



4 September 2014

To Parents of Pupils in Form 1

Dear Parent

Welcome to Strathearn. I hope that you all had a pleasant and restful summer and your daughter is settling well into her new school. The girls have a lot of adjustments to make and I am sure you have noticed how tired they are. However, as the term progresses and they become more familiar with the surroundings and routine it will soon become second nature.

Please find below information which I hope you will find helpful. In future you will be able to receive letters via email through ParentMail but all letters will also be posted on the School website.

Access to School in the afternoons

For those pupils who come to school by car, there is the morning 'drop-off' facility within the school grounds and also the lay-by on Sydenham Avenue which allows direct access to the school buildings via the entrance at Technology. However, we ask that in the afternoon parents collect within the school grounds only after 3.45pm. Collection within the school grounds at 3.30pm is not possible because there is not space for everyone to wait. Now that the first two weeks of the term are over we would ask Form 1 parents to wait outside the school grounds unless after 3.45pm. Pupils can exit the buildings at any time but, for security, access into the school can be gained only at designated times or at the controlled access doors at reception and Technology.

Please note that it is essential there is no parking on the double yellow lines outside the school entrance as this causes a major problem for our buses.

After school - Room G2

Pupils who wish to remain for a time after school may wait on the school premises in Room G2. Pupils who choose to use this facility will be unsupervised and in the interests of safety it is advisable that all pupils are collected in the evening by 5.00 pm at the latest. Our late afternoon minibus run to the Newtownards and Holywood Roads is also available.

Form 1 Bonding Day

All Form 1 will be involved in team building exercises organised at the Ulster Folk Museum on Friday 12 September. We hope this will be a great day for the pupils and staff and further details will follow.

New Build

We are in the last stages of our building programme and are delighted to be into the main block with easy access to specialist accommodation including the ICT Learning Centre and Library. It is great to have our new assembly hall and we now have seated assembly which is a great bonus. Our new Gymnasium is well underway and the last of the old buildings have been demolished and the site cleared for a play-ground and two more tennis courts. The completion date is November 2014 and we look forward to having use of all the extensive facilities.

House Plays

Preparations for the House plays are now beginning in earnest. These provide exciting opportunities for all the participants and great enjoyment for the rest of the school. On **Wednesday 22 October** at 7.30pm in the Assembly Hall at the AGM of the Parents' Association the winning production will be performed for parents and interested friends.

Form 1 Evening

This is a preliminary notice for our Form 1 Parents' Consultation Evening when you will be able to come with your daughter, to meet her teachers and see some examples of her work. This is planned for **Thursday 4 December** at 7.30 pm.

Holidays

I would ask for your full co-operation in adhering to the School term and holiday dates when making holiday arrangements. Due to the necessary pace in order to cover the required work, any absence undoubtedly puts extra pressure on the girls. Therefore, please ensure that any request for holidays outside these dates is made, in writing, directly to the Principal.

Mobile Phones

If your daughter brings a mobile phone to school we would insist that it be kept switched off at all times throughout the school day, with the exception of the lunch-time break. We appreciate your co-operation regarding this matter.

Thank you for your support and I look forward to meeting you during the coming year.

Yours sincerely

D Manning
Principal