

CULLYBACKEY COLLEGE

Principal: Mr D Donaldson, B.Ed., M.Ed, P.Q.H.

School Office (028) 2588 0771
Fax No. (028) 2588 1440



44 Pottinger Street,
Cullybackey,
BALLYMENA,
Co. Antrim,
BT42 1BP

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Dear Parent / Guardian,

The new term has brought with it both a change in school name and also a change in leadership. Consequently, I felt it was appropriate to take this opportunity to formally make contact with you and share some initial thoughts.

First and foremost, regardless of ability, I want every pupil under our care to achieve their maximum academic potential. The school has a strong history of academic achievement which I wish to build upon. I have had the opportunity to visit every classroom within the school and have been impressed with the standard and appropriateness of teaching offered and also the conduct and contribution of the pupils.

I want every pupil to feel welcome, safe and happy within the school and all staff, teaching and non-teaching, make every effort to ensure this is the case. In addition, I have high expectations for every young person within the school in terms of how they conduct themselves whilst wearing the school uniform. This entails complying with the guidelines in our Positive Behaviour Policy. This has been revised during September and a draft copy of the document is available on our school website for you to view. Alternatively you may collect a paper copy from reception at the school. Any constructive parental feedback would be welcome. Pupils will also be given an opportunity to respond to it through our Student Council.

I would emphasise the fact that I expect all pupils to comply with the basics of good behaviour: namely conducting themselves appropriately whilst in class; being respectful to all members of our school community and refraining from using inappropriate language. In addition, I have a legal responsibility for the health and well-being of all our pupils – with that in mind, no pupil is allowed outside the school premises during the school day without formal consent. The only exception to this is our Sixth Form pupils who have the privilege of being able to access the village at lunchtime. Also, the North Eastern Education and Library Board place on me the responsibility of seeking to ensure that the school premises are a smoke-free area. A minority of pupils have broken this directive and, as a result, I have amended the school sanctions to indicate that any pupil who is found to be smoking or in possession of cigarettes while in school uniform will be suspended for 2 school days and this will be recorded on their formal school records.

I would also like to inform you of a change to our current 2013-14 calendar with Friday 10th January 2014 becoming a staff training day when pupils will not attend school while Friday 21st February 2014 will now be a normal school day. Another date to be aware of is our School Fair which will take place on Tuesday 3rd December 2013. As a member of the school community you are warmly welcome to what promises to be a great evening. I would encourage you to regularly view our school website which provides an up-to-date calendar and also gives you a good insight into school life.

I have been appreciative of the support of parents thus far and look forward to your continued support for, and involvement in, the life of the school. On a practical note I would encourage you to take an active interest in your child's homework and also ensure that they wear their uniform appropriately.

Finally I want to assure you of my determination to provide your child with the best possible educational experience during their time at Cullybackey College.

Regards

Mr D Donaldson
Principal