



Dear Parent/Carer

We would like to wish all of our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We have had a lovely final week. Our pupils behaved impeccably at our Junior and Senior Dances and we were hugely impressed with their participation in social dancing. Our S1 Science Centre Trip was also a hit and all other festive events, including our week-long festive breakfast bar, Christmas Quiz, video and Christmas Assemblies on the final day have demonstrated just how well we work as a school community.

We look forward to next term with enthusiasm. Of course, our first senior phase prelim diet takes place week beginning 15 January and we are very optimistic that our pupils' hard work will pay off and demonstrate the good progress that our S4-6 pupils are making. We also have lots to look forward to including trips, events and, of course, seeing pupils developing their learning in every sense of the word.

**School resumes for pupils on Tuesday 9 January at 8.51 AM (Breakfast Bar in Minerva for all pupils from 8.30 AM).**

#### Dates for the Diary

**Tuesday 9 January - Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM**

**Wednesday 10 January - Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM**

**Thursday 11 January – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 8.50 AM; S1/2 Trip to RBC Film Theatre, 1.20 PM – 4.20 PM**

**Friday 12 January – Breakfast Bar, Minerva, 8.30 AM – 9.00 AM**

#### Respectful Relationships/Mobile Phone Use

We will be sending out a summary of the principles of our policy Respectful Behaviour Policy to parents/carers in January. Please note that we will also be revisiting our Mobile Device Policy as part of improving learning and behaviour in classes. This means that pupils not complying with policy will have phones removed and sent to the school office for safekeeping, Parents/carers will be informed of infringements. There has been much research to show that misuse of mobile devices have a detrimental effect on learning. We are also finding that junior pupils, in particular, are contacting parents/carers during lessons. As phones will not be permitted to be used in these classes, this means any child using phones in this way will have their phone removed.

#### Winter Weather Arrangements

These arrangements can now be found on our school website.



### **Social Areas**

Please remind your child of the following arrangements for social areas:

- S1 - Cafe (indoor); rear of school (outdoor)
- S2 - Cafe (indoor); front of link corridor (outdoor)
- S3 - Main Hall (indoor); front of main building (outdoor)
- S4 - Main Hall (indoor); front of main building (outdoor)
- S5 - Minerva (indoor); front of Minerva building (outdoor)
- S6 - Minerva (indoor); front of Minerva building (outdoor)

S1 on site at both break and lunch

S2 -3 on site at break, but allowed off at lunch

S4 -6 allowed off site at break and lunch

We are seeing an increasing number S1 pupils going off site at lunch and S1-3 pupils going off site at morning break. This is not permitted.

### **Meeting with Staff**

**A reminder that parents/carers who wish to meet with a member of staff to discuss matters regarding their child's welfare or progress should telephone the school office to make an appointment.** We are seeing an increasing number of parents/carers arriving in school requesting to see staff immediately. Whilst we are delighted to welcome parents/carers to the school, the nature of the working day for staff means that unarranged meetings are usually not possible.

### **Save the Date**

**S4-6 Prelims – Monday 15 January – Friday 19 January (1<sup>st</sup> diet)**

**Burns Supper – Friday 26 January (details to follow)**

**S4-6 Prelims – Monday 19 February – Friday 23 February (2nd diet)**

### **Attendance**

A reminder to report pupil absences via the pupil absence line below. You should state the pupil's name, Tutor Group, reason for absence and expected duration of absence.

Pupil Absence Line: 01387 274356

All previous updates will be archived on our new website. You will be able to find reminders about school uniform, social areas, health and safety and other key school information

Joanne Dillon

Headteacher

