



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



August 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you have had a good summer break. As we are now preparing to open the College to all pupils I am writing to inform you about our plans to do so. Firstly, I want to thank you for your unwavering support over the past number of months when normal school life was so suddenly disrupted and everything changed as we embarked together upon the distance learning experience. Covid-19 still remains prevalent and so we must proceed with caution and great care. Having reviewed the most recent instructions received from the Department of Education regarding the re-opening of schools to all pupils we are now moving to implement our plans to open the College for pupils in the week beginning 24 August. This will be done in a staggered way, enabling us to re-introduce each year group in a safe and orderly manner preparing for and practising important aspects of our new "norm".

The first day for our Year 9 boys will be Tuesday 1 September. This will involve our Year 9 boys attending from **9.00am until 12.00pm for an induction session.** The boys should attend in full uniform, with regulation hairstyles and bring a snack with them for their break on the induction morning. Boys should enter via the Main College Avenue gates and proceed to their Form Room where they will be met by their Class Tutor. Once the induction session has ended your son is free to go home. **Year 9 pupils are then not required to be in school again until 9.00am Monday 7 September,** when academic classes shall commence for Year 9 pupils.

Please note that if your son has recently been on a holiday to a destination which requires quarantine on return, he should not attend until the end of the quarantine period, please advise us if this is the case.

Please be advised that there will be strictly no access to the College site for parents/carers on these induction mornings. Additionally, due to health and safety no parent/carer may drive into the College grounds to drop off or pick up their son. Where there is a medical issue, we may make an arrangement with you regarding this and you should contact the Head of Year, Mr Chris Johnston to discuss.

The Form Class designations transition logically from last year, for example if your son was in 8A he has now been placed in 9A. Please see below for the list of Year 9 Class Tutors and the designated Form Room each boy should make his way to for the induction session on Tuesday 1 September.

Form Class	Form Room	Class Tutor
9A	M1	Miss J Keelan
9B	B2	Mr R Crozier
9C	B8	Miss A Jordan
9D	A5	Mr H Matheson
9E	A4	Mrs C McGrath
9F	B10	Mr S Granville

At the end of our last academic year, you were informed that this term will most likely begin with a blended form of learning and teaching. In line with recent instruction from the Department of Education I am happy to be able to inform you that **from Monday 7 September our Year 9 boys will be attending the College every school day from 9:00am until 2:45pm.** The final timetable adjustment to be made for

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your son is that he will hopefully soon be able to attend for a full day and have class until 3.25pm rather than 2.45pm. The arrangement to end the Year 9 school day at 2:45pm will remain in place for the month of September. In the meantime, if the situation changes we will then contact you about this.

Your son's registration class will act as a "bubble" and will receive all lessons in the one allocated classroom. Social-distancing will be rehearsed and practised. There will also be one-way systems in place for movement around the College. Each year group will be allocated their own toilet area and times. Your son will stay in his classroom for break. He will be allocated a designated venue for lunch and also be allowed some recreation time outside of the classroom but remaining within the year group bubble. When academic classes commence from Monday 7 September, Year 9 pupils should therefore bring a packed lunch to school unless they qualify to avail of free school meals.

With regard to the practicalities of the new way of school life, attached is a document **outlining KS3 return to school important information**. Please read this in conjunction with the *Education Restart - Letter to Parents and Carers from the Minister of Education*. It must be stressed that these are working documents, as you are aware the situation remains fluid. We must all play our part in ensuring that our boys, staff and families are as safe and healthy as possible. **To this end I ask that you spend time reading through the enclosed leaflet and do so with your son.**

It is important that we adhere to our agreed procedures and the boys must understand if they do not do this then it will be viewed as a serious breach in conduct and be dealt with in accordance with College policies. This may also lead to exclusion from class or school. I am confident that our Year 9 Malachians will act in the correct manner, and at a time when it is extremely important to do so. If you have any further queries or concerns please contact your son's Class Tutor, Mr Johnston, Head of Year 9 or myself, Mr Heaney, Head of Key Stage 3. If your child is in a clinically extremely vulnerable category or a clinically vulnerable category, please contact Mr D Goodall, dgoodall826@c2ken.net, to organise a risk assessment. Parents of boys who hold a statement of special needs should contact Mrs Evans, Specialist Teacher for KS3, if they have concerns or queries.

As you know at the College we deeply value the close partnership that exists between staff and our parents/carers. Regrettably we cannot offer our usual parent information sessions this year which would have allowed us to assemble together in the College Hall to look back on last year's achievements and reflect on our shared vision for the year ahead for our Year 9 boys. Please continue to consult our various social media platforms and ensure that you have signed up for ParentApp so that you keep up to date with events and developments and can receive relevant documents pertaining to the Year 9 Curriculum provision.

Thank you for all the very kind messages of support and continuing to work closely with us at the College. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our Year 9 Malachians back to the College!

Gloria ab Intus!

Mr C Heaney
Head of Key Stage 3

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