



7 September 2010

To Parents of Pupils in Form 4

Dear Parent

Welcome back to Strathearn. I hope you all had a pleasant and restful summer and that your daughter has now settled into the new term. Please find below information which I hope you will find helpful.

Form 4 Parents' Information Evening - Monday 20 September at 7pm in Miskelly Hall

We have introduced this evening to help parents be better informed about GCSEs and thus be best able to support their daughters. This is not a consultation evening but it does give an opportunity to explain:

- the nature and demands of GCSE and the variety of approaches for different subjects
- the coursework requirements and procedures
- the ways in which the girls should be working *and*
- how to support your daughter through her GCSEs.

I sincerely hope you will be able to come along. Our aim is that the evening will help parents and teachers to work together more effectively in supporting the girls and thereby enhance their prospects of success in their crucial GCSE examinations. On this occasion the pupils do not attend as they will have had a more detailed briefing by their tutors.

New Build

You will all now most probably be aware of the Education Minister's announcement over the summer that the Strathearn School new build is to progress in this financial year. We are absolutely delighted with this news which now means that we can finally proceed with our plans. I am sure you will agree that this is a great boost for the school community and we look forward to work starting on site on 31 January 2011. Further details will follow during the year.

School Inspection

This year, our School will be inspected by the Department of Education during the week beginning Monday 27 September 2010. During the week the team will be speaking directly to staff, governors and pupils about their experiences. Accompanying this letter is one in an envelope from the Department explaining the inspection process and how you may make your views known. I would encourage you to demonstrate your interest by responding to any questionnaires. We look forward to having the team visit Strathearn and gain an understanding of all that we offer and that the girls achieve. A copy of the findings will be published at www.etni.gov.uk by week beginning 22 November 2010.

Uniform

We have been delighted to see how smart our pupils looked in their revised uniform on the first day of the new academic year. We have also been very appreciative of the many messages of support we have received to date from parents for our uniform changes. We are awaiting further supplementary orders from Warnocks and Podium to arrive before the end of September. We will continue to keep parents advised of the latest situation through our website.

Examination Results

We are delighted with another great set of examination results and the continued success of all our pupils in public examinations. At GCSE 59% of grades achieved were A or A*, the top two grades, and the Press placed us as one of the top two schools in Northern Ireland. The standard at A Level has continued to be excellent with 72% of the grades awarded at A or B. It gives us all great satisfaction to note the high level of attainment of our pupils and we congratulate all the girls on their achievement and celebrate their success.

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.

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 20 October** at 7.30pm in the Gym at the AGM of the Parents' Association the winning production will be performed for parents and interested friends. Please do plan to come along and support the work of the Parents' Association and enjoy some first rate entertainment.

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.

Safety at School

Please can I remind you that pupils are not to be left off up the driveway, but are to be left at either of the entrances. This is most important and in the interests of the safety of the majority of girls it is imperative that everyone abides by this advice. I must also draw to your attention the double yellow lines around the school gates and ask you not to park or stop at these locations.

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

Yours sincerely

D Manning
Principal