



Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College

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11th January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write first and foremost to wish all our families a very Happy New Year, but also to keep you informed of some news and developments at the Convent this term.

Staffing News: We are delighted to welcome our new members of staff to the school, both of whom have decided to return to teach here having been working for a while in other schools. Ms McManamon has joined the RE department and Ms Ahmed has joined the English team. Both are excellent teachers and we are fortunate to have their skill and expertise which our girls will really benefit from. We will also welcome back Miss Hodgson to the English department from her maternity leave at the end of January. She has been greatly missed by the students and we are delighted to have her back.

Uniform: The vast majority of our girls wear their uniform beautifully and are great ambassadors for our school out in the community. There are still some though who are unclear about the rules on jewellery and hair. No jewellery is permitted other than one small pair of stud earrings, plain gold or silver, not diamante or glittery. Girls may also wear a watch but this must be a traditional watch; smart watches that have a built-in computer are not permitted. Hair must be tied back securely. Hair dye is not permitted and neither are non-natural colours braided through the hair.

Mobile phones: We have noticed an increase in the number of girls bringing a mobile phone to school. This is absolutely forbidden. There will be a series of unannounced mobile phone searches over this next term in each year group 7-11 and any phones found will be confiscated in line with school policy and parents/carers will be required to collect. The mobile phone has become embedded in everyday life and in culture now but remains the key source of social and then behavioural difficulties which detract children from education and take up so much staff time in investigating and resolving disputes that are triggered from misuse of social media. Parents should ensure that their daughter does not bring her phone to school as it will be at risk of confiscation.

Online Safety: This term all girls will be involved in training on how to keep themselves safe online. Dr Bonelli, Deputy Headteacher, is our e-safety officer and will be sending out information to parents on various safety measures and precautions parents can take to keep their children safe on the internet.

School toilets: We are very fortunate at the Convent to have student toilet facilities that are so well furnished they could rival those in a 5 star hotel! From January, we will be opening the main toilet facilities both before and after school, at break and lunchtimes but during lessons these will be locked. If students really need to visit the toilet during a lesson the teacher will issue a permission to leave lesson pass and the girls will be required to go to reception, show their pass and are then



able to use the designated facilities near the medical room. They then will return to lesson and give the pass back to their teacher.

Our growing reputation: I have made no secret of the fact that my ambitions for the Convent and all its students are very high. We have a beautiful school and grounds, a talented and highly qualified staff team, lots of support from our parents and families and, above all, we have fantastic students who are a genuine pleasure to educate and spend time with. I ask that all our positive news and school achievements are spoken about. Share with friends, family and neighbours how well our school is doing and what a warm, friendly, supportive and spiritually peaceful environment we have nurtured here. Show people our school website, watch our school film on the homepage of the website and let us all work together to get our good name firmly established in the community.

What is offered at the Convent is becoming more unique. I believe that from September 2018 we may be the only single sex all girls' school in Brent as other schools decided to go co-educational and have boys and girls in all year groups. We remain as a girls' school and one that offers excellence in Catholic education but also one that welcomes students and families equally of all faiths and cultures.

Finally, may I ask that parents always keep the school informed of any changes to address, email and contact phone numbers so we can always get in contact should the need arise during the school day.

With very best wishes for the year ahead.

Kind regards,



Mrs L McGowan
Headmistress