



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

Heywood Avenue, Onchan

Isle of Man, IM3 3AR

+44 (0) 1624 648900

UPPER SCHOOL (Years 10 – 13)

Ballaquayle Road, Douglas

Isle of Man, IM2 5RA

+44 (0) 1624 648800

WWW.SNHS.IM

HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Our Ref: CJC/LK/ School Year 2024'25

3rd September 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian

RE: Lower School Year 2024'25

Tomorrow sees the start of the new academic year here at St. Ninian's where we are looking forward to welcoming back those students moving into Year 8 and Year 9, as well as all of our new arrivals joining us in Year 7 to embark on their journey through secondary education at our Lower School. We hope you have all been able to enjoy the summer break and are ready to now commence another year of schooling.

As you are already aware from correspondence last year, we have made several changes in how our school operates and I thought it would be an appropriate time to write to you detailing these.

New Timings of the School Day

The new compulsory school day will run from 8.45am through to 3pm, including six lessons of fifty minute duration, a morning break and a lunchtime. Details of the new timings can be found at this [link](#).

Extended enrichment opportunities and support before and after school

As well as our compulsory school day, we will be offering some supervised sessions for students before school, which will commence at 8.15am. For this week, our school canteen will be open from 8.15am and we will also have our library open from 8.15am as a supervised study space for students to access if they wish. Our after school sessions this week will again see our library open to 4pm as supervised study space for students who wish to use it. Our programme of after –school clubs we hope to commence from next week once we have finalised what is available.

Access to the School

As part of an ongoing programme of improving the security of our school sites, all of our external doors are now on an electronic locking system which operate on a programmed timer system. Students are able to access the school in the morning through the main doors at the front of the school from 8.10am. This is just after the first bus arrives and just before the morning pre-school sessions commence. Please be aware that students will not be able to access the school before 8.10am.

Once the first lesson commences at 8.50am, the student entrance doors at the front of the school will lock and will only re-open for student at 3pm.

Doors at the rear of the school leading out into the school playing fields will be unlocked at break and lunchtimes for students to access these facilities at these times.

Please be assured all doors will automatically unlock should the fire alarm sound, and all student and staff will then exit the building as per the fire exit plan.

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Students who arrive at school late

If a student arrives at school after 8.50am, they will not be able to enter the school through the main student entrance doors at the front of the school, but will have to use the Visitor's Entrance (to the left of main Student Entrance doors) where they will be funnelled to the Reception Desk and be signed into school before making their way to their lesson. Those students who are persistently late will be followed up by a member of our pastoral team who has oversight of attendance.

Visitor Entrance

If you need to come in to school for any reason during the school day (to drop something off, to pick up your child, or to attend a pre-arranged meeting etc.) please use the Visitors' Entrance, which is the signposted door to the left of the main double doors at the front of the school as you approach them. You will then be funnelled directly to the Reception Desk where a member of the Administration Team will be able to assist you. Please be advised no visitor should enter the school through any other entrance.

Student Personal Digital Devices (Mobile Phones)

As stated in my previous correspondence at the end of the summer term, whilst students may choose to bring their personal mobile devices to use on the journey to and from school, they will not be able to use them when in school. Mobile phones, or associated devices (ear pods / smart watches) should not be seen, heard or used whilst in school. Students who choose to bring them in should switch them off and place them in their bag.

The only exceptions to this rule will be those students who need to use their phone to monitor medical conditions (e.g. diabetics) or those students who extensively make use of digital applications on their device as part of a recognised Additional Educational Need.

Mobile phone mis-use in school will be monitored through our Behaviour Policy and parents will be contacted if the issue becomes persistent.

Contact during the school day

If you need to contact your child during the school day please either telephone or email the school and the message will be passed on. As students should not have their mobile devices on whilst at school, contacting them directly may result in them not picking up the message until after school.

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Epraise Reward System

If you have not already done so can I advise that you sign up for Epraise. You can find further information about this at the following [link](#). For those parents of new Year 7 students, you will receive further information of how to do this. Our epraise system is where all of your child's reward points and accolades are recorded. You can also view attendance information, any behaviour consequences are recorded there too, as well as any information about which clubs and support sessions your child has signed up to. Epraise is also where you are able to make appointments with teachers on Parents' Evenings.

I therefore recommend signing up as a parent as it is full of really useful information on how your child is getting on in school.

School Uniform

Promenade T-shirts have also made us aware that some items of school uniform that have been ordered have not yet arrived from their suppliers. If your school uniform orders have been affected by this, don't worry. Just send a note in with your child so we are aware of which items are still missing and we can accommodate that here in school until the items arrive. If the missing items are PE kit, please do still send them into school with a sports kit so they can take part in their PE lessons – with a note explaining that the correct kit has not yet arrived.

Our School Website

Finally, can I just remind you all that our school [website](#) is updated regularly and has a wide range of useful information and news items about all aspects of our school. I would encourage you to add it to your 'favourites'.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us at school if there is anything you are not sure of and can I take this opportunity to wish all of our students and their families well as this new academic year commences.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. C.J. Coole PGCE, NPQH
Headteacher

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