

Franciscan College



GORMANSTON

16th June 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This summer newsletter provides important information for you and your child as we plan for the new academic year 2017/2018. There are changes planned as we embark on a new school term and I would request that you examine them all carefully. These changes will, I'm confident, impact on the quality of all round service we provide and it is important that these are communicated to you.

Please find enclosed the following information:

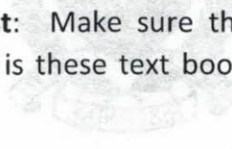
Summer academic reports for students entering 2nd, 3rd and 6th year: Take the time needed to examine this report, in particular the commentary provided by individual subject teachers. For students entering exam years if you would like to discuss the report in more detail with me individually I can be available to meet with you before the beginning of the new school year.

School Calendar 2017/2018: Take note of all key dates, in particular the dates for the start of the new school term. The school year (as in previous years) will begin in a staggered fashion starting with 5th year students on Friday 25th August from 1.00pm. Between Friday 25th August and Friday 1st September 2017 all year groups will be formally inducted to school. Class for all school students will begin on **Monday 4th September 2017.**

The induction process will include:

- Formal meeting with Year Head.
- Explanation of changes to the school Code of Behaviour and expected standards of behaviour.
- **On payment of the appropriate fee** students will be provided with a locker and student journal. Please bring a sturdy padlock with you on the day of induction. The fee can be paid on or before the day of induction. The school office will re-open from Monday 14th August 2017.

Students and parents please note: bags, equipment, personal belongings should not be left unattended within the school building. School staff may not have the time to examine CCTV footage in order to try to recover personal belongings if they are reported missing and potentially stolen. **The school cannot be and will not be responsible for these missing items.**

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- **Book List and Stationery List:** Make sure that you are clear about the subject options you have chosen. It is these text books and the mandatory ones you are expected to purchase.
 - **Uniform List 2017/2018**
 - **Precise, 2 page summary of the College Code of Behaviour, expected standards of behaviour and sanctions applicable where unacceptable behaviour occurs.** We want to provide as much clarity to parents and students regarding expected standards in our school. We will always encourage our students to do as well as they can and be the best that they can be; equally we will challenge behaviour and attitude that is not in keeping with our Mission Statement, is disruptive to learning and/or is broadly disrespectful to what we aspire to. Please read carefully, sign and return to the school with your child's name and year group on or before the confirmed date for your child's induction. Only when we have received a signed declaration of understanding by parent and student will a child be permitted to attend classes from the beginning of term. Technically, a student will be permitted to be present in the school building but will be supervised in a non-class setting until we receive the appropriate confirmation from you that your child is willing to engage purposefully with us regarding their educational opportunities. This is a significant change and one we expect students and parents to work in collaboration with us. Sign and return this important statement of your intent.

The Code of Behaviour, Booklist and Uniform List will soon be available on the College Website.

- **New Catering Arrangement:** It is likely that from the beginning of term we will operate a split lunch arrangement. We are working on the model we think will best suit our needs. You should also know that there will be a completely new catering arrangement from September 2017. The school's long association with the refectory is now over. Our school community will have NO access to this area at any time during the day. A new catering service will be in place operating at break time and lunchtime from the shop in the basement. Students and staff can purchase food there as well as pre-order and students will be able to eat in a designated seating area in the study hall and in the basement. The canteen will provide a nutritionally balanced menu with good quality food. There will be **no fizzy drinks, no chocolate, no crisps and no vending machines!** It will also be very competitively priced. **A flyer is included to give you some information on what is planned.**
- **Attendance:** We are all aware of the significant impact that good, regular attendance and punctuality to school has on the life chances of young people. We will continue to encourage and to challenge good attendance in Gormanston. As a school we are committed to attendance as an important aspect of school policy and have high

expectations that our school community will attend school regularly, and on time, thus improving student's participation and learning opportunities. You should know you have a legal responsibility under the Education Welfare Act 2000 to notify the school about the reasons for your child's absence if that occurs.

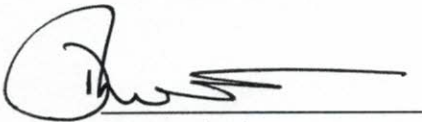
- **Evening Study Application – Academic year 2017/2018:** If you would like your son / daughter to avail of evening study, please return the attached form to the school office. The programme will be subject to demand. Priority will be given to exam students.

As a school our primary responsibility is Teaching and Learning and providing the most effective, holistic educational platform for your child to succeed. We want to work in collaboration with you to support as fully as possible the opportunities that are available for your son/daughter. We will certainly do what we can to ensure your child makes the necessary progress according to their ability.

I wish you and your family every success for the new academic year.

If there is any aspect of this letter that you require clarification on, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dermot Lavin', written over a horizontal line.

Dermot Lavin
Principal