
Principal's Newsletter

14 May 2021

Dear Parents,

Eid Mubarak!

Throughout the College today younger and older pupils are recounting to me their Eid celebration or enthusiastically sharing their families' plans to continue the celebrations today. It was particularly exciting when one of our sixth form pupils appeared yesterday in the festive new clothes he was wearing for the purpose of the celebration of the festival. My best wishes to all our families celebrating this week.

Mrs Cassidy and Mr Newton have visited the harassed friars of St Anthony of Padua to discuss how we can work together to end the disruption to their school and parish caused by inconsiderate parking. Earlier in the week our community police officer stopped by to discuss parking problems. The momentum behind the parking plan keeps building and we hope to share with you in the next month or so exactly what the steps of the plan entail. Please park safely.

Monday May 17 is much discussed as a day of the relaxation of certain face covering rules and guidance. Here is the official communication from our Vice Principal Ms Cassidy on how the restrictions have changed:

In line with government guidance, from Monday 17 May, secondary phase pupils will no longer have to wear face coverings in classrooms or communal areas. If any pupil would like to continue to use them, they will be allowed. When travelling to school, children aged 11 and over (unless exempt) must still wear a face covering on public transport.

All staff and visitors are expected to continue to wear face coverings in corridors and communal areas. Parents should also continue to wear a face covering when dropping off or collecting children from school.

Congratulations to Ms Odita-Sani and Ms Diamond, the coordinators of our inclusion project. They have successfully brought together pupils, staff and parents and their work has been recognized by the awarding of the bronze award from the UNICEF Rights Respecting school programme.

This is of course a first step in a journey to gold. The important outcome that we want to achieve through this work and these frameworks is a proper conversation about the inclusivity of our school and its effectiveness in educating our pupils, families and staff to be proactive in promoting, defending, recognizing and exercising human rights. In this sense, the project is at the heart of what we want the school to be and I look forward to the next phases of our work in this area. I am hugely grateful to Ms Odita-Sani and Ms Diamond for their volunteer leadership of this ambitious project and to all the parents and pupils who have contributed so far.

Because of Mr Cook's energy and foresight, we are actually getting some sport in. The dream rugby team never had a season. Our Year 13 contains an England development player and one of the finest generation of players we have produced, but there were no opportunities for them to have that final successful season. Tomorrow, they will have a chance to play against St Edwards.

A little update on a little noticed change. The project of replacing the Prep School windows and doors is now complete. Thanks to our maintenance team and our director of finance and operations Mr Flynn for winning the grant and steering it through with our contractors. New plans include the enlargement of Prep School classrooms. We are waiting to hear if we have been successful in our bid for this money. The 37 buildings on our campus are a source of constantly needed attention and care and a small team of people make sure this happens.

May I wish you and yours a sunny and peaceful weekend.

Yours sincerely,

Mr H van Mourik Broekman
Principal