



October 2025

Dear Parents/Carers.

As we approach the mid-term break, we will close the term with our annual College tradition on Friday 24 October. All staff and students will walk from the College to St Patrick's Chapel, Donegall Street, to attend Mass at 11am in celebration of our patron St. Malachy. This is one of the most significant dates on our academic calendar, when we bring our 1220 Malachians together as a College family to celebrate our faith, ethos and identity. Therefore, it is important that **all** pupils attend on this occasion. On our return to the College after Mass the boys will depart at lunch time for the mid-term break. **It is also important to note that Friday 24 October is a school day and all boys are expected to attend.** The pupils will return to the College, after the mid-term break, on **Monday 3 November**.

Our 2025-26 academic year is now well underway, and our boys are working hard and immersing themselves in all aspects of College life; both academic and extra-curricular. As you may have seen on our social media, our results for both GCSE and A Level were excellent and a real reflection of the dedication and work ethic of the students and staff and of the commitment and support of parents and carers. At A2, 43.5% of students achieved at least ABB. One student achieved 4 A* Grade and 4 others achieved 4 A*-A Grades. An additional 20 students achieved 3 A*-A Grades. At GCSE, 93.5 % of grades were at A*- C with 41 % of grades in the top A*/A category. We have enhanced our curriculum offer to include extra morning and lunchtime GCSE opportunities and as a result 5 students achieved 12 GCSEs and a further 11 students attained 11. All 9 of our Year 10 Irish students, attained A* grades. On 9 October, we celebrated the many achievements of Key Stage 3 pupils with our guest speaker, past pupil Paddy Burns, who plays for Glenavon FC. Paddy inspired the boys with his words of encouragement, asking the boys to give their best and achieve their own Gloria ab intus!

Other highlights of the term have included our Parent Information Sessions, a Parental Study Skills Seminar, our annual Martin McMullan Year 8 race, a golf and basketball trip to Philadelphia, the European Day of languages and many more events. Follow our social media platforms for regular updates on achievements and activities! Important dates, including Parent Teacher Meetings, are listed below.

The vast majority of our boys have been working hard, enjoying extra-curricular life and respecting our College behaviour routines. Please continue working with us to ensure that punctuality, attendance, uniform regulations, organisation – equipment, homework/assignment deadlines, respect and good manners all continue to be adhered to.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support!

Gloria Ab Intus!

Deirdre McCusker

Deirdre McCusker
Principal

Dates for the diary – November – December 2025:

- Year 12 Parent Teacher Meeting - Wednesday 5 November, 3pm – 6:00pm – **Early finish for other year groups**
 - **Staff Day – Friday 14 November**
 - **Staff Day – Friday 21 November**
 - Year 14 Parent Teacher Meeting – Wednesday 12 November - 4pm - 6pm
 - Year 13 Parent Teacher Meeting - Tuesday 25 November - 4pm - 6pm
 - Winter Concert – Wednesday 3 December - College Hall – 7:30pm
 - Winter Internal Exams – Monday 8 December – Wednesday 17 December
 - **Staff Day – Friday 12 December**
 - Senior Prizegiving Ceremony – Thursday 18 December – Please note there will be no classes on this day and only Prize Winners should attend.
 - Christmas Holidays – Monday 22 December – Monday 5 January inclusive
-

Principal: Mrs Deirdre McCusker MA (English), B.Ed., PQH (NI)

Tel: (028) 90748285 Email: correspondent@stmalachys.belfast.ni.sch.uk Website: www.stmalachyscollege.com