

1st October 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have completed our first month and the pupils have settled back to school really well. I have to commend them on how well they have been wearing their face coverings and following our Covid Safety Rules. They have been brilliant. You will however see from the number of positive cases that we have had during September that it is really important that they continue to be safe.

Assessment tracks – track 1 is underway

During the course of the year we will complete ‘tracks’ with all of our pupils. This is our assessment of the pupils’ progress. It is essential that every pupil does their very best in each of these assessments, as this will provide us with very important data. In the event of this year being anything like last year, this data will be used to contribute towards a Centre Determined Grade (CDG) for your daughter or son for the exam boards.

The outcomes of these tracks will be shared with you on the SIMS Parent App.

Tracks to be completed by:

7th October for Year 12, 13 & 14

14th October for Year 9

20th October for Year 8, 10 & 11

PE uniform

Thank you for helping your children to comply with our new guidance on what to wear on PE days. There has been a huge improvement this week. I know that there have been some issues with suppliers and appreciate that you are trying, but in the meantime black or navy tops or bottoms will suffice, until fresh supplies are available with our uniform suppliers. If your son/daughter has an injury or is unable to participate in their PE lesson they should wear their normal uniform to school and not their PE gear.

Pupils who live in Maghera

Should now be in school for 9am and go directly to their bubble room or their Period 1 room.

Mass

Our Inaugural Mass will take place on Wednesday 6th October at 2.30pm. Year 8 pupils will attend the Mass in St Mary’s Church. All other pupils will watch the Mass on-line with their Form Tutor. You are welcome to join us at

<https://www.mcnmedia.tv/camera/st-marys-rc-church>

Year 8 Road Safety

Our Year 8 pupils will have Road safety training on Thursday 6th October.



European Day of Languages Door winners

There were some fabulous and creative doors this year. Well done to all of our KS3 pupils.

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
1 st 8Zn	9Cs	10Ne
2 nd 8Cr	9Hg	10Cd
3 rd 8Ge	9Al	10Cu



Runners Up ASC and LSC

The classes who came first will have a pizza party

Free School Meals and Uniform



FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

- If you have not applied please do so as soon as possible
- It can take up to four weeks for an application to be processed
- If you have not received an email confirming your application please check your junk mail
- For more information please visit: www.eani.org.uk/fsm

Revision Classes

There will be a number of revision classes running over the next few weeks for GCSE classes in preparation for CCEA modules in November. Please support us in supporting your child to achieve the best that they can. Full attendance is essential and will help your child to be the best that they can be.

School Fund

Thank you to all of the families who have paid our School Fund, we really appreciate it.

A gentle reminder to all families to pay this as soon as possible.

It is really important that this is paid, as due to underfunding for schools by the Department of Education, we need this to maintain the high levels of support and provision that our pupils experience.

We can take cash or cheque or card payments over the phone or you can pay online directly to our bank account 59337986. Sort code 909126

There is also an option to pay in instalments. Please contact the College Bursar Mrs A Higgins if this is your preferred option.

Family members	Amount payable:
1 pupil (Year 8-12)	£30
2 pupils (Year 8-12)	£25 each (Total £50)
3 or more pupils (Year 8-12)	£20 each (Total £60)
Sixth Form pupils	£60 each

COVID Update

The number of positive pupil cases this week was **12**.

If your child tests positive you **MUST** inform the College.

If your child is unwell please do not send them to school.

If any member of your family tests positive please do not send your child to school until they have received a negative PCR test.

Not all pupils who have tested positive have symptoms, this is why it is so important that we sign up to our **Lateral Flow Testing** scheme. We ask that each pupil completes a Lateral Flow Test on a Monday and a Thursday. If positive please inform the College, book a PCR test and isolate until result is received. If positive continue isolating for 10 days, if negative the pupil may return to school.



Our canteen will continue to provide food for those pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) who are unable to attend school for 10 days or more due to Covid-19. Specifically these are children who are:

- diagnosed with a medical condition or illness and who-
- despite their absence from school, are registered by the school as being in attendance on the basis of medical advice that owing to their medical condition or illness it is medically unsafe to be in attendance at school;
- can demonstrate evidence that they are being educated, or otherwise engaging in learning, whilst not in attendance at school;
- self-isolating as a consequence of their own positive test for coronavirus disease;
- pupils who have been advised by the Public Health Agency that they should not attend school on the basis of having been identified as a close contact of a positive COVID-19 case and they have not taken a PCR test.

It should be noted that food provision **cannot** be made for FSM pupils not attending school for any other reason.

The EA school meals catering service will make food provision, by way of a food parcel to the value of a FSM for the required number of days, and if required will deliver to FSM pupils.

Help to save the environment for future generations

Pope Francis has said that our common home and common family are suffering. The climate emergency is causing rising seas, a warmer planet, and more extreme weather. It is devastating the lives of our poorest sisters

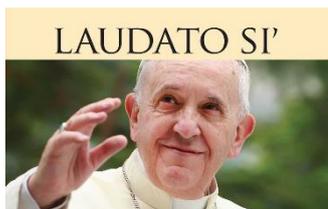


and brothers. At the same time, biologists estimate that we are driving species to extinction at a rate of 100 to 1,000 times their usual rate. "We have no such right" (Laudato Si' 33).

We have an opportunity like no other. At the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in October, world leaders can set meaningful targets to protect creation. In November, at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference (COP26), countries will announce their plans to meet the goals of the Paris agreement. Ahead of those meetings, it is our responsibility as Catholics to lift up the voices of the most vulnerable and advocate on their behalf. We must act now.

I would encourage you and your children to sign this online petition.(see below) Pope Francis will personally present signatures to the COP 26 President in Glasgow when he attends the climate conference in November.

<https://thecatholicpetition.org/>



Year 8 Testing Letter

A letter regarding testing of Year 8 pupils has been posted on the app earlier this week – copy attached.

On-line safety warning

It is good advice to ensure that your children leave their devices in the kitchen overnight. Make this a family rule. We find that pupils are on their devices (phones/tablets) for long periods during the night. This leaves them unable to concentrate in school.

Keep safe,
Mrs B. Mussen
Principal

the Carly Ryan foundation. APP FACTS

AMONG US

Age Rating in the App Store: 9+

Age rating according to app provider

Among Us is an online multiplayer social deduction game. The game takes place in a space-themed setting, in which players each take on one of two roles, most being Crewmates, and a predetermined number being Impostors. The goal for the crewmates is to use their detective work to vote out the imposters before they eliminate all the crewmates.

Although Among Us is suitable for ages 9 and above, the game relies heavily on communication. It is always a good idea to make sure your child is supervised and understands how to stay safe before giving them access to a game that allows them to communicate with strangers.

Challenges

- Inappropriate usernames
- Abusive language & inappropriate chat
- Online grooming
- No report functionality
- Focus on getting users to private chat applications (i.e. Discord)

A Focus On Discord

The Among Us experience can be enjoyed on computer and mobile devices, but the app itself only offers communication through text giving a limited user experience. YouTube and streaming personalities have popularised the use of voice chatting through Discord while playing Among Us to enhance the gameplay, inciting players to do the same. Players who are strangers commonly exchange Discord details to meet on private chat servers; a safe practise if a user only communicates about the game, but can quickly become confronting and uncomfortable if the conversation diverts to personal information.

How Do I Report A User?

Unfortunately at this time Among Us does not offer an option to report users.

How Do I Censor Chat?

Note: These steps are for Among Us mobile

1. Open up your Among Us app
2. Click circular cogwheel icon at bottom
3. Confirm that 'Censor Chat' is on, if not tap the button and activate the filter. The box around the button should be green.

It is worth highlighting that as easy as it is to turn on, the same can be said for turning it off.

Like any game, Among Us can be a positive social activity that keeps you connected. Just be mindful of screen time and be aware of who you are connecting with. We always encourage open conversations around privacy and personal safety.

App Fact Sheets available from the Carly Ryan Foundation. Please email: info@carlyryanfoundation.com

carlyryanfoundation.com

TheCarlyRyanFoundation @thecarlyryanfoundation @TeamCarlyCRF

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