

St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we are now preparing for a return to on-site learning for all our KS3 pupils I am writing to inform you about our plans to do so.

Firstly, I want to thank you for your continued support over the past number of weeks during this period of remote learning. In January I outlined to the boys that they would now have to take greater responsibility for managing their learning, emphasising the importance of staying in regular contact with their teachers and to consistently and calmly give of their best to allow them to feel relaxed, confident and proud of their ongoing progress. Each pupil and home will have lived through their own unique experience as they endeavoured to rise to this challenge and I understand that at certain moments the additional demands placed on family life may have been difficult.

However, as we return to 'face to face' teaching, this is now a moment for us all to reflect on what has been achieved during this period and for the boys to recognise that the resilience, talent and character they have shown during this time, will serve them very well in the future.

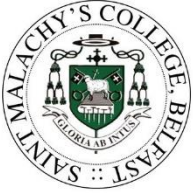
The first day for our KS3 pupils will be Tuesday 13 April. The boys should attend in full uniform that morning, reporting to their registration 'bubble' classroom, ready to follow their time-table for that day (Week 2). Covid-19 still remains prevalent and so we must continue to proceed with caution and great care. I have attached the College's, '**Important Information for KS3 Pupils/Parents/Carers' Documentation**, for your review. **Page two of this document** outlines the KS3 Arrival and Exit Procedures, indicating **the start and end times of the school day for each of our three KS3 Year Groups**. Please ensure you review the full contents of this document carefully with your son before his return to onsite learning.

Please be advised that there will continue to be strictly no access to the College site for parents/carers. 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 to discuss. Arrangements previously agreed remain in place and no additional contact is required.

Your son's registration class will continue to act as a "bubble" and he will receive all lessons in the one allocated classroom. Social-distancing will be rehearsed and practised. There will continue to be one-way systems in place for movement around the College. Each year group has been allocated their own toilet area and times. Your son will stay in his classroom for break. He will continue to access 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 Tuesday 13 April, Year KS3 pupils should therefore continue to bring a packed lunch to school unless they qualify to avail of free school meals.**

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

Tel: (028) 9074 8285 Fax: (028) 9074 1066 Email: correspondent@stmalachys.belfast.ni.sch.uk Website: www.stmalachyscollege.com



St. Malachy's College

36 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 2AE



As was the case before Christmas it is important that we adhere to our agreed Health and Safety 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 all our KS3 pupils, as they have done, will continue to act in the correct manner, and at a time when it continues to be extremely important to do so. If you have any further queries or concerns please contact your son's Class Tutor, Head of Year or myself. If your child is in a clinically extremely vulnerable category or a clinically vulnerable category, please contact Mr D Goodall if you require any further support. Parents of boys who hold a statement of special needs should contact Mrs Evans, Specialist Teacher for KS3, if they have any new concerns or queries.

As you know at the College we deeply value the close partnership that exists between staff and our parents/carers. 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 KS3 Curriculum Provision.

Thank you for all the kind messages of support during this recent period of remote learning and for continuing to work closely and constructively with us at the College. We are very much looking forward to welcoming our young Malachians back to the College!

Best wishes and stay safe,

Mr C Heaney
Head of Key Stage 3