



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Dear Parent(s), Guardian(s), Carer(s),

I hope that you and your families have had a restful and peaceful Christmas break.

As we return to school after the Christmas holidays to begin a new year and a new school term in St Columb's College I do so in my new role as Principal. Having been appointed to this leadership role, I look forward to this new year - and beyond - with positivity, hope and high expectation of what it will bring for our school community.

I firmly believe in the Columban belief, '*Great Oaks from Little Acorns Grow.*' I hope to see your son flourish and grow and succeed as best he can in his time in St Columb's.

My priority is and always has been to ensure the safety and happiness of your son each day at school. I will work closely with all the staff in St Columb's to ensure that this continues to happen. The wellbeing and pastoral needs of your son are paramount in ensuring that he achieves his potential. I plan to enable our pupils to flourish within a nurturing and supportive pastoral care environment. I will foster the holistic development of each individual pupil, to develop young men that listen and are resilient, who can build meaningful, positive relationships and who place great value on kindness and service.

As a Catholic leader, I will place emphasis on our Core Values which underpin everything that we do. Above all, I am determined to 'promote in each pupil, through Catholic education, the fullest Christian human development of which he is capable.' My former parish priest Fr. Porter, used to say, 'Generosity in the Catholic tradition is promoting the good in others.' I wish to recognise, promote, and champion the good in all our pupils and in our school community. In this school, we have much to be proud of. We have much to be grateful for. And in a spirit of generosity, positivity, kindness, and calmness, I look forward to working with you and your sons, as we embark on this journey together.

As Parent(s), Guardian(s), Carer(s), you are your child's first and most important teacher. I welcome all of you to take an active role in the education of your son and to be active participants in our school life. I am eager to work with our parent community in supporting our boys in their education. Undoubtedly, we will encounter challenges along the way, but I have no doubt that by working together in a productive partnership – parent and school, we can reduce and overcome all challenges and ensure that your son has the best platform to work from and thrive in. I have high expectations of all our 'College boys' and I place a clear emphasis on Positive Behaviour Management. I reach out to you for your continued support to ensure that your son is prepared, working to the best of his ability, and adhering to our 'Good Behaviour Model' in everything that he does.

To this end, I have attached a general information booklet for you all. This 'Reset' booklet is an opportunity for our whole school community to re-familiarise ourselves with our expectations and procedures. It is not an exhaustive list but covers many important aspects of school life. (As always, our many policies have details in full). I hope that you take the time to read/reference this booklet and support my staff and I, as we aim to teach, guide, and nurture your son through his school days to the best of our ability.

I am keen that your son's experience at school is as good as can be, filled with opportunity, achievement, and success. I would like you to know that my door is always open to discuss any concerns, questions, or ideas you may have regarding your son's education.

I look forward to working with you as together we support your son at every stage of his educational journey.

Best wishes for the year ahead. I wish you all a healthy and peaceful 2024. Please remember me in your prayers as I take on my new role as Principal, as I will keep all you in mine.

Yours faithfully,  
**Mrs Caroline McLaughlin**  
Principal  
St Columb's College