

## HEADMASTER'S NOTES TO PARENTS

June 2017

### (1) Term Dates 2017/2018

<b>Christmas</b>	Thursday 31 August - Prize Distribution: Half-Term: <i>Half Days:</i>	Wednesday 20 December Thursday 21 September at 7.45 pm Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November (inclusive) <i>Thursday 21 September, Thursday 9 November &amp; Friday 17 November</i>
<b>Easter</b>	Monday 8 January - Half-Term: Staff Training Days: <i>Half Day:</i>	Friday 23 March Monday 12 – Friday 16 February Thursday 18 January <i>Wednesday 17 January (school closes at 12.55 pm)</i>
<b>Summer</b>	Monday 9 April - May Day: Staff Training Day:	Friday 29 June Monday 7 May Monday 28 May

### (2) Christmas Term

**Year 8 pupils** should attend school on **Thursday 31 August** at **8.50 am** when there will be a half day induction programme arranged by the Year 8 Year Heads and Tutors. Pupils can be collected at 1.30 pm. **Year 13 pupils** should attend on **Wednesday 30 August** at **8.50 am** and should report to the Study Centre for an induction programme with the Sixth Form Year Heads. The Canteen will be open on 31 August. Pupils who wish to buy food in the Canteen at Break time and Lunchtime should ensure they bring money for their canteen account. **Please note that school buses are not in operation on this date.**

All pupils should attend school on Friday 1 September 2017. School will commence with Assembly at **8.55 am**.

This year's Prize Distribution will take place on Thursday 21 September at 7.45 pm. This will allow last year's Year 14 pupils who have won prizes to attend and receive them.

### (3) Examination Results

**Results must be collected personally.** It will not be possible to give out results to another person unless written permission has been sought from the Headmaster. Please note that it is **not possible** to give any results by telephone. AS and A2 Level results will be issued in the Study Centre on **Thursday 17 August from 9.15 am**.

Year 14 pupils who have difficulty with University/College entrance because they have not obtained grades to gain entry to the courses of their choice should arrange to see a member of the Careers Department on **Thursday 17 August from 9.30 am onwards**. Mr McDonnell will be sending out further information regarding post-result procedures and you should read this carefully along with your son/daughter.

A printout of GCSE results will be available on **Thursday 24 August from 9.15 am**.

**All GCSE pupils must arrange an interview by 3.30 pm on Thursday 24 August to discuss their post-GCSE choices. Careers staff will be available from 9.30 am on 24 August.**

### (4) School Fees

Thank you to all parents who have paid School Fees for 2016/2017. All outstanding School Fees for 2016/17 must be paid immediately at the school office.

### (5) Textbooks

These should have been handed in at the end of last term. Any books not returned will be charged to parents' accounts.

### (6) School Magazine

Each family in the school will receive a copy of the school magazine. There is no charge this year as the magazine serves as a report on school activities for 2016/17.

**(7) Punctuality and Attendance**

**All pupils are expected to be in school by 8.50 am.** School commences each morning with Assembly or extended Registration Classes at **8.55 am**. All pupils, unless prevented from doing so by exceptional circumstances, are required to be in school by this time. **I would ask for your support and co-operation in ensuring that your son/daughter arrives in school on time in the morning.** Staff on duty will be monitoring punctuality and sanctions will be applied to pupils who are continually late without an acceptable reason. Registration will be carried out electronically during morning Registration and during Period 5 classes. **Parents are asked to phone school as soon as possible on the first day that your son/daughter is absent in order to explain the reason for absence.** If a call is not received the school will contact parents to check on the pupil's absence. The school is required to record reasons for pupils' absences from school. As a result parents are asked to send a note to school when the child returns explaining reason(s) for absence so that this can be accurately recorded in a pupil's file.

**(8) SLG Reports/Attendance**

Reports – please note all reports are now available via SLG. Access is via the school website [raineyendowed.com](http://raineyendowed.com) Helpsheets are also available on the school website. Should you have any difficulties accessing SLG please contact Mr Ryan Donaldson, ICT Technician – 028 7963 2478. Parents are asked to note that absence from school is determined by the number of sessions a pupil has missed. Each day has two sessions, a morning and an afternoon session. Registration is taken for both these sessions. An absence of four sessions would therefore be equated in the report to two days absence. Attendance is stated as a percentage.

**(9) Parents' Evenings for 2017/2018**

Year 14 Parents' CEIAG Information Evening	-	13 September
Year 13 Parents' Induction Evening	-	13 September
Subject Choices Parents' Evening (Years 12 & 10)		11 January
Raising Achievement (Year 12 pupils)	-	26 September (Twilight 4.00-6.30 pm)
Year 11 Parents' Meeting	-	9 November (1.30-3.30 pm)
Year 9 Parents' Meeting	-	9 November (4.00-6.00 pm)
Year 12 Parents' Meeting	-	7 March (Twilight)
Year 10 Parents' Meeting	-	28 February (Twilight)
Year 8 Parents' Meeting	-	16 April (Twilight)

In addition there will be Year 8 Parents' interviews with class tutors. These will be held during the day on Thursday 12 October and Friday 13 October.

**(10) Internal Examination Dates (commencing)**

22 January	Exams – Years 10 & 12
29 January	Exams – Years 12 - 14
4 June	Summer Exams – Years 8 - 11

**(11) Year 8 Residential**

27 September – 29 September inclusive at Ganaway Activity Centre, Millisle

**(12) Fundraising**

A Parents' Group has been very successful in raising funds for Rugby during the past academic year. If any new Year 8 or Years 9-14 parents (in September) wish to get involved, please email [head@rainey.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:head@rainey.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)

**(13) School Transport**

The Education Authority have written to all schools regarding anti-social behaviour offences by pupils on home to school transport services. When a pupil is identified for unacceptable behaviour on school buses the parent/guardian will be issued with a warning initially. A re-offence is likely to result in the withdrawal of transport assistance and consequently the parents/guardians will be responsible for their child's transport arrangements. The Education Authority will liaise with PSNI in relation to such incidents. A joint MLP Policy on Home/School Transport has been produced and is available on the school website.

**(14) Bus/Coach and Rail Summer Safety**

All pupils are encouraged to think "safety first" whilst using public transport. This is particularly important as we approach the summer holidays. Pupils should be aware of the dangers of both road and rail transport; in particular, pupils should avoid playing in areas such as bus or rail stations. In addition, pupils must be aware of the danger of removing emergency hammers, damaging seat belt receivers, cutting seat belts and removing legal lettering from coaches and buses.

**(15) Quarry Safety**

'The 'Stay Safe... Stay Out' campaign is an initiative run on behalf of the quarrying industry every year to raise awareness amongst younger children, teenagers, parents, teachers and youth workers about the dangers of entering quarries uninvited and unsupervised. We are particularly concerned about teenagers who place their lives at risk by trespassing in both active and disused quarries. Over recent years, too many have been killed or seriously injured.

The potential hazards that people expose themselves to are:

- Swimming in quarry lakes that can have very cold water even on a hot day in the middle of summer. Strong swimmers have drowned in quarries due to the unexpected impact that the extreme cold has had on their bodies.
- The water in quarry lakes can be very deep and shelving, exit from the water may only be possible in a few places, there may be pumps working or currents that can drag you under the water.
- There can be concealed underwater obstructions and other hazards that can seriously injure swimmers or individuals jumping into the water – tombstoning into quarry lakes is not safe.
- Tunnelling into piles of sand or playing on stockpiles exposes you to the risk of sudden collapses or movements that can easily bury you.
- Walking near the edge of quarry faces exposes you to the risk of serious falls as the edges can be unstable and collapse unexpectedly or sheer faces be obstructed by vegetation.
- Climbing or walking near rock faces can expose you to the risk of rock falls.
- Surfaces in quarries that may look solid, such as the surface of a silt pond, can suddenly break and act like quick sand sucking you down.
- Trail and quad biking in a quarry exposes riders to risks from unstable terrain, unexpected obstructions and being hit by moving plant.
- Young people on bikes or on foot may not be visible to operators of large machinery, they may not appreciate that the driver cannot see them.
- Quarries can often be located in remote sites where mobile reception is poor and there is no one on hand to help in the event of an accident.

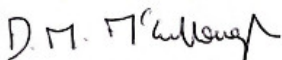
**(16) Entrance Assessments**

Pupils wishing to transfer to Year 8 at Rainey Endowed in September 2018 will need to take the Entrance Assessments produced by the Post Primary Transfer Consortia. Registration for these Assessments will close **at 2.00 pm on Friday 22 September 2017**. If you have a son or daughter who would like to transfer to the Rainey Endowed School following Primary School please make sure you register your child before the closing date. Application packs are available from the school office or downloaded from the school website.

**(17) E-Safety**

Pupil safety and behaviour on the Internet, through social networking, general communication and accessing websites are issues of increasing concern. Rainey Endowed would ask for parental support over the policy and processes used to keep our pupils safe. We adopt a pro-active approach and encourage parental contact over the matter. Parents should note social networking sites are blocked from all schools. Rainey Endowed has no access to Facebook, Twitter etc. Supervision of pupils on such sites is the responsibility of parents/guardians.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their continued support. Finally, may I wish you and your family an enjoyable, peaceful and refreshing break during the summer.



D M McCULLOUGH  
Headmaster