



# ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

July 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we now end the academic year, I would like to thank you for your on-going support as we continually seek to improve our community. I hope that during this year your sons have grown as independent learners and have embraced the numerous opportunities that have been made available to them.

I would like to thank and congratulate all the students who took public exams this year. How they conducted themselves was exemplary and their attendance at intervention/support sessions during Easter holidays, Saturday mornings and after school reflected their determination to succeed.

There have been a number of highlights this year which reflect our continued focus on continuing to develop our College, these include the new House System which has led to numerous highly successful and engaging inter house activities and a great feeling of positive engagement and teamwork. The blessing of the House System at the start of the year was an amazing event as was the exceptional sports awards evening at the end of term. Other notable successes have been seen across the board in Sports, of which during this year, there have been so many new opportunities for our students to engage and excel. We have also had a number of excellent concerts and we certainly all enjoyed the high quality production of "Little Shop of Horrors". We have been successful in raising significant amounts of money for our House Charities and we look forward to developing this area of our work next year. I have been delighted to see the developing nature of our student leadership programme and especially proud of how our 6<sup>th</sup> Form students have embraced their new students' union.

Our international links have also been strengthened this year through a visit from our partner Da La Salle School in Figueres, Spain and our football tour to Holland, both these visits were highly successful. In addition we have hosted students from China and two groups of our students have also visited China in order to improve their Mandarin. Other foreign trips include a visit to New York and Berlin, as well as a ski trip to Italy.

I would like take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you all a relaxing and safe summer holiday with your families.

Yours faithfully

David Garrido

## **BEHAVIOUR**

In preparation for the September 2018, I would like to remind you of our expectations with regard to uniform and appearance. I would appreciate you reading the following points below:

1. Hair must not be too long or too short – hair length must not pass the shirt collar. It must be neat and tidy. Shaved patterns, lines and exaggerated styles are not permitted. Straight cornrows that are neat without patterns will be allowed, providing there is no overhang.
2. Eyebrows must not be cut or styled.
3. The new school house tie must have a small knot and be long enough to cover all shirt buttons. Shirts should have the top button done up and be tucked into their trousers.
4. We will return to our normal policy for coats worn on site. When students enter the College site they are not allowed to wear hats or have their hoods up. As soon as students are lined up for morning registration they will not be allowed to wear their coat for the rest of the College day.
5. Trainers of any kind should not be worn to school or whilst in school uniform throughout the day. If you cannot apply a black wax shoe polish, they are not allowed. Any damaged school shoes should be replaced over the Summer break.
6. Jewellery, earrings and hoodies are not allowed.

It is expected that students arrive through the school gate by 8.00am, in good time for morning registration, this expectation reduces the chances of them being late due to unforeseen circumstances.

## **EQUIPMENT**

I would also ask that you ensure your child attends school with the necessary equipment for every day, every lesson. These include

- A pencil case
- Black/blue inked pens
- Pencils
- A calculator
- A student planner (signed every week)
- PE kit (on relevant days)
- Exercise books for lessons
- Text books for lessons

## **MOBILE PHONES IN SCHOOL**

Mobile phones are allowed in school but must be switched off and out of sight during the school day. A teacher may wish to utilise mobile technology within their lesson, for example, to take pictures of a design or structure to complete a homework. If this is the case, then the teacher will ask students to switch their phones on and instruct them at the end of the activity to switch their mobile phones off again and put them away.

For clarity, please inform your son that once they have crossed the school gate, mobile phones should not be seen, be they off or on. **If parents wish to leave a message for their son, they should do so through the school office** and should not try and ring them during the school day. Once students leave the gates, they are then permitted to use their phones on the way home.

The consequence of having a phone out without permission is the following:

- First offence – phone is taken and returned at the end of the day.
- Second offence – phone is taken and returned after 24 hours.
- Third offence – phone is taken and parents to collect after a week.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social Media has many positive uses, but equally, it can have a negative impact on a student's mind-set and cause conflict between peers.

Some tips for staying safe online:

- Talk to your child about how to stay safe online and remind them of the risks - useful websites: Kidscape, Saferinternet, CEOP and Parent Zone.
- There are no set guidelines for how much screen time is appropriate for children, but there needs to be a balance. Have clear rules at home.
- Be curious – ask your children to talk about their Apps and show you their devices. Starting a conversation will help in them telling you if something online is making them feel uncomfortable.

***Our mission is to be a De La Salle College where every individual is highly valued and where care and concern for others is central to our work. All our students are expected to achieve their full potential and become equipped for adult life.***

## THE COLLEGE DAY

The college day starts at 8.15am and all students must be in school by this time.

7:30am – 8:15am	Breakfast in the Canteen
8:15am - 8:35am	REGISTRATION/ASSEMBLY
8:35am - 9:50am	Period 1
9:50am - 10:10am	MORNING BREAK
10:10am - 11:25am	Period 2
11:25am - 12:40pm	Period 3
12:40pm - 13:20pm	LUNCH
13:20pm - 14:35pm	Period 4
14.40pm - onwards	Period 5 (After school activities / Homework Club / Study support & intervention sessions. (These are generally optional, but may be compulsory if required.) Some 6 <sup>th</sup> Form Lessons also run at this time.

## Key Dates for next Term

Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>All students return to school at 8.15</b>
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 Team Building Day
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	School Photos for all students
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 7 BBQ and Information Evening 3.30pm – 4.45pm
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Open Morning 9.30am - 11.30am
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Open Evening – 5.00pm -8.00pm
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 10 Transition Evening
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Year 9 Information Evening
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Open Morning (Year 6) 8..40am – 9.40am + 10.20am -11.20am
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning (Year 6) 8..40am – 9.40am + 10.20am -11.20am
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning (Year 6) 8..40am – 9.40am + 10.20am -11.20am
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Campus Tours from 5.15pm to 6.00pm
	6 <sup>th</sup> Form Open Evening
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Last day of term
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> October	School Term begins
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Mass and Chaplain Induction 1.30pm (College Closes for all those not involved in this service at Lunchtime)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	Awards Evening 7.00pm – 9.30pm
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	Service of Remembrance
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 13 Parent’s Evening
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Year 11 Parent’s Evening
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	School Production Opening Night
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	School Production
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	School Production Final Night
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Carol Service – 6.00pm – 7.00pm
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Last day of term
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	School Re-opens for Spring Term