



Building · Inspiring · Caring

CIRCULAR 2023-24 TL007

To: Parents/Guardians of all enrolled students
Cc: Bursar

September 2023

Information

As we begin another school year, I would like to thank you for all of the efforts made in relation to uniform, transport, free school meals and the many other aspects of school life that require a lot of organisation. We have had a good start back with Year 8 students completing their induction summer scheme and now all students back into their timetables for the year ahead. In the pages below the holidays for the year ahead are listed and these can also be found on our website.

Uniform

Unfortunately, due to increasing numbers in the College Marshalls has run out of school ties but we hope they will be restocked at the end of this week or next week at the latest. We will be in touch when they become available.

School uniform has generally been excellent, and we will continue to work with students to make sure they are wearing the correct attire. If necessary, please contact us if you require any assistance or wish to avail of any of the uniform exchange items that are still available throughout the year in the College.

Chromebooks and Family fund

As I outlined in a letter in June, funding within education has continued to be cut in recent times and we, like all other schools, are doing the best we can to ensure this does not impinge on your child's education. We rely heavily on Family Fund to allow us to offer extracurricular opportunities for our students and there is a letter attached if you have not been able to complete this as yet.

Student Chromebooks will also be returned to students towards the end of this week or next week and Year 8's will also get their Chromebooks. These have all been updated since last year and are a valuable resource for all of our students in Years 8-11. If you have not yet paid the £30 charge for the rental for the year can this please be sent to the College Office this week if possible or in instalments if that is easier. As with Family fund this is essential for us to maintain the Chromebook and provide your child with exclusive use of it for the year in school and at home.

School pick ups

With numbers in the College increasing and a range of transport routes in the afternoon we would ask that parents do not drive into the turning circle of the College in the afternoon as it can cause a traffic jam at times. If parents could also please meet children at the school gates or at an arranged place outside the school building. This allows more space for the buses to come in and turn and keep everyone safe. Your co-operation with this would be greatly appreciated.

Contact

Communication with home going forward, as with last year, will usually be via SIMS Parent App but this takes a little time to get set up for new Year 8 students so we will use SMS messages in the interim so all messages get home.

If you need to contact us during the school day then our office phone lines should be open from 8.15am until 3.30 each day (*At the following times a voice mail can be left and someone will get back to you as soon as possible: 10.25 – 10.45am and 1.00 – 1.45pm*)

If it is not an urgent matter, please contact us via the contact page on the College website at www.blackwateric.org and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Stephen Taylor
Principal

Blackwater Integrated College | 12 Old Belfast Road | Downpatrick BT30 6SG | Tel: 028 4461 2115
Principal: Stephen Taylor BA Hons. PQH

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Charity Reg No. XR84284 | Company Reg No. NI070393



BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE TERM DATES 2023-24

TERM 1

Starts	Wednesday	30 August Year 8 Induction Day (NO TRANSPORT)
	Thursday	31 August Year 8 and Year 12 (NO TRANSPORT)
	Friday	1 September – all students
	Friday	27 October – Staff Development Day (no students)
Mid-term	Monday	30 October – Friday 3 November
Ends	Wednesday	20 December (school ends for students 11:45)

TERM 2

Starts	Thursday	4 January all students return
Mid-term	Monday	12 – Friday 16 February
Holiday	Monday	18 March
Ends	Tuesday	26 March (school ends for students)

TERM 3

Starts	Tuesday	9 April all students return
Holiday	Monday	6 May
	Monday	27 May
Ends	Friday	28 June (school ends for students 11:45)



Bankers Standing Order Your Bank /Building Society Details

Name and Address of your Bank or Building Society:	_____

Sort Code:	_____
Name of your Account:	_____
Your Bank/Building Society Account Number:	_____

To the Manager

Please pay to:	Bank of Ireland 1 Donegall Square South Belfast BT1 5LR
Sort Code:	90 – 24 – 50
Account:	BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE Family Fund Account
Account No:	13758902 The Amount of: £ _____
Option 1.	Five payments of *£10.00 per child/£15 per family collected on 7th day of September, October, November, February, March and recurring annually thereafter.
Option 2.	Two payments of *£25 per child/£37.50 per family on 5th November and 5th February and recurring annually thereafter.
<i>Please circle either Option 1 or Option 2</i>	

Name of Pupil _____	Reg Group _____
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Signed _____	Date _____
* Parent/Guardian	
*delete as appropriate	