



ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

Headteacher: Michael Coady BSc.

PASTORAL NEWSLETTER SUMMER TERM 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been very pleased with the progress being made this academic year. Students and staff are all working very hard to ensure the very best outcomes as we continue working through assessments and exams. We are delighted to have been categorised as a Green School by the Welsh Assembly Government. As a result we are eager to maintain this and I have outlined in this letter the key areas that we need to maintain/improve upon going forward. It's been a very productive year and a pleasure to have worked closely with the NHS, Fire Brigade, Police, the Army, Confidence Cube and other outside agencies with targeted groups to build on our positive and inclusive school ethos. School will break up for half term on the 22nd May at 3.10pm and return on Monday 1st June at 8.40am. There will be inset days on the 22nd June and the 17th July.

Behaviour –

We are very happy to have the lowest level of exclusions in Torfaen and are confident with our excellent Pastoral team that we can maintain and even raise standards higher.

The general standards of behaviour whilst high in the main, in a community of the size of St Alban's, can occasionally fall below acceptable standards at times when incidents occur. We investigate and look into incidents as and when they are brought to our attention. We would encourage students and parents to bring to our attention at the earliest opportunity any concerns they may have. We have been talking to students about their movement around the school and the care that they need to take in and around our buildings. We hope to see a reduction in the amount of damage/litter and we will be imposing strict sanctions and even charging for the cost of any damage done by careless individuals.

Uniform –

At St. Alban's RC High School we place an emphasis on pride in our community and achieving excellence in every dimension of the life and work of our school. A visible indication of this is in the standard of students' uniform. Many visitors have commented on the high standard of uniform of the school. We have been particularly delighted at the number of comments we have received about how smart students look whilst travelling to and from the school.

I thank you for your help and to ask for your support in our continued drive for consistency in maintaining the highest possible standard of school uniform.

Our school uniform standards are maintained through daily monitoring and tutors are asked to contact home should concerns arise. We have noticed one or two areas of inconsistency recently. I will now clarify these areas to ensure everyone is clear about our required school uniform. The notes overleaf should help to ensure that your son/daughter is fully prepared in correct uniform after the May half term holiday and ongoing.



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Shoes/Boots	Plain black leather or leather effect shoes of a standard and traditional style. <u>NO trainers (regardless of colour), NO canvas shoes or boots (including ankle boots of any description).</u>
Clothing	Black blazer with school badge must be worn. White school shirt/blouse with school tie. V-neck black pullover optional for under blazer. Smart plain black skirt of knee length – to the knee, no split or tiered skirts. Not to be rolled up. Smart plain black trousers, traditional school style. <u>NOT skinny trousers/leggings/jeans regardless of colour.</u>
Overcoats	A plain style in a single dark colour free of markings. NOT fashion jackets. Hooded sweatshirts/tops should not be worn in school.
Hair	No extreme hairstyles or colours are permitted. Neither hair nor eyebrows should be cut or shaved into 'tramlines' or patterns.
Jewellery	The only permitted items of jewellery are a wrist watch, a single pair of small stud earrings (no other piercings allowed) and a plain necklace, for example a chain with a cross – this must be kept tucked inside the shirt.

Communication –

I would also like to bring to your attention that our new school website is up and running. www.stalbans-pontypool.org.uk. We also have a new twitter account (@starchs). Departments within the school also have their own individual twitter accounts which pupils will be informed of. The website and twitter accounts will be updated with important information for both pupils and parents so please check them on a regular basis.

Absence Reporting –

If your son/daughter is going to be absent from school you must contact 01495 765800 and select option 1 to leave a message, by 9am. For pupils requiring medical appointments can you please ensure these are made outside of school hours, if this is not possible appointments should be made at either the start or end of the school day and pupils need to be in school prior to, or following the appointment. Our expected pupil attendance is 95% + therefore any other circumstances, such as holidays, that result in pupils missing school are unlikely to be authorised unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Punctuality –

Students should be on site by 8:35am so that they can assemble at 8:40am to be registered prior to their first lesson at 9am. Any pupil arriving at 9am will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. It is therefore vital that your son/daughter is in school by 8:40am as arriving late has a serious impact on their attendance and that of the schools, together with having an adverse impact on their education.



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Road Safety –

We have had 3 incidents this academic year where students or staff have been hit by vehicles in the vicinity of the school. As a result we would like to make improved arrangements for the arrival and departure of students from our site. We want all parents to STOP driving from the main road up the cobbled section past Sight Cymru and the Museum. We ask that all drop offs and pick-ups take place in other local/convenient places such as the multi storey car park or the leisure centre car park. We would advise against students crossing roads without using the safety crossings or taking great care and attention. Students must NOT be listening to music, making phone calls or be distracted in any other way whilst moving around the local area where there is traffic. RTA's are the biggest single cause of premature death of 0-25 year olds in the UK and we do not want any of our students to become one of these tragedies. Please support and cooperate with these proposals and staff who will be trying to enforce this new safety campaign.

Mobile Phones –

Mobile phones should be switched off at all times during school time and kept in pupils bags. Students can only call home from one of the offices with the permission of the member of staff they are with. We ask for parents to refrain from texting and calling their children during the school day as this is a serious distraction and can have an unsettling impact. Please call the school if you need to communicate with your child in an emergency during the school day. Use of mobile phones will lead to sanctions and items being confiscated. However, we would like to avoid that need arising in the first place. If phones are confiscated parents will need to liaise with the school for a convenient time to arrange collection.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours Faithfully

Mr D Foster
Deputy Head

REPLY SLIP – Please return to school by Monday 18th May 2015

Re: Pastoral Newsletter Summer Term 2015

Students Name..... Form Group.....

I confirm that I have received the Pastoral Newsletter clarifying what the school requirements are.

Signed: Parent/Carer..... Date:.....