



# St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear Parents/ Carers,

We are now in the final two months of the academic year and we would like to give you some important pastoral information and curricular updates. As you are aware this has been a particularly difficult week for our College family and we would like to thank you for your messages of support.

As Mr McBride outlined in his communication to you, pastoral care for our boys remains central to all that we do. We would encourage boys to contact their tutor, Head of Year or any member of the Safeguarding Team if there is anything they are struggling with. With this in mind, the Heads of Year are setting up Pastoral Google Classrooms for each year group and we hope that you will encourage your son to sign up. The Pastoral Teams will be putting up materials on various aspects of the Preventative Curriculum. As we move forward with Google Classroom, we are asking that all the boys sign in using their c2k email addresses and **not** personal email accounts. So when the boys are registering for the Pastoral Classrooms set up by the Head of Year, they must do so using their c2k email accounts. The access codes will be displayed on the MY SCHOOL Home page for each year group, and classrooms can initially be accessed through the Google Classroom App within the c2k Home page. Any student who needs assistance with c2k passwords can receive help from Mr K O'Kane (ICT Manager kokane550@c2ken.net).

More detailed instructions will be shared via subject Classrooms, Parent App and the College Website. You will be receiving further information about this, as will all of our students.

### **Year 12 – 14: Study Leave**

It had been planned that Years 12-14 would have begun study leave last week. Tuesday 5 May was to be the final day for Years 12 and 14, while Year 13 were due to finish on Wednesday 6 May.

### **Year 13: Progression to Year 14.**

The recent communication from Mrs Rayot clearly outlined the need for Year 13 to complete their courses and then progress into the Year 14 course. We require your support and help to ensure that the boys are keeping up with the work set. We know that for the Year 13 students, it is difficult to maintain motivation for the AS syllabi, when examinations will not be taking place in 2020. However, in completing AS work set, the boys are continuing to develop skills and maintaining a work ethic. In each subject, the AS work provides a key foundation for A2 Study. Year 13 students who are not engaging with work through Google Classroom, will find great difficulty in managing the demands of A2 courses and we may have to review their progression to Year 14.

We have been made aware that some students are spending a significant amount of time in paid employment. Please ensure that this does not hinder your son's academic progress and that the correct balance is achieved. As the normal study leave and examination period are not taking place for Year 13, Departments will be beginning Year 14 courses. It is essential that the Year 13 boys engage with this work to create a firm base for the new academic year. Learning and teaching for Year 13 students will continue until 30 June and we expect that all boys actively participate in the subject Google Classrooms. Information regarding the applications for third level courses will be communicated to the boys during this final term.

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Principal: Mr Paul McBride MA, MEd, B.Mus, PGCE, PQH (NI)

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During these past couple of months, we have had to rely heavily on our IT platforms to communicate on so many levels and about so many important matters. We have made much progress in our use of Google Classroom, and we have been greatly encouraged by the many positive messages received from parents. Feedback from boys and parents, and our own personal experiences of using the likes of ParentApp, the c2k emailing system, Facebook, the College website and most of all Google Classroom are enabling us to make further progress in these areas. We will soon be contacting you about taking steps that will help Google Classroom become even more effective. We will also continue to send pastoral and curricular updates to you. Both of us are available in the College if you have any concerns or queries.

*Deirdre McCusker*

Ms D McCusker  
Vice Principal Pastoral

*Lou Stewart*

Mrs L Stewart  
Vice Principal Curriculum

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