

St Benedict's High School

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Head Teacher: Alan Taylor BSc. (Hons)

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Dear Parent/Carer

As the new session begins, I am writing to provide you with some key information.

I would ask that you regularly check our website www.oraetlabora.co.uk and twitter feed @stbenedictsren ([LINK](#)) for updates.

Return to school – Friday 16th August 2024

We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our young people back for the start of a new term on Friday 16th August.

School transport arrangements will be issued directly by SPT (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport). Enquires can be made through the following link : [Transport Information](#)

A reminder of our normal school timings :

Monday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Tuesday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Wednesday	8.50am – 2.45pm
Thursday	8.50am – 3.35pm
Friday	8.50am – 2.45pm

First day arrangements - New S1

Pupils should make their way directly to the street area for a year group assembly. During this meeting they will be welcomed by myself and Dr Phelps (Year Head) and provided with their timetable. Senior pupils will be on hand throughout the week to help direct pupils as they move from class to class.

Parent Pay

You should have received details by post/email to allow you to activate your child's account. If you are having any issues, please contact the school office.

Lockers

The school has recently purchased additional lockers. This can be used to store any personal belongings/school books/PE kit throughout the day. Pupils will also be asked to use it to store their **outside jackets** when in the building. To cover associated costs, there will be a one-off payment of £5 for all new pupils. Payment should be made through Parent Pay account.

SQA Results

The school recorded some excellent examination successes this session including our best ever Higher level results since the school opened in 2006. I am delighted our successes have been praised by the authority and local media. Click the [LINK](#) to read more.

This has only been possible due to the hard work of pupils and staff in partnership with parents. A huge well done to all of our pupils who gave of their best and thank you for the support that you provided.

Information on the appeals process for this year's qualifications can be accessed by clicking on the link below. Anyone wishing to appeal a result should contact their child's pastoral care teacher to discuss further.

[Appeals - What you need to know](#)

Staffing Update

We welcome the following new staff for session 2024-2025.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • Laura McHugh | Teacher of Business |
| • Lucy Findlay | Teacher of Chemistry |
| • Zane Horrocks | Teacher of Biology |
| • Alessia Toti | Teacher of Art |
| • Bashart Afzal | Teacher of Computing |
| • Rachel Palmer | Teacher of Health and Food Technology |
| • Sophie McCahill | Teacher of PE |
| • Ciara Fitzsimmons | Teacher of Spanish |
| • Angela Haggerty | Teacher within the FLR (Columba base) |

School uniform – Dressing for Excellence

Uniform is an important part of our school identity. It reinforces who we are as a community and allows students to feel a sense of pride in their school. It also helps prepare pupils for life after school where many will have to dress smartly for work.

This has been identified as a strength of St Benedict's and has received favourable comments from members of the community, school partners, visitors to the school and parents and pupils.

The school uniform consists of :

- A white school shirt/blouse, and school tie which is visible at all times. S4, S5 and S6 will wear the Senior tie.
- Tailored black trousers or black skirt - leggings, jeans, denim and tracksuits, are not acceptable under any circumstances.
- A school blazer with badge.
- Comfortable footwear (black in colour). No 'Converse/Nike dunk' style trainers unless fully black in colour.
- Plain black jumper or cardigan (optional). Black school jumpers should be of an unbranded style that allows the school tie to be clearly seen. Hoodies are not allowed.



Free Meal Entitlement / Clothing Grants

Your child may be eligible for free school meals and/or a clothing grant. For more information please click on the link below.

[Free School meals / Clothing grants](#)

Attendance and Timekeeping

We have been working hard recently to ensure that young people in St Benedict's High School continue to achieve and attain to their highest level. Regular attendance and punctuality at school are essential for this. Your support here as a parent/carer is crucial.

Please ensure that your child is only absent from school if they are genuinely unwell or there is a valid reason. **Absences must be reported to the school office by 8.45am.** If young people are absent on a regular basis or if they are late to class, this is detrimental to their education and learning. Please be aware that if your child's attendance or timekeeping falls below the expected standards, we have a duty of care to inform you and to follow Renfrewshire Council procedures.

Calendar of events

A note of key dates for the year ahead e.g. issuing of reports, parents' meetings, school events etc. will shortly be uploaded onto our website early into the new term.

New Session 2024-25

Finally, I hope you enjoy the remainder of the summer break. As I move into my seventh year as Head Teacher, I am very excited about the future and what lies ahead for St Benedict's High School. I have no doubt that the school is at its most successful when we work together for the benefit of the pupils. I look forward to meeting and working with you this session.

Yours sincerely

Alan Taylor

Alan Taylor
Head Teacher

