



# St. Colmcille's High School

## Newsletter - Catch Up

December 2018

### DIARY DATES

**Thursday 20th December**

*School finishes 1/2 day*

**Monday 7th January**

*Term begins for all pupils*

**Wednesday 16th January**

*Year 11 & 12 Parent  
Teacher Meetings*

*Year 8 - 10 pupils stay at  
home*

**Thursday 24th January**

*Open Night 7pm*

### EXAMS

**Year 10 Exams**

*Begin 8th January*

**Year 8 & 9 Exams**

*Begin 14th January*

### PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Welcome to our new look newsletter 'Catch Up.' I know that a lot of you are kept informed of what is happening in our vibrant school via Facebook and the local press. However, we thought it would be useful to put as much information as we can into our newsletter. Since our last newsletter, we have accepted an additional 9 pupils. We welcome them all to our school and hope that they settle in well. As a school, we are mindful of the fact that whilst Christmas is a happy time for many, a number of the families in our school community have lost a loved one. As a school community we extend our heartfelt sympathy to all of these bereaved families. We will remember them in our prayers at Christmas. On behalf of St. Colmcille's, I wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year - Mrs F Coyne.



### CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL



Many thanks to all who contributed to the Christmas Hamper Appeal. We were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity. The pupils and staff really made a huge effort in ensuring this appeal was a success. These items which you see above were presented to Raphael Mason, who will distribute them to St. Vincent de Paul and HomeStart. At our Christmas Assembly on Friday 14th December, Raphael spoke movingly about how he got involved with collecting for the homeless. His talk was very inspirational. It brought home to all of us that we should always be mindful of those less fortunate than ourselves.

## OPEN NIGHT

**Thursday 24th January  
2019**

**Principal's address 7pm**

*P6 & P7 pupils are very welcome to  
attend our Annual Open Night*



*Keep in touch!*



Please check out our school Facebook page for latest news and events. We also use Parent Text to send out important information so please ensure to let us know if you have changed your number.

Our school app is free for users to download from the Apple and Google Play Stores. Search for St. Colmcille's HS and click on the logo shown, this app is used to send out notifications and you can also view school documents.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS!

*Our school attendance target is 93% unfortunately this is not being met.*

**\*\*Absence notes are essential. They are not being brought in.\*\***



## EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.

### FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR BRENDAN!

Congratulations to our very own 'Superstar' Brendan Morgan who was chosen as a 'SuperValu Superstar' for being a lifeline for his mum while she was recovering from surgery. Well done Brendan! We are all so proud of you!



### CREATIVE WRITING RESIDENTIAL

Congratulations also to Year 8 pupils, Odhran Carland, Jack Cusack, Lucy Fegan, Meghan O'Prey and Ella Young who have been selected to participate in a residential for Creating Writing as part of our Shared Education Programme. Thanks also to all of the staff who brought the 8D class to Montalto House, Ballynahinch for a special day's creative writing workshop. It was a memorable occasion for all involved.





# CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2018



Our Christmas Jumper day was very popular with our Year 8 pupils, many of whom you can see displaying their cheery seasonal outfits.



Congratulations to Chantell Mulrairie who won the Anti Bullying poster competition.

## THE TWILIGHTFUL BOOK & FILM CLUB



The members of our Book Club enjoyed a movie day. They watched 'The Book Thief' and 'Wonder' - based on the books they have read. Many thanks to Grainne who organised this and hosts the Book Club every week. Our school library is an excellent resource. It is open break and lunch time. Please come along and select an interesting book to read.



Congratulations to Meghan O'Prey, Year 8 who won our annual Christmas Card Competition.



Year 8 pupils Ella Young and Lydia Hardy performing an alternative nativity at our Christmas Assembly



Year 12 pupil Simon Casement performing a solo at the Christmas Assembly.

## GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO THE MOURNES



Well done to our Year 11 GCSE Geography students who completed their fieldwork in the Mourne Mountains with Mr Martin. This year we extended an invitation to the High School, Ballynahinch pupils to join us as a collaborative activity. This was an extension to last year's Beach Clean up activity in Newcastle.



# RECENT SPORTING SUCCESS

## Soccer:

KS3/4 Girls 11 a side were 3rd in NI Football Association competition. Senior Boys & Girls –competed in a 5 a side competition in Belfast.

## Gaelic:

Girls U16 finalists in Ulster Foyle Shield, final to be held in January. Year 9/10 Boys - Semi finalists in Mid Ulster Tournament.

## Futsal:

Year 11 Girls—Down Champions! Silver medal in NI Futsal Final. Well done!

## Cross Country:

Pupils participated in competition in Rostrevor.

The pupils involved were:

Year 9 - Morgan Quinn, Makayla Quinn, Aimee Rhodes, Shona Gardiner.

Year 10 - Mackenzie Murray, Mary Ann Smyth, Jodie—Leigh Rice, Cali-Rose Cathcart

Year 11 - PJ McKeown, Callum Murdock, Isabella Kelly, Cari Boyle, Lara Carson

Year 12 - Shay McGrattan, Oisin Mulholland



*Congratulations to Oisin Mulholland who travelled to Germany to participate in an international boxing contest. Oisin was successful in his match.*



*Congratulations to our pupils who have been selected for Down: Lara Carson, Mary Ann Smyth, Cari Boyle, Hannah Perry and Oisin Savage. We wish these pupils every success in the future. They are great ambassadors for the school.*

## PARKING NOTICE HEALTH & SAFETY/CHILD PROTECTION

**In the interests of Health and Safety and Child Protection, the top gate will now be closed at home time due to the large volume of traffic attempting to enter the school car park. The only drivers/motorists allowed on the school premises to collect children are blue badge holders. Parking is very tight and we can not accommodate any other vehicles. This does not apply when collecting pupils during the school day for appointments, etc.**

## Heads up on Uniform!

There will be a few amendments to our school uniform in September 2019. This will be compulsory ONLY for the incoming Year 8s and any other pupils who are renewing outgrown/outworn items. The blazer will be green to match the present skirt and jumper and will have the new updated crest embroidered on it. The tie and scarf will also change to complement the crest and its new colours.

These are the only updated items. All the other parts of the present uniform will remain the same. It will be supplied by Price-wise in Downpatrick and Rhoda Stewarts in Ballynahinch and will be manufactured by 2 companies—Whites and 1880.



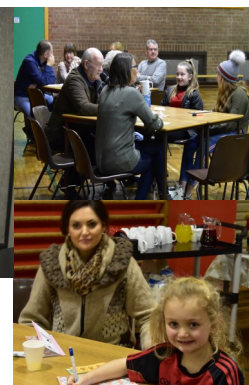
Friends of St. Colmcille's

The Friends of St. Colmcille's recently raised £420 when they held a Quiz Night in Killyleagh Yacht Club and a Bingo Night in St. Colmcille's High School.

They also received a donation of £1000 from the Thales Employee's Charity Committee. We were nominated by Mrs Clare Hanna - sincere thanks to Clare and all at Thales!



*Mrs Paula Kirk and Mr Norman McPhillips accepting the cheque from Thales on behalf of the Friend's of St. Colmcille's.*



028 44 830311

info@stcolmcillescrossgar.crossgar.ni.sch.uk  
St. Colmcille's High School, Crossgar