

18th November 2011

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to advise you of an initiative undertaken by the Student Care Team of the College and facilitated by the relevant Year Head of your son/daughter's year group. The Student Care Team comprises members of the Learning Support Team, Ms. Gráinne Reilly as the College Guidance Counsellor, Dr. Padraic O'Dowd, Deputy Principal and myself. Together we meet on a weekly basis discussing a range of education strategies designed to give each child the best possible education experience here at Gormanston College.

We have created a Study Pack for each first and second year student, the contents of which will be shared with each student during their SPHE weekly lessons. It is important to support students in helping them approach their work and studies, and in particular, in being able to assist them with personal organisation and a study plan. The Study Pack will guide each student to create a personalised study plan, however, it is very important that students themselves take ownership of this and I would be grateful if you would re-enforce this message at home.

I would also draw your attention to the Student Journal. Students should be using their journal on a regular basis to record homework and this is checked by the relevant Year Head in the school. It is also a mechanism for you, as parents, to communicate with the school and I would encourage you to do so. As I explained in previous correspondence, we have a whole new team of staff working to support the College and our students post 3:45 pm. A key element of this time is evening study. Myself and the College Rector, Fr. Ulic Troy OFM, are working very closely to create the right environment for students to be able to use this time in an efficient manner as is possible. Further details on this will emerge in due course. I would just like to reiterate to you that evening study is a time for purposeful work, completion of homework, independent learning and revision. Personal commitment is important.

If you have any concerns about any element of your son/daughter's education here at Franciscan College, Gormanston, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Dermot Lavin

Principal