

OMAGH HIGH SCHOOL - INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

School Uniform

Our uniform is designed to be neat, functional and relatively inexpensive. It is essential that **full school uniform** is worn at all times. No hoodies are permitted and only black coats should be worn. A list of the correct school uniform is available on the SIMS Parent App., the school website and included in the new Year 8 Induction Booklet. The Education Authority information on applying for uniform allowance is also available on the SIMS Parent App and the school website. **All uniform items must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.**

School Funds

In common with all secondary schools, it is necessary to seek financial support from parents in order to maintain the educational experience of our pupils. Unfortunately, the funding which we receive does not cover many essential items such as reprographics, computers, software, music, sport and educational visits. I would therefore ask all parents/guardians to support the school fund by paying the annual contribution of **£30.00 per pupil. (Maximum of £50.00 per family)** This is considerably less than the amount requested or demanded by other schools. The school fund works exceptionally well when **all** parents support it and we can make the funds go an exceptionally 'long way' so please support this vital aspect of our school's work. Please note the School Fund is spent for the benefit of our pupils including paying for field trips, house prizes, hire of buses/running costs of our minibus for a wide range of trips, supporting extra-curricular activities, affiliation fees, etc. Please be assured that this fund supports pupils. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. We are able to claim gift aid on school fund contributions by asking parents to make cheques payable to the "Friends of Omagh High School". This group of parents and friends are a registered charity and can claim gift aid on our behalf. This adds value to your contribution if you are a U.K. tax payer and turns £30.00 into approximately £36.00 at no extra expense to you. Please complete the gift aid declaration form and return it with the contribution.

Pupils Allowed off Site

All pupils from Year 8 to Year 12 must remain in school for lunch. Lunch will be provided in the canteen and the value of a free meal ticket will be **£2.80**. Please note that the value of unspent free school meal allowances does not carry forward from day to day. Any unspent money is lost.

I would also remind parents that, should they feel they qualify for free school meals, details on how to apply are available on the SIMS Parent App. and school website. It is vital that all parents who feel they may be eligible, **apply for Free School Meals.** A considerable amount of funding for schools is based on the percentage of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals/Uniform and many other schools receive considerably more funding than Omagh High School because of this. We must access all the funding we are entitled to and you can help in this important way by submitting the application forms. Please note that due to our biometric scanning device for payment in the school canteen, no one can tell if a pupil is accessing free school meals. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. It is worth noting that school dinners cost in the region of £500.00+ per pupil per year. If you have any queries regarding Free School Meals, please do not hesitate to contact the school office (application forms are still available if online is inaccessible).

Only Years 13 and 14 are permitted to go off site at lunch time **after written parental consent** forms have been submitted. Years 13 and 14 pupils are not permitted to use their cars during the school day. Appropriate consent forms need to be completed annually at the start of the new school year. Taxis are provided for transport to Omagh Academy.

Homework Diaries

Our school rules and parental information are located in the diary and I would ask parents to read these, discuss them with their children and sign the relevant sections. Please check the homework diary daily and use it to communicate with school. Homework diaries must be brought to school each day. Pupils who fail to do so will be automatically placed in lunchtime detention.

Being Seen

The importance of pupils being visible to drivers when walking to and from school cannot be over emphasised. Parents are asked to encourage their children to wear a reflective item when walking or cycling to and from school.

Printer Credits

All pupils will be issued with an amount of printing credits to use. The system will track the pupils' usage, reducing the balance as the year progresses. We hope this will ensure only necessary printing is undertaken and that there is no waste of paper or toner. If a pupil runs out of credits, they may purchase more from the ICT Department in batches costing £1.00. Please encourage your child to be prudent with their printing in school and help us to put our available resources to best use.

Contact Between Home and School

We believe that the key to a successful education is an **open, transparent** and **respectful** relationship between home and school. Effective communication is an important part of this. We may communicate with parents by telephone, letter, text message and via the SIMS Parent App. Please ensure you have informed the school office of any changes to your contact details. In cases where parents live separately, formal communication with home will always be sent to both parents where both addresses are available unless extenuating circumstances are made clear to the school.

Attendance and Punctuality

I am sure that parents realise that it is their responsibility to ensure that their children attend school regularly - a detailed, computerised record of attendance is kept and is often requested by prospective employers. Most pupils do attend school regularly and pupils are to be commended for that, however, the attendance of a few pupils does give cause for concern. There is often a direct correlation between poor attendance and underachievement at school. Excessive absences which extend the weekend or the holidays are noted and may be provided as part of a reference to potential employers in due course. It is important to instil into young people that attendance at school is important to a pupil's future employment prospects. Pupils should attend unless they are sick or on an authorised absence. Details of the reporting of absences can be found in the Homework Diary. Detachable slips contained within the School Diary should be used to explain absences. Punctuality to school in the morning and to classes is taken very seriously in Omagh High School. Pupils must be in school by 8.55 a.m. at the latest and **in Registration by 9.00 a.m.** Pupils who arrive late for school i.e. after 9.00 a.m. will automatically receive a lunch-time detention that day. Please note that missing the bus, sleeping in or being delayed by traffic will not be accepted as excuses for lateness.

Crossing the Crevenagh Road

The Crevenagh Road is a very busy thoroughfare and there is always concern for pupils crossing the road. A Toucan crossing is situated at the front of the school and this should be used at all times when crossing the road. Parents are asked to discuss road safety practice with their children and this message will be reinforced in school assemblies. All parents are asked **to use the car park facility opposite the school to drop off and pick up** their children. For safety reasons vehicles **must not** be parked at the front of the school.

Lockers

Each pupil must rent a locker at a cost of £5.00 per locker per year. Each pupil will be issued with a key. If the key is lost a further £5.00 must be paid for a new key. Personal belongings must not be left lying around the school but must be stored in lockers. **Pupils should bring the £5.00 on their first day at school.**

Mobile Phones

I wish to take this opportunity to remind you that inappropriate use of mobile phones in school will not be tolerated. No use of mobile phones is permitted during the **school day**. Pupils are encouraged to leave their

phone at home but if brought to school, phones must be switched off and stored in a pupil's locker immediately upon arrival in school and left there until they leave school.

With the media and press highlighting the potential use of mobile phones for bullying and harassment I am sure you will encourage your child to heed this requirement. *If a pupil is observed with a mobile phone during the school day the phone will be confiscated and returned only to a parent or guardian during office hours. No exception to this rule can be made. Please note the school office closes at 4.00 p.m. The pupil will also automatically be given an after school detention.* Repeated breaking of this rule will invoke the disciplinary procedure. I would also like to take this opportunity to point out that children need to be made aware that possessing certain images on their phones is illegal. Possession of indecent images on a mobile phone is a crime and should a pupil have such images the PSNI can take action. I mention this because young people sometimes engage in unwise acts not knowing the seriousness of their actions or the likely consequences.

Cyber Bullying

The impact of Social Media and Instagram, Snapchat etc. is far reaching and potentially uncontrollable. The damage and hurt of cyber bullying can have long lasting and detrimental effects on our children. Parents are encouraged to monitor the use of these apps.

If the school and home could work together in this regard we may avoid potential difficulties in the future.

Games and PE

These are compulsory for all pupils. We are committed to promoting the health of all our pupils and these activities are critically important in maintaining health.

A student who is unable to turn out for PE or Games must, on the day concerned, bring a parent/guardian's letter stating the reason. Notes should be given to the PE teacher who normally supervises the class. Non-participation lasting more than one week will require a medical certificate which should be given to the pupil's Pastoral Leader.

School Property

Students should treat the school and its environment with **respect**. Pupils must not:

- damage or destroy school property or the property of others.
- drop litter.
- bring chewing gum onto the school grounds.
- be in or go near restricted areas of the school. Pupils will be made aware of these areas.
- be on the school premises after 3.25 p.m. unless with permission/supervision of school staff.

Main Dates for the School Year 2022 - 2023

18 August 2022	AS/A –Level Results
22,23,24 August 2022	Baker Days 1, 2 & 3 (BD1-3) (Staff only)
25 August 2022	GCSE RESULTS
25-26 August 2022	Year 13 pupils only - Baseline Tests, option interviews
29 August 2022	Bank Holiday – School closed
30 August 2022	Year 14 only and new pupils 9am to 12:30pm- Baseline tests.
31 August 2022	Year 8 pupils only : 9am to 12:30pm. Baseline test
1 September 2022	Year 8 to year 10 in school– Baseline testing. Full day 9am to 3:25pm
2 nd September 2022	Year 8-12 in school – Years 11 - 12 to do Baseline testing
5 September 2022	All year groups return to school
5 September to 27 October 2022	All pupils in school
17-21 October 2022	Assessment Week – Tracking Point 1
24 th October 2022	Harvest Assembly – Crevenagh House TBC
28 October 2022	Staff Development Day 1 (SDD 1) – (Staff only)
31 October – 4 November 2022	Mid-term break
7 November - 21 December 2022	All pupils in school - Autumn term 2
8 November 2022	Year 8 Parents’ Meeting – TBC
11 November 2022	Remembrance Assembly – Auchinleck House
21 November 2022	Prize Day – 1.00 pm TBC
5 -7 December 2022	Annual School Carol Service TBC
12 and 21 December 2022	Mock and School Exam Week – Tracking Point 2
21 December 2022	Last day of term School closes at 3:25pm
22 December 2022 – 5 January 2023	Christmas Holiday (School closed)
6 January 2023	Staff Development Day 2 (SDD 2) – (Staff only)
9 January – 15 February 2023	All pupils at school
21 and 23 January 2023	Open morning and Open Night (Provisional date) TBC
22 - 29 January 2023	Ski Trip (provisional)
6 February 2023	Year 10 Parents’ Meeting Year 13 Parents’ Meeting
6 -10 February 2023	Young Enterprise – Employability Week
13 February 2023	Year 12 Parents’ Meeting

	Year 14 Parents' Meeting
16 February 2023	<i>Baker Day 4 (Staff only)</i>
16 -17 February 2023	Mid-term break
20 February to 31 March 2023	All pupils at school
20 February – 24 February 2023	Assessment Week – Tracking Point 3
27 February 2022	Year 9 Parents' Meeting – 3.45 pm Year 11 Parents' Meeting – 3.45 pm <i>TBC</i>
17 March 2023	St Patrick's Day Bank Holiday – School closed
23 March 2023	Study Skills and Revision Session TBC
24 March 2023	Easter Assembly – Strule House <i>TBC</i>
31 March 2023	End of Term – School closes at 3:25pm
3 April 2022 to 14 April 2023	Easter Holiday (School Closed)
3 April 2023	Staff Development Day 3 (SDD 3) - Staff only at school
17 April – 27 June 2023	Summer Term begins for all pupils All pupils at School
17 to 21 April 2023	Year 11 mock exams – Tracking Point 4
1 May 2023	Bank Holiday – School closed
29 May 2023	Bank Holiday - School closed
30 May to 2 June 2023	School exams for Years 8 – 10 – Tracking Point 4 Controlled Assessments & Revision Classes for Year 11
27 June 2023	End of term - School closed at 3:25pm – Summer Holidays for pupils.
28 June – 30 June 2023	Staff Development Days 4, 5 (SDD 4, 5) and Baker Day 5 - Staff only at school

Baker Days and School Development Days are staff training days – pupils do not attend school.

Parents may be notified of other main events, or changes to the calendar during the year. For the most up to date calendar please consult our school website.

Finally, I hope all pupils and parents have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.