



# St. Richard's Catholic College



*A National Teaching School, a National Support School and a High Performing Specialist Science College*



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Principal: D. Cronin, N.P.Q.H., M.A., B.Ed.

13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families continue to remain well. No doubt, you are all looking forward to the summer holidays.

## Teaching and Learning

Formal teaching of the curriculum will conclude for this academic year at the end of Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July. Until this date, bar this Friday, which is an INSET day with a focus on Safeguarding, the pupils will continue to be sent work to complete remotely. Live lessons for Years 7, 8 and 9 will finish on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> July, as will 'face to face' teaching for Year 10. Identified pupils in Year 10 will be expected to attend school until the end of Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, however the option is open to all Year 10 to attend, to use IT facilities or to catch up with staff.

Please encourage your son/daughter to keep working until the end of term and to complete any summer holiday work too, alongside reading, Bedrock and Mathswatch. Year 10, in particular, have plenty to do over the holidays, so I would urge you to keep an eye that they are getting the work done as well as having time to relax and recuperate. Please get in touch with Mr Campbell if you have any concerns. Next Monday's letter will include an updated pupil booklet on 'activities to enjoy' during the holiday.

On Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July, the last day of term, you will be sent a link to our end of year service, followed by the announcement of who will be our Senior team of Prefects for the academic year 2020/21, and who will be Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Girl, and who will be Head Boy and Head Girl, for the new academic year.

Coming together, from your homes and from St Richard's it will also give us (staff, pupils and parents) an opportunity to say farewell and thank you to the following staff moving on to pastures new, notably: Mrs White, Ms Mason and Mr Beale & Ms Harrold covering maternity leave. We also say farewell to Mrs Robertson, Subject Leader for Design Technology, who is retiring after 27 years of wonderful service. I will be inviting Mrs Robertson into school in the autumn term so that we can mark her retirement more formally and also to give pupils the opportunity to say farewell, happy retirement and thank you for being such a fantastic teacher, form tutor, and, in recent years, Subject Leader. More details will follow in Newsletter 7, published on Friday.

Google Meets with Form tutors continue throughout this week so encourage your son/daughter to make contact.

## School Uniform

Jumpers and ties can be purchased and collected this week in preparation for September. Please simply come to the main gate where a member of Reception staff will help you. For any pupil who has left PE kit in their locker, can I suggest they visit to collect by Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July. Whilst we



cannot have large groups in school, we can make arrangements for pupils to collect items, minimising contact with others. Please get in contact with the school to organise a time. Newsletter 7 contains reminders about uniform expectations so, at this point, I will just say that dyed/shaved hair needs to be rectified by September, when all pupils will be expected to return suitably attired with the correct uniform and smart appearance. All pupils have 7 weeks to sort out any issues.

### **Key Worker Pupils**

Pupils of Key Workers who have, in some cases, been attending school since Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, have been fantastic. Most pupils have worked hard and also engaged in a range of social activities interacting with pupils of different age groups. Special praise to Genexa Maturan of Year 9 who has attended every day, working hard but also playing a key part in supporting others and looking after the new peace garden grown in memory of Sophie Taylor. The pupils concerned do not need to attend school this Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> July. They will finish the school year on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July at 3.00pm. Their final two days will be spent in slightly larger bubbles (still with two metre social distancing) so that B Block staff can use their classrooms to continue their preparations for September. On these two days, on arrival in school, they should line up in the Year 8/9 playground to be allocated to classrooms.

### **Letters**

Two important letters were emailed to parents last week or today: one about the cancellation of the Ski trip in December 2020 ([here](#)) and the other addressed to Year 11 inviting them in to school this Friday, to return items, empty lockers etc. ([here](#)). Additionally, there are a number of Year 11s who still need to give permission for use of their photograph in the Year Book. This cannot be published until the Google Docs Survey has been completed. Hopefully, Year 11 tuned in to the Prime Minister's address to all leavers on Friday. This is available [here](#) for those who missed it.

The restrictions on groups of no more than 30 for the time being has made it impossible to set a new Prom date or to bring the pupils together to say farewell. Hopefully, group gatherings will be relaxed in the autumn term allowing us, as a community, to formally thank Year 11 for their contributions to school life and wish them well for the future.

### **The St Richard's Scribbler**

This is a pupil led magazine which had really gained popularity before we went into lockdown. Hopefully, Marnie Lippin and Leo Jones, the editors, will want to continue with the magazine in September. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter Movement, Leo has produced a special edition of the Scribbler which will be emailed out by Thursday. Well done to all contributors and, in particular, to Ms Harrold who has worked with Leo to select writing to include in the magazine. It is a thoughtful read, so do take some time to read through it.

### **Wider School Opening in September**

Full details will be emailed to you in a separate letter, including a Risk Assessment, and revised behaviour expectations to keep everyone safe. For now, the key is to note the starting dates:

Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September – Year 7 and Year 11

Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> September – Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10

Additionally, in purchasing equipment for September it is really important for pupils to realise that they will not be able to allow others to use their equipment or, indeed, share the equipment of others. Furthermore, it would be wise to equip your son/daughter with a small hand sanitiser, a mask if travelling on public transport, and a water bottle.

Finally, if you or your child are nervous about the return to school in September, then can I encourage you to arrange to make an appointment via [misscronind@strichardscc.com](mailto:misscronind@strichardscc.com) from Monday, 24<sup>th</sup> August so that I can show you around the building to highlight the measures in place.

Newsletter 7 is due to be published on Friday, and is, once again, a celebration of all the activities and work produced during lockdown; I hope you enjoy reading it.

I hope you and your family have a positive, productive week. Do pop in if you need to collect a new jumper or tie. Please continue to encourage your son/daughter to practise good hand hygiene and social distancing so that we all remain in good health. Again, do get in touch if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dea Cronin".

Miss D Cronin  
Principal