

Year 8 Information

Morning

Mrs Rea – Head of Year 8 Girls

Mrs Scott – Head of Year 8 Boys



*Learning and
Achieving Together*

Purpose of the Morning

- To develop the home-school link
- A chance to meet key staff
- Explain pastoral and academic support available in College
- Supporting your child/young person in College
- Support networks within Laurelhill



Pastoral Support at Laurelhill



*Learning and
Achieving Together*

Pastoral Support and Points of Contact

Form Tutor – Level 1

- - first point of contact for all parent queries

Head of Year – Level 2

- - Mrs Rea and Mrs Scott

Senior Teacher for Pastoral Care – Level 3

- - Mrs Beckett – responsible for girls

Deputy Principal – Level 3

- - Mr Dane – responsible for boys



Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher for Child Protection

- Mr M Dane

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

- Mrs K Beckett
- Miss E Collins

Principal – Mrs N Stevenson





Illness & Appointments

- Pupils should let their class teacher know, or can go to Form Tutor who can advise on next step
- Your child should not be contacting you if they are unwell, they should speak to a member of staff.
- Medication – please contact your child's form tutor if they require any specific medication to be kept in school
- Appointments – send a note to school on the day before/day of the appointment. If possible, please schedule these outside of school hours
- Teachers will link with the school nurse in cases of illness, injury, medication etc. Please ensure we are aware of medical conditions.



Attendance

Parents must send a note to school detailing reason for absence so this can be recorded on students' attendance record.

Form tutors will contact you if a student has been absent for more than 3 consecutive days.

Holidays during term time are strongly discouraged



Ways to report attendance

Note to Form Tutor in the
homework diary

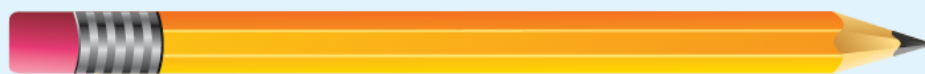
Phone the office to report absence

Report via the website using the
Google Doc



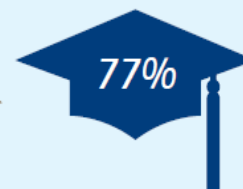
CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

Greater than
95% Attendance

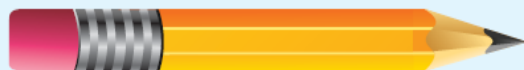


77% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%

77%

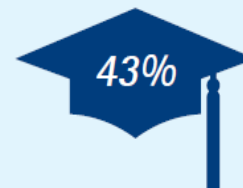


Less than
90% Attendance



43% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%

43%

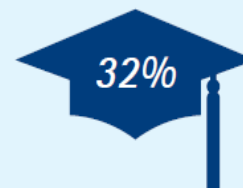


Less than
80% Attendance



32% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%

32%



Source: School Leavers 2014/15



LAURELHILL

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed

Year 8 will review attendance in Form Class every Tuesday



Counselling

Familyworks was established in 1999 to provide confidential counselling and training in schools and the community for children, young people, staff and parents. We believe in working with you to agree a bespoke service for your school, going that extra mile to ensure the young people we engage with are fully supported.

Our 80 qualified counsellors currently deliver over 165 primary and 900 post-primary counselling sessions every week.

FAMILYWORKS COUNSELLING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

Our counselling services can help pupils to

- Regulate emotions
- Foster positive relationships with peers & adults
- Develop coping strategies
- Engage in their education
- Build resilience

Our counselling and training services offer a multitude of benefits for your school

- Professionally supported and highly motivated staff
- Resilient, happier, healthier young people, engaged in their education
- Confidence in the school for parents
- Additional support for the pastoral care of your young people
- Annual reports on services delivered in your school
- Demonstrates your commitment to ongoing improvement to inspectors
- Counselling - a short-term investment for long-term wellbeing.



Home-School Links

Text Message

Email

Phonecall

SIMS App

Parent
Consultations



Home-School Links

- Please do not contact the college via our social media pages, all enquiries should be made via the college office on 02892607351.
- If you need to speak a member of staff, please make an appointment.
- Please be aware the staff are teaching from 9am -3pm and will not be able to answer calls immediately.



Making Payments



- Download teachers2parents app from the playstore/app store
- When downloaded it will ask for a mobile number, (has to be the first contact on SIMS)
- You should get a verification code, enter that and you should get into schoolmoney app.

College Uniform

Boys

- Navy Blue Blazer
- Dark Grey Trousers
- College Tie
- White Shirt
- Grey jumper
- Grey/Black Socks
- Black Leather shoes

Girls

- Navy Blue Blazer
- Charcoal 4 Kick Pleat Skirt
- White blouse and College Tie (terms 1 & 2)
- Grey jumper
- Black Opaque Tights (terms 1 & 2)/Socks
- Black Leather Shoes
- Summer Blouse (permitted term 3)

Note

The ¼" PE top can be worn underneath the blazer in terms 1 and 2.

A branded waterproof coat is also available.

No hooded tops are permitted to be worn with the uniform.

Physical Education Clothing

Girls

- Nike Polo*
- Nike Skort/ PE Shorts (Royal Blue)/leggings**
- Games Socks or performance socks*
- Track Shoes (non-marking soles)*
- Nike College ¼" top
- Nike College performance tracksuit (strongly advised)
- Nike College Hoodie
- Nike College waterproof jacket

Boys

- Nike T Shirt (Royal Blue)*
- Nike Shorts (Royal Blue)*
- Nike Games Socks (Royal Blue)*
- Astro/Track Shoes (non-marking soles)*
- Football Boots*
- Nike College Performance tracksuit
- Nike College Hoodie
- Nike waterproof jacket

* essential

** only one item in the list is essential



Shoes - Please see examples of acceptable shoes below



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Extra Curricular Activities



Main programme of activities for the year. Some smaller clubs may run for a term at time throughout the year at lunchtime, these will be announced in assembly.

Extra-Curricular 2023/24

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Lunchtime Clubs				
YEAR 8 LUNCH CLUB - C2			YEAR 8 CHOIR (Pd7) - E2	YEAR 8 LUNCH CLUB - E2
			JUNIOR CHOIR (Pd 8 - Yr 9&10) - E4	
After School Clubs				
BASKETBALL PE Dept	NETBALL PE Dept	FOOTBALL PE Dept	GIRLS FOOTBALL PE Dept	
HOCKEY PE Dept	CADETS 3.20PM-5PM	COLLEGE BAND E4 - Music Dept	RUNNING CLUB PE Dept	
SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'Annie' - Direction E1 - Drama Dept	SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'Annie' - Dance/Direction E1 - Drama Dept	SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'Annie' - Direction E1 - Drama Dept	SCHOOL PRODUCTION 'Annie' - Singing E3 - Music Dept	
LEGO CLUB Mrs Lennon - B7	SENIOR CHOIR E3 - Music Dept	ART CLUB (YR 8-10) Art Dept	ROCK BAND E3 - Music Dept	
	COOKERY CLUB HE Dept	PROGRAMMING CLUB C4 - ICT Dept	Scripture Union B1 - RE Dept	
	SCIENCE CLUB Mr Nevnham - B6		ART CLUB (YR 11-14) Art Dept	
			BADMINTON - PE Dept	

Student Planner

Getting Organised

You can improve your learning at college if you **plan and think** about what you need for college every day. Each night you need to check your timetable for the next day and make sure that you have the correct books and equipment in your school bag. Look at your timetable and write down items you need for each day in College.

	Things I need
Monday	
Tuesday	
Wednesday	
Thursday	
Friday	

Equipment

In your pencil case you must have:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ 2 x blue pens | ☐ Sharpener |
| ☐ 2 x black pen | ☐ Ruler |
| ☐ 1 x red pen | ☐ Set of colouring pencils |
| ☐ Pencil | ☐ Highlighter |
| ☐ Eraser | ☐ Glue stick (Pritt) |

For Mathematics you will need:

- Mathematical Instrument set
- Calculator

For English and literacy we would encourage you to buy a dictionary and thesaurus (Collins or Oxford as others are not comprehensive enough).

You would also benefit from having your own USB pen drive.

Key Stage 3 Topics

The tables below give you an overview of what topics you will be covering each term in your subjects. You can use this to plan ahead, as a basic revision list or maybe even to ask your parents to take you on a trip that might help you understand the topic (for example a trip to Carrickfergus Castle could help in History). It is important to remember that due to unforeseen circumstances the topics may sometimes be moved into another Term.

Art

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Term 1 Line - All about me. Print, portraiture, mark making <i>Artists - Kandinsky, Riley, Picasso, Klee</i>	Term 1 Tone - Still life painting Pastel, painting, digital photography <i>Artists - Cezanne, contemporary links</i>	Term 1 Painting - Surrealist Shoes Painting, design work <i>Artists - Magritte, Dalí</i>
Term 2 Colour - Colour theory, batik, textiles <i>Artists - Impressionists, expressionists, Fauves</i>	Term 2 Lettering - Dragons Den Health Drink ICT, design process, research <i>Artists - Coke/paper design, ...</i>	Term 2 Proportions - Figures & Movement Wire sculptures Giacometti, Moore, Matisse, Futurists
Term 3 Pattern/Texture - Collage and stitch	Term 3 Architecture - buildings and Perspective Textile collage, ceramic 3D work	Term 3 Portraits - Masks & Faces Self-portrait, 3D mask design, cultural links for creation of pattern. <i>Artists - Freud, Modigliani, Klimt</i>

Design and Technology

Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Term 1 Tray Puzzle Project - workshop safety; basic workshop skills; using a coping saw; vacuum forming.	Term 1 Cam Toy Project - workshop safety; research & design; cone and followers; wood and joining methods. (NB - project will extend into term 2)	Term 1 Model Crane - workshop safety; pneumatics; measurement & accuracy; product redesign.
Term 2 Moving Figure Project - Research & Design; levers & linkages; manufacturing in MDF.	Term 2 Mobile Phone Theft Alarm - Electronics; soldering; vacuum forming	Term 2 Night Light Project - Electronics; soldering; vacuum forming; fabrication in acrylic; using laser cutter/CNC technology
Term 3 Go-Kart Project - Renewable Energy; thermo and thermoforming plastic; manufacturing in acrylic; measurement & accuracy	Term 3 CAD Design Unit - using CAD/CAM; using Solid works as a design tool.	Term 3 Controlled Assessment Task - Research and Design of product on a prescribed theme. ICT Computer Control - Use of flow charts and logic for computer systems design.



Homework and Home Study

Homework

At Laurelhill Community College we believe that homework is an essential part of your education. Homework helps to raise attainment and develop independent study skills. We believe homework can be used to motivate pupils, as well as develop curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

Homework can take many forms, such as:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| • written work | • making notes | • drawing and sketching |
| • spelling | • memorising | • computer based tasks |
| • reading | • project work | • instrumental practice |
| • revising | • research | • keeping a journal |

Not all subjects issue homework every week. The tables on the next page give an overview of the amount and type of homework that can be expected in each subject. Please note that this may vary according to subject and year group.

Non-Submission of Homework:

You must ensure that homework is completed on time and to the best of your ability. A lack of commitment to homework and self-directed study can result in overall poor performance! If homework is not submitted on time you can expect:

Teacher

A verbal reprimand, a text sent home to your parents and a comment placed on your permanent record in SIMS. Your teacher may also place a note to your parents in your Home Learning Planner.

Head of Department

If you don't submit your homework on three occasions you will be sent to the Head of Department who will contact your parents in writing.

Head of Year/College

The Head of College or Head of Year will also be informed and your parents may be invited into the school to address the issue.

Personal Development

Whilst homework and self-directed study is essential, it is important that you get involved in activities outside school and College extra-curricular activities. Outside school, this can include sport clubs, music lessons, swimming lessons and joining organisations such as the Scouts and Girl Guides. Being committed in these ways will contribute to your self-development and help you lead a fuller life.

Weekly Homework

Subject	Nature of Homework
English	One spelling homework per week (learning and written)
Mathematics	One numeracy or learning homework per week One topic related homework per week.
Modern Languages	One learning homework per week (e.g. vocabulary)
Science	One written homework per week

Fortnightly Homework

Subject	Nature of Homework
Art	One per fortnight - terms 1 & 2 (research and drawing)
English	One reading or written piece of work per fortnight
Geography	One written homework or learning key words per week
Music	One homework per week (listening; recorder practice; music theory; spellings)

Other Homework

Subject	Nature of Homework
Art	Project based work - term 3
Drama	Two per half term in each term pupils are timetabled for Drama (one lengthy written piece and one practical piece)
Geography	One extended written piece per half-term based on topics studied in class.
Home Economics	Two per month (learning; research; written)
Modern Languages	One reading and writing task per topic
Music	One research piece of work per term
Religious Education	Two per half term (learning; research; written)
Technology & Design	Up to three pieces of work per half term (design; research and investigation)



Homework Planner

- Good way to communicate with your child's form tutor
 - absence notes
 - a quick message
- We encourage all parents to monitor their child's homework diaries. They should be signed every week by parents and form tutors
- Please check students are recording their homework – if a student requires further support then please inform their form tutor.



Homework

- The student planner or homework diary has many areas to help support students to manage their time and get organised
- We encourage students to write their homework into their diaries on the day a task is due to be submitted
- Students must complete and hand in all homework set



Home Study and Revision

Study Skills - Strategies for Success

A strategy involves using a plan of action to achieve a certain goal. To achieve success you will need to use a variety of strategies such as those listed below.

Talk through these strategies with your parents or a teacher.

Strategy 1 - Listen Carefully

- Concentrate on what is being said and ignore other noise
- Ask questions if something is not clear. (During lesson or after lesson)
- Listen for the meanings and ideas behind the words.

Strategy 2 - Take Clear notes

- Write down only important facts and ideas.
- Use your own words rather than those of the teacher.
- Number the major points made into a sequence.

Strategy 3 - Choose the Right Place

- Try to do your work in the same quiet place.
- Ensure that your work place is well lit to avoid tiring your eyes.
- Keep your work space tidy and use a firm chair.

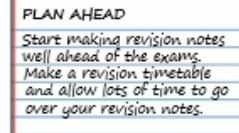
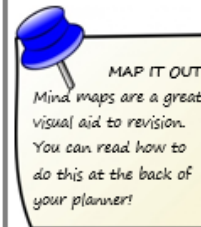
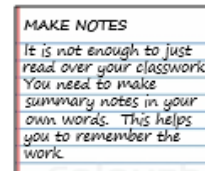
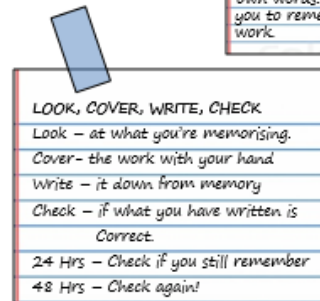
Strategy 4 - Go Further

- Make it a habit to do some homework every day.
- Identify and regularly use additional references *eg encyclopedia, internet.*

Strategy 5 - Revise Effectively

- Be specific and stick rigidly to your revision timetable.
- Revise in short bursts and stop when your mind begins to wander.
- Try to reproduce notes on paper rather than just reading books.

Top Tips for Revision Success



Woodland Scout Centre

- As part of our transition programme we have booked an activity day at Woodland Scout Centre in Ballinderry for our Year 8 students
- Students will participate in a range of outdoor activities such as orienteering, archery, axe throwing and team building games
- The cost of the trip is £20, this will be requested via the school money app. Students should have received a consent form which must be completed and returned to school to attend.



Dates of the trip

- Trip 1 – Thursday 19th September 2024

8R

8O

8Y

8V1

- Trip 2 – Friday 20th September 2024

8G

8B

8I

8V2

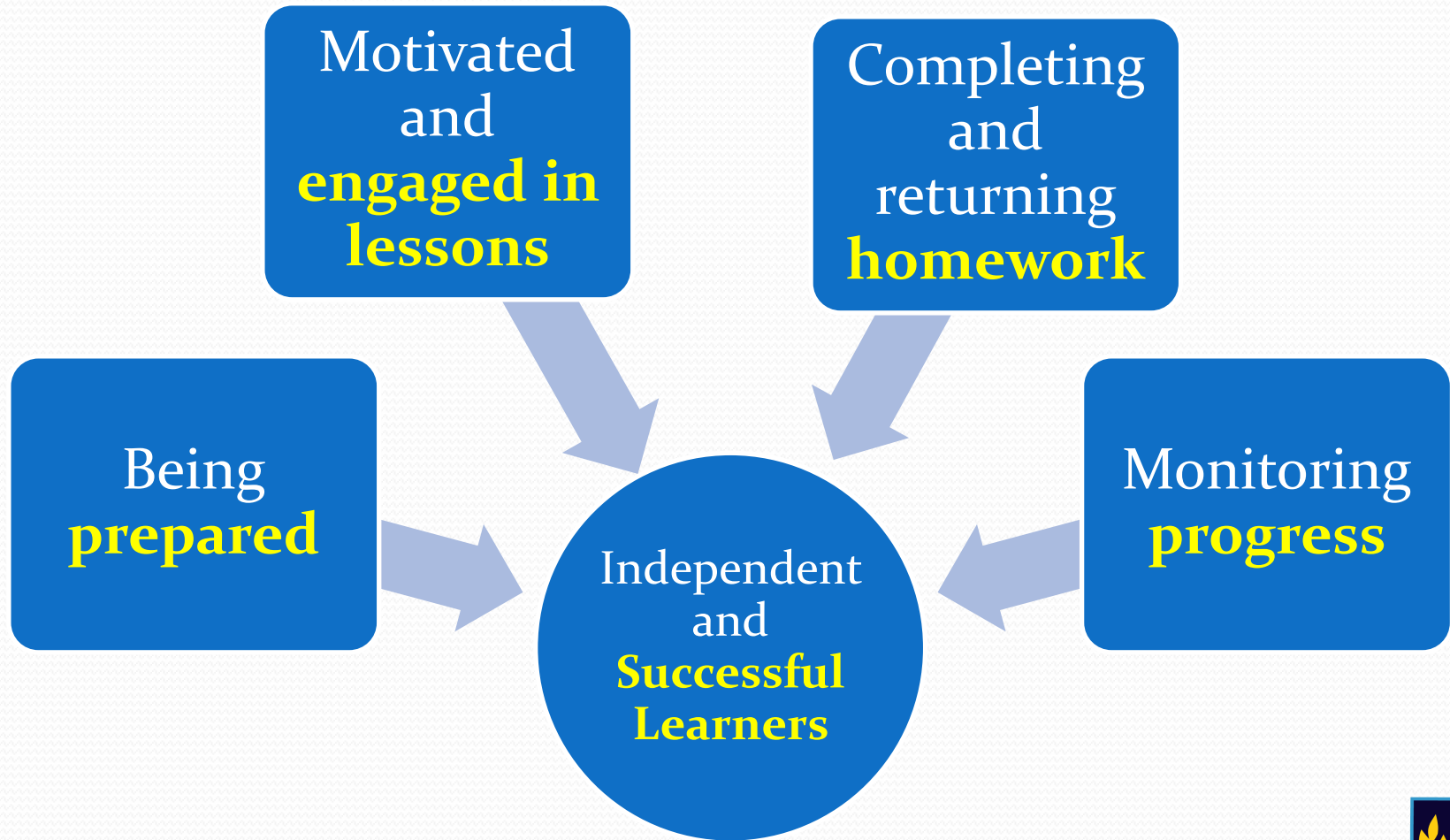


Teaching & Learning at Laurelhill

Miss K. McNelis



*Learning and
Achieving Together*



Being
prepared



Importance of Support at Home



Parents/carers also play a vital role in supporting their children.

Evidence shows that parental interest and encouragement is a strong predictor of a child's success in education and their career.

Importance of Support at Home



“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents”- Jane D Hull

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/give-your-child-helping-hand>



Supporting your Year 8 Child's Education

- Encouraging good attendance and time keeping
- Encouraging organisation and being ready to learn
- Support with homework/revision
- Being aware of key dates – tracking dates, special events etc.
- Encouraging extra-curricular and the social aspect of school life
- Healthy lifestyle and routines
- Taking an interest



Motivated
and
engaged
in lessons



Behaviour for Learning

Positive behaviour for learning allows **ALL** students in the classroom to learn

- Entering the classroom appropriately
- Ready to learn from the beginning
- Maintain focus throughout the lesson
- Co-operate with staff and peers

Positive behaviour is rewarded, and negative behaviour has consequences.



Completing and returning **homework**



Benefits of Homework

- Consolidates the learning that has happened in the classroom
- Tasks are sometimes essential for the learning scheduled to take place in the next lesson
- Designed to support learning or stretch and challenge
- Good practice for later years in school



Monitoring progress



Assessment

Baseline Testing
August &
September

Tracking 1
Winter Exams =
16th-19th December

Tracking 2
Class Tracking =
February

Tracking 3
Summer Exams =
5th-10th June

Reporting

Baseline
Assessment
Report – October

Pupil Progress
Report 1 - January

Pupil Progress
Report 2 - March

Pupil Report -
June

Parent
Consultation
– 21st
November



Baseline Testing

- CAT₄ (Cognitive Ability Tests)
- PTE (Progress Test in English)
- PTM (Progress Test in Maths)
- PTS (Progress Test in Science)
- PASS (Pupil attitudes toward self & school)

Yesterday/Today

W/b
23rd September

- Target setting
- Teaching and learning in the classroom
- Monitoring performance
- Informing intervention
- Informs banding

Purpose



Baseline Testing

- Students must engage fully with these tests as the outcomes are important
- A report will be shared at the end of October via the SIMS app that details outcomes and explanation
- Headphones



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A person with their arms raised in triumph stands on the peak of a rugged, rocky mountain. The sun is shining brightly in the upper left corner of the frame, creating a lens flare effect. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape of rolling hills and valleys under a clear blue sky.

*Success does not happen
by accident. It is
planned for!*

**Working in partnership is crucial in giving our children
the best chance of success!**

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			BADMINTON - PE Dept	

Swimming

- 20p
- Swimming costume/swimming shorts
- Towel
- Googles
- Cost: Girls £20, Boys £25 (pay on school money app)

