources and applications out there which can support learning. As such, use of iPads is an anticipated part of almost every lesson every day. We have developed an 'iPad Attendance' stream as part of our Digital Learning Strategy to try to encourage and support good habits around iPad use. This means we are monitoring the extent to which all young people are bringing their charged iPads to school every day and also closely monitoring the number of young people who have damaged or lost their iPad/chargers.

Your child should have their fully-charged (or at least 80% charged) iPad with them each and every day. Can I ask that, where not already in place, you encourage your child into good habits around packing their schoolbags and including their charged iPads. If you need any support or further information around iPad 'attendance', please get in touch.

Finally, can I say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for the outstanding support you have given to our school over this past session. Whilst challenging, these last two sessions have allowed us to really pull together as a community and to work as partners to ensure the best outcomes for our young people. I can't thank you enough for your positivity, willingness to work with the school and for your support of all that we are trying to do in the interests of each and every young person.

I wish you and your families a lovely holiday. As always, please don't hesitate to get in touch should you wish to discuss your child's learning or wellbeing.

Kind regards,

Brian McDermott  
Head Teacher  
All Saints' RC Secondary