



Building Inspiring Caring

Dear Parent/Guardian

Once again another academic year has come to an end and students are, I am sure, looking forward to a well deserved break.

This has been a busy year: we welcomed many P6 and P7 pupils from local schools to taster days and classes through our Primary links programme; continued a programme of Extended Schools activities such as Spanish, Drama and Ceramics for students and having Youth Initiatives in the College four days a week to work closely with our students and provide additional pastoral support when necessary. Key Stage 3 classes have enjoyed a range of fun activities with Shared Education partners and a new Student Council was elected and they attended several shared education events.

Other notable events this year included the ski trip to Bansko, our Christmas Fair, a Sailing Course in Killyleagh, Young Enterprise workshops for students in all year groups and a memorable Year 12 Formal.

Results for GCSE modules completed by Year 11 students in the summer examinations will be available from 9:30am on Thursday 23rd August in the College.

Next year there will be some alterations to form classes. As with last year, the Form Tutor is central to the wellbeing of your child and will continue to build upon the relationships already established between the students, school and home. If you have any concerns at all during the course of next year please do not hesitate in the first instance to contact your child's Form Tutor who will try to alleviate any worries.

Next year promises to be yet another exciting and positive year with a water sports trip to Spain and a languages trip to Paris planned for June 2019. Alongside the extra-curricular activities in the College there will be a continued drive towards academic success for all our students. Parental support in encouraging this is very important and we always welcome feedback from parents and involvement through parental consultations and ongoing contact with the College. As an integrated College a strong part of our ethos involves parental input and we encourage all parents to become involved in events in the College and follow their child's progress very closely.

One area of concern we have at the moment is in relation to some students not wearing the correct College uniform. We have looked carefully at our current uniform policy and have reviewed this in light of a meeting to which all parents were invited in April 2018. Specific areas of concern are footwear and piercings. Both of these are addressed very clearly in our policy and we have included a copy of the uniform policy outlining how the College uniform should be worn.

We are addressing this now at the start of a new term so that the correct clothing can be purchased for September 2018 and there is no confusion surrounding what is and is not acceptable. The wearing of training shoes in particular will not be allowed from September 2018 and with regards to piercings, only one pair of stud earrings will be permitted. We would appreciate your support in this matter and as the policy states there is a rationale behind the implementation of a uniform policy and there will not be any extra cost to parents. Find below some guidance showing examples of acceptable footwear.



As always you can keep up to date with school life through our website, www.blackwateric.org or by following us on Facebook and Twitter (@BlackwaterIC). The school will be open during the summer for enquiries, closing only from 9th – 13th July.

I would like to wish you an enjoyable and safe summer and I look forward to another successful year in Blackwater Integrated College starting in September 2018. With 2018 being our 10th Anniversary we are looking forward to some celebratory events in the year ahead and will keep you up to date with our plans.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Taylor
Principal