



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware the first day of our new school term for our boys was to be Thursday 7 January. This day will now be used by staff to prepare for remote learning. For those GCSE students in Years 11 and 12, their examinations on 11, 12 and 13 January are currently taking place as scheduled. The Mathematics and English Departments will be providing specific online support for these students through the course of Thursday 7 and Friday 8 January. Year 12 students will be attending school in person from Monday 11 January. Those Year 11 students who are sitting the GCSE Mathematics exam on Monday 11 January will be able to return home immediately afterwards.

For all Years 12, 13 and 14 students, online learning will begin on Friday 8 January, and then they will attend the College in person for face-to-face teaching from Monday 11 January. The scheduled internal examinations for these year groups will proceed as planned, beginning Wednesday 13 January. If you have any queries regarding the internal examinations please contact Mrs Graham (Vice Principal, Curriculum) via email lgraham269@c2ken.net.

Online learning for Years 8-11 will begin from Monday 11 January. Further details regarding the remote learning will be communicated by Mrs Graham during the course of this week.

Following the announcement that Years 8 to 11 are to be taught at home until the end of January, we are now making arrangements for supervised learning for Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Children which will begin on Thursday 7 January.

For your information, the definitions of Key Worker Children and Vulnerable Children as outlined by the DE are included at the end of this letter. If your son is within one of these categories and you would like to avail of a place for him, please contact Mrs McCusker (Vice Principal, Pastoral) via email dmccusker152@c2ken.net no later than 3.30pm on Tuesday 5 January. As we are all aware, this has been a difficult year for our College family and many of our boys have experienced significant trauma. If you are unsure if your son is in the vulnerable category as outlined below but you feel he needs additional support, please contact Mrs McCusker to discuss what arrangements can be made. She will also be sending out details of how the counselling service provided through the Education Authority will be implemented during January.

If your son has a statement of Special Educational Needs, Mr Douglas will be sending further information to you.

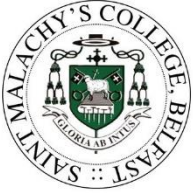
Supervised Learning will take place during the normal school hours of 9.00am to 3.25pm and will be organised into "Bubble Classrooms" for each Year Group and students attending will be expected to follow all COVID Regulations. Boys should wear their school uniform. Arrangements will be made for supervised break and lunch. Boys availing of supervised learning may arrive in the College from 8.30am and should go directly to their allocated room. However, there will be no facility for boys to remain in the College after 3.25pm.

If you request a place for your son, Mrs McCusker will then send more specific details regarding the venue for supervision.

Please note that all students who will be in attendance will be required to always wear face masks, except when eating or when outside at break and lunch times. We remind all students using public transport that they should be wearing a face mask travelling to and from school. To maintain a safe environment and reduce the risk of Covid spread, we ask for your support in terms of reminding your son of the need to maintain social

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

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distancing, wearing face masks, using sanitizer and avoid travelling in groups in cars. We again thank you for all your support as we need to be extra vigilant in the coming weeks.

We hope you had a restful break with your family. Although January is bringing new challenges, we will continue to work together to support your son. If you have any pastoral concerns that you would like to discuss, please contact your son's Head of Year or Head of School via email.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul McBride'.

Paul McBride
Principal

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