



'Every Child Matters'

# St Mary's High School Downpatrick

Principal: Ms R McLaughlin B Ed MSc PQH(NI)



Celebrating 60 Years of Education  
1957 - 2017

4<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## Year 8 Return to School for 2020-21 Academic Year

I hope you and your family have had a pleasant summer. When I last spoke to you at the end of June I informed you that I would be in contact with you in August. I would like to confirm that we have organised an induction day for our new Year 8 pupils on **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August**. The children can be left at the school from 8.30 onwards. Staff will be there to greet the children and bring them to their form rooms. The school day will end at 3.25.

It would be really helpful if you could please bear in mind the following:

- Full school uniform should be worn with flat black shoes
- The children will need to bring something for break and a packed lunch.

Based on the current guidance at the time of writing this letter and in order to adhere to the regulations on social distancing to keep everyone safe, it will be necessary to adopt a blended learning approach for the new academic year. This will result in classes being divided into 2 groups; one half of each class will be in school one week for face to face teaching and the other half of the class will be working from home. However, in the event that social distancing rules are further relaxed then this will have a positive impact on what we are able to do.

We would greatly appreciate your support in reducing footfall in the school, so we are asking parents not to come into the school unless they have been asked to do so. We will use our school website and Facebook page to provide up-to-date information.

As a school we look forward to working with you and your daughter as we begin the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Ms McLaughlin.



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