

St Benedict's High School

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Renfrewshire
Council

Children's Services

Head Teacher: Alan Taylor BSc (Hons)

Dear Parent/Carer

As we move closer to the start of a new session, I am writing to provide you with some key information.

I would ask that you regularly check our website www.oraetlabora.co.uk and twitter feed @stbenedictsren for updates especially given the everchanging situation we find ourselves with COVID guidance.

Return to school – Monday 16th August 2021

All Pupils will return full time to school from Monday 16th August. School transport arrangements will be issued directly by SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport). Enquires can be made through the following link

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3486/Home-to-school-transport>

A reminder of our normal school timings :

Monday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Tuesday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Wednesday	8.50am – 2.45pm
Thursday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Friday	8.50am – 2.45pm

COVID – Mitigations

The health and safety of all of our school community is paramount at this time. To ensure the safety of all, the following mitigations introduced last session will remain in place:

- Face covering to be worn by all pupils and staff when in the building and on school transport (exemptions apply)
- Pupils will be asked to sanitise on entry to and exit from classrooms/school building.
- Increased classroom cleaning arrangements.
- A one-way system in place for movement between classes.
- Increased ventilation within classrooms and social areas.
- Testing kits available to all pupils and staff.
- Clear procedures in the event of a pupil/member of staff showing symptoms of COVID 19.
- Designated areas for individual year groups for interval and lunchtimes.

Further details will be shared with all pupils through year group assemblies during the first week of term.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn

School Lunches

The canteen will offer a full menu for purchase and for children who are entitled to a free school meal.

SQA Results

The school recorded some excellent examination successes this session. This was only possible due to the hard work of pupils and staff in partnership with parents. A huge well done to all of our pupils who gave of their best last session and thank you for the support that you provided. I would hope to have our awards ceremony in person around October time. This is always a great event and gives us the opportunity to celebrate this success alongside acknowledging a variety of other wider achievements accomplished over the session. The hard work will start again for those preparing for examinations this session.

Staffing Update

Mrs Kearns (Principal Teacher of Pupil Support) finished at the end of term and moves on to a new role as teacher of English at an International school in Dubai. We wish her all the best for the future.

We welcome the following new staff for session 2021-2022

- David Graham Teacher of Mathematics
- Clair McCrossan Principal Teacher Pupil Support
- Angela Curley Principal Teacher Pastoral Care
- Kirsty Ryan Key Worker – Pupil Support
- Emma Thompson Librarian
- Pamela Gray Cluster Transition Teacher
- Brian Coyle Teacher of Biology
- Declan Irwin Teacher of Biology
- Gabriella Macdonald Teacher of RE
- Hannah Denholm Teacher of Business Education
- Lynne Mitchell Teacher of Health Food Technology
- Paul Caldwell Teacher of Health Food Technology
- Ross Kennedy Teacher of Physics
- Tatiana Carvill Teacher of Art

School uniform – Dressing for Excellence

This has been identified as a strength of St Benedict's and has received favourable comments from members of the community, school partners, visitors to the school and parents and pupils.

Over the past three sessions, there has been a significant improvement in our standards of uniform. This has also coincided with our increasing pattern of attainment, which I would suggest is connected.

At beginning of last session (August 2020) there was an increasing number of pupils wearing blazers and 94% of pupils were wearing all black footwear.

This move to **all black footwear** was as a result of pupil voice feedback and was introduced to ensure that no pupil or parent felt pressurised to wear/buy an expensive pair of visible branded trainers e.g. "converse style" trainers. It was also agreed that the all black style was a smarter look. Please also note **school jumpers** should be **black in colour and of an unbranded style** that allows the school tie to be clearly seen. Hoodies are not allowed and pupils will be asked to remove them.

Our full uniform policy, including details of our suppliers, are available on our website and I would ask for your support in this area.



Attendance and Timekeeping

We have been working hard recently to ensure that young people in St Benedict's High School continue to achieve and attain to their highest level. Regular attendance and punctuality at school are essential for this. Your support here as a parent/carer is crucial.

Please ensure that your child is only absent from school if they are genuinely unwell or there is a valid reason. **Absences must be reported to the school office by 8.45am.** If young people are absent on a regular basis or if they are late to class, this is detrimental to their education and learning. Please be aware that if your child's attendance or timekeeping falls below the expected standards, we have a duty of care to inform you and to follow Renfrewshire Council procedures.

Free Meal Entitlement / Clothing Grants

If you think your child could be eligible for free school meals and/or a clothing grant and are not currently in receipt of them at present you can pick up an application form at Johnstone Town Hall or Renfrewshire House.

Alternatively, you can get further information on who is eligible and download an application form via the following webpage.

www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants

Calendar of events

A note of key dates for the year ahead e.g. issuing of reports, parents' meetings, school events etc. will be uploaded onto our website early into the new term. This is subject to change given current circumstances.

New Session 2021-22

Finally, I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer break. As I move into my fourth year as Head Teacher, I am very excited about the future and what lies ahead for St Benedict's High School. I have no doubt that the school is at its most successful when we work together for the benefit of the pupils. I look forward to meeting and working with you this session.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor

Head Teacher

