



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Executive Head Teacher: Mr D Juric
Head of School: Mrs J Bowen
Chair of Governors: Mr G Moorhouse

Pastoral Update & Information for September 2022

19th July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

Houses and Awards

Let me start by saying congratulations to St Godric Finchale, our winning House for the academic year 2021-2022. The pupils led by their Head of House Mrs McHale and the Assistant Head of House Mr Hurst gained the most achievement points in the school. I am sure the other Heads of House and their pupils will show a renewed determination to ensure that their House can take this title next year. I would encourage all parents and carers to continue to ask your children to work hard to gain as many achievement points as they can for themselves and their respective Houses when they return in September. Parents and carers can monitor achievement and behaviour point scores by regularly checking their child's planner.

Many pupils, from all the Houses have their efforts for this academic year recognised with bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates in our annual end of term Awards Assembly. The certificates celebrate the achievement points gained by the students and the huge amount sent out shows how hard many of our students work when they are in school. In addition, for the first time we have also sent home Values awards – which recognise the contribution students make in a variety of ways to the life of our school. Please celebrate these successes with your child, we are very proud of them.

School Meals

The cost of school meals has been held at £2.20 for a number of years. Unfortunately, it has become necessary to raise the price to £2.40, which is lower than other schools in the area. Students who receive Free School Meals will have their payment increased to accommodate this rise. If you have any queries regards School Meals or Free School Meals, please contact the school office.

September 2022

There will be INSET days Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th September. All students, years 7 -13 return to school Wednesday 7th September. School begins at 8.45 am, Year 7 students will be directed to the Drama Hall on arrival, organised into their tutor groups and will be collected from there by their Form Tutor. On Wednesday morning, all students will be with their form tutor and are issued their new school planner and timetable. Students will begin lessons from 11:20am.



Expectations, Uniform and Equipment

The school has very clear rules and expectations regarding Uniform and equipment, and I expect all students to adhere to these rules when we return in September. I would much rather the year starts in a positive manner, especially as this previous year has been interrupted in many ways. I ask for the support of parents and carers with the issues mentioned below and I would ask that you read the attached rules and expectations on uniform to ensure that you are fully aware of our expectations for your child in this area. Students that do not meet our high expectations will be given sanctions.

If your child chooses to wear the School Skirt, it must be knee length. Please ensure your child has an appropriate length skirt for their return in September. The two options are either a knee length skirt, or Black school trousers.

Piercings are not permitted for school, regardless of the time period of 'new' piercings. Your child will be instructed to remove piercings, please ensure that any recent piercings are removed before your child returns to school.

See below for St Robert's expectations about equipment and uniform for all students. This information is available on the school website.

All Students

Sensible hairstyles at the discretion of the Senior Assistant Head teacher/Assistant Head teacher (**no fashion accessories, no tramlines, steps, Mohicans, or outlandish colour**).

Hair must not be shaved to an extreme shortness. The school will be the arbiter of whether hair is too short, but as a starting point hair shaved shorter than a number 2 guard will be deemed too short.

- No zero guard skin fades (any fades should be no shorter than a number 2 guard).
- No hair extensions including clip in, braids or semi-permanent extensions.
- No visible tattoos, semi –permanent and henna are not allowed.
- No earrings or body piercings. This includes clear studs or 'spacers'.
- No acrylic or artificial nails, nail varnish, gel nails, make-up or false eyelashes, painted or dyed eyebrow. Do NOT bring make-up into school, it will be confiscated.
- No False tan.
- Finger nails should be kept at a sensible length so you can take part in all in and out of school activities.

All students must have a school bag to carry school books and equipment (see equipment list)

Mobile phones may be brought to school, **but must be switched off, and in bags throughout the school day. No smartphone watches allowed.**

Uniform

The uniform items listed below are required to be worn by all students. This can be ordered online at www.theschooloutfit.co.uk. Follow the link for secondary schools, select St Robert of Newminster. The School Outfit Company also has a shop in Sunderland 0191 510 8186 where you can visit and purchase uniform. The School Outfit Company is willing to take orders online for all uniform items now and is happy to exchange if any item does not fit properly if ordered online.



BOYS

- Green blazer with badge (colour of year group – remains same for 5 years)
- White school shirt
- School tie
- Black full length school trousers – traditional NOT fashion (e.g. no canvas or jean material, skin tight trousers)
- Plain black leather belt (if required)
- Years 7-9 green jumper or tank top with school name embroidered (Uniform Shop)
- Years 10-11 black jumper or tank top with school name embroidered (Uniform Shop)
- **Plain** formal black flat leather school shoes - no trainers, trainer designs, sports brands, canvas shoes, plimsolls and no suede or pump-style footwear. No suede desert boots or shoes or Dr. Marten style boots.
- Plain black formal leather boots worn under trousers (winter only)
- Plain dark coloured socks.

GIRLS

- Green blazer with badge (colour of year – remains same for 5 years)
- White school blouse with short sleeve or three-quarter sleeve (No tie)
- Black full length school trousers – traditional NOT fashion (e.g. no leggings, canvas or jean material, skin tight trousers or hipster-style trousers)
- Plain black leather belt (if required)
- Tartan knee length school skirt. For years 7-10 this must be the 'Kilt style' skirt with 4 buttons on the side.
- Years 7-9 green jumper or tank top or cardigan with school name embroidered (Uniform Shop)
- Years 10-11 black jumper or tank top or cardigan with school name embroidered (Uniform Shop)
- Plain black or natural tights or white or black ankle socks
- **Plain** formal black flat leather school shoes – no trainers, trainer designs, sports brands, canvas shoes, plimsolls and no suede or pump-style footwear or Dr. Marten style boots
- Plain black flat leather boots worn under trousers (winter only)

As a school St. Robert's is extremely proud of our uniform and I expect all pupils to always adhere to our uniform standards. With footwear, please ensure your child is wearing a smart formal shoe, which shows no visible branding. As an example, we do not allow girls to wear 'Vivienne Westwood' shoes. Those pupils that do not follow our Uniform rules will face sanctions in school.

Equipment

Textbooks, exercise books, student planner and folders are supplied and should be looked after with care. They are each child's RESPONSIBILITY and any loss or wilful damage will mean that they will have to pay for a replacement. **What your child will need:**

- A Bag (large enough to hold your books and equipment)
- Pens (Black or Blue)
- Pencils, Ruler, Rubber, protractor and compass.
- Scientific Calculator
- PE Kit
- 2 Reading Books

All students will be given a planner at the start of the academic year. Planners must be signed weekly by a Parent or carer. Students MUST have a planner at all times – replacement planners will be charged to parents at a cost of £5.

If a student writes graffiti or damages on their planner they will be expected to purchase a new one.



Transport

If your child is able to walk or cycle to school, then I would ask that they do this when they return in September. If there is an opportunity to drop your child close to school, but not on the premises, please do this as it will greatly ease the flow of traffic, which can be very congested at times.

Parents must drop off students by 8.35am at the latest.

Timetables for the scholars' bus services for the next academic year are available to view on the school website.

If parents and carers have any issues with the service provided by the school buses please report these issues directly to Nexus as well as informing school, by contacting Mr Green.

Communication

Please ensure you have downloaded the MyEd app as soon as possible as we use this app to send out notifications and messages to parents and carers. If you do not have the app you will receive a text message with the same information but this is at a cost to the school. The MyEd app is available in both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store as a free download. Go to either of the stores and search for MyEd. You should find an app with the following logo from a provider called Results Squared Ltd.

Once downloaded, open the MyEd app. You may see the following screen:



By selecting Allow, it will allow the school to contact you via the app and vice versa. To get the full functionality of the app I recommend that you allow notifications however this is a personal choice for yourself. You are then prompted to enter the school's post code. This is **NE38 8AF**. Select "**St Robert of Newminster Roman Catholic...**"

Enter your full name, mobile number and email address. Select "**Link Account**". You will receive a security code via SMS. Enter this into the "**Security Code**" box. Select "**Create**

Account". The MyEd app is now ready to use.

We look forward to welcoming your child in the new school year.

Yours Faithfully

Mr A McHale
Senior Assistant Headteacher: Pastoral

