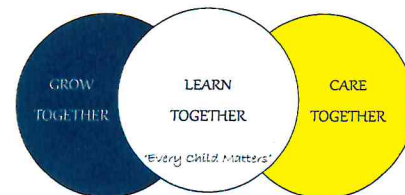




St Mary's High School Downpatrick

Principal: Ms R McLaughlin B.Ed MSc PQH(NI)



Celebrating 60 Years of Education
1957 - 2017

16th August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

- **Return to School for the 2020-21 Academic Year**

I hope you and your family have had a pleasant summer and made the most of the August sunshine before the girls return to school. I am sure the girls are excited about returning to school and I know their teachers are looking forward to seeing them and getting them settled back into work and school life. I have enclosed a list of the dates of return for each year group.

I have been requested by the Minister of Education to distribute the enclosed letter and the leaflet which will also be displayed on the school website and Facebook page. The Minister's letter outlines the arrangements that we are trying to put in place for everyone's safety. If your daughter uses school transport it is **mandatory for all pupils aged 13 and over to wear a face covering on public transport** and it is strongly recommended that all pupils should wear a face covering on any form of home to school transport where it is appropriate for them to do so.

In line with the Minister's guidelines we will operate in protective bubbles for Years 8-10.

- **Years 8-10 will be located at the front of the school building. On arrival the girls will use the entrance at Room 3.**
- **Years 11-14 will be located at the rear of the school building. On arrival the girls will use the entrance at the Sixth Form Study.**

Staff will direct the girls to their rooms and as part of their induction they will be taken through all the new procedures for the school day. The Minister has stated that staff and pupils may wish to wear face coverings during the school day and this is acceptable. In an attempt to keep everyone safe and those most vulnerable in our school community; we will encourage the girls to do so. However, we do appreciate that some pupils may have a medical condition that would preclude them from wearing masks.

We would greatly appreciate your support in reducing footfall in the school, so we are asking parents not to come into school unless they have been asked to do so. We will use our school website and Facebook page to provide up-to-date information.

As a school we look forward to working with you and your daughter as we begin the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Ms McLaughlin.
Encs.



Ardglass Road, Downpatrick, Co Down, BT30 6JQ
info@stmaryshs.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk
Tel: (028) 44612515 Fax: (028) 44616807
www.stmarysdownpatrick.org.uk