



Cookstown High School

Combined Grammar & Secondary School

Dear Parent / Guardian

It has been a productive and action packed 8 weeks since the beginning of September! I would like to thank those of you who continue to support and partner the school in ensuring that we can provide the best possible academic outcomes for your child.

Our pastoral focus this half-term has very much been on improving school attendance and punctuality; you will hopefully have noticed the "Attend to Achieve" messages on school social media and indeed the video from the Department of Education promoting the need for good school attendance. Your child has a responsibility to attend every lesson and arrive ready and equipped to learn and we take our responsibility to teach your child very seriously. Hopefully the recent Tracking 1 event will have been an opportunity for your child to demonstrate the quality of learning which has been going on and indeed if your child is disappointed in the result, this is an opportunity to reflect and improve moving forward. I recommend you look through the Pupil Log book with your child and assist them in becoming more reflective learners.

May I also take this opportunity to highlight YOUR responsibility in ensuring good school attendance? Please ensure that **you** contact the school at the earliest opportunity on the first day of any absence. Your commitment to this simple request demonstrates to your child that you are serious about their education and also ensures that we are alert to any health and wellbeing concerns. Please see the full Attendance and Punctuality Policy on our school website.

As a parent you are strongly advised to access the SIMS Parent App – this will soon be the only way in which communication will be shared with home. It currently allows you to keep abreast of Attendance, Behaviour and Achievement Points as well as the full suite of Tracking scores throughout the academic year. This is also the means by which you access the full school report and so this will be vital to ensure our continued effective home/school partnership.

As we reach half-term I urge you to speak to your child about firework safety and although some pupils have heard the advice in school from the local Community PSNI officer Constable M Allen, it would be helpful for this to be reinforced at home.

On behalf of all our school staff I wish your child a safe and restful half-term break and we look forward to continued successes in the last few months of 2019. Dates for the diary (in case you don't yet have the school app!):

4 November *Parent/Teacher Consultation Meetings Yr13/14 only in school*
7 November *PTFA AGM 7pm in the Morrison Building – EVERYONE WELCOME!*

Yours sincerely



C. Allen

Vice-Principal (Pastoral)