



St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoill Ard Noo Ninian

Our Ref: CJC/JWH/SM/KS3

22nd October 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Lower School Newsletter

We have almost completed the first half term of the academic year, and it is a pleasure to see how well everyone has settled back into school.

Our new Year 7 students have made an excellent start to their secondary education and have already received almost 26,000 merits on ePraise, which is fantastic. Year 8s are leading the Lower School race as our largest year group with over 33,000 merits and Year 9s have over 25,000 between them. All our students can choose to trade in some of their ePraise points for entries into the prize draws for an Echo Pop or an Echo Show device. Entries close on 8th December and there is one of each device available to every year group. Good luck to everyone who enters!

There has been some fantastic learning going on in our classrooms this half term and it has been lovely to see some examples of the independent learning tasks that students have been working on at home. If you are unclear about any aspect of independent learning, please visit the page on our website, SNHS Independent Learning, where you can see details and deadlines for all the tasks throughout this year for Years 7 and 8. Year 9 independent learning tasks should be updated and available very soon.

As we approach the end of a very busy half term, it is important to remind all our students that there is always help and support available in school for anyone who might need it. Our Pastoral Support team at Lower School are available from 8.15am every morning in their office, the library, and the canteen. Individual appointments can be made with any member of the team, including after school between 3.00 and 4.00pm if required. We can also support referrals and signpost to other agencies such as Isle Listen.

As school will be closed for the half term holidays, anyone can access the Kooth online mental health support for 11-17 year olds on www.kooth.com and can also access the Talk service from Isle Listen on www.islelisten.im. Support for parents can also be found on www.youngminds.org.uk along with a range of resources for young people. Please do reach out if you need support.

The start of this academic year also saw all secondary schools on the Isle of Man have the expectation for students, as well as staff, to always wear their ID cards on lanyards in school as part of our ongoing safeguarding and security measures. All students were issued with their card and a lanyard at the start of term, and this has been quickly established here at St. Ninian's with the vast majority of students adjusting to this well. If a student loses either of these, new ones can be purchased from the school office (£1.00 for a replacement lanyard & card holder and £4.00 for a replacement ID/dinner card). Please do ensure that your child remembers to wear their lanyard and identification card every day at school, including non-uniform days as it is easily forgotten when they wear clothes other than their uniform.

Continued....

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

Heywood Avenue, Onchan

Isle of Man, IM3 3AR

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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

With regards to non-uniform days - a reminder that Friday 24th October is the last day of the half term and is non-uniform day for those students who wish to take part. A letter was sent to all parents on 17th October with further information about donations and this year our students have chosen to support the following charities:

- Rebecca House Children's Hospice
- Isle of Man Search and Rescue Dog Team
- Isle Stand Up To Suicide
- Isle of Man Food Bank
- Alzheimer's Society (Isle of Man)
- IOM Breast Care Support Group

Some of you may be aware that we have been concerned about the standards of driving and parking on the school site over recent weeks. There have been several 'near misses' caused by inconsiderate driving and this has led to us working with IOM Constabulary to offer advice to those involved. We do have a drop-off/pick-up area on the school drive which we would ask parents to use when collecting or dropping off their children. School ends at 3.00pm and often this area is blocked with parents arriving and parking from as early as 2.10pm. We would be grateful if parents collecting their children could do so from 3.00pm onwards, as this means that the children can already be waiting in the right area and the drop-off/pick-up zone will move fluidly and quickly. Please do not park in this zone as this is causing the traffic to back up. Please do not stop at any time on the roundabout at the bottom of the school drive as this is dangerous and children will not be permitted to run into the road to be collected. It is noticeable that the volume of traffic increases significantly when the weather is poor. As we approach the winter months, please do consider whether you absolutely need to collect your child, or whether they can be provided with a warm coat and are able to catch the bus or walk/cycle home. We make this request in the interests of keeping everyone safe as they leave school at the end of the day. The Police will continue to support us with this over the coming weeks.

We also have an increasing amount of lost property gathering at Lower School. If your child has lost something this half term, please encourage them to check at the office or feel free to call in and ask to have a look at the lost property yourself.

School re-opens on Monday 3rd November and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another busy and exciting half term in the run up to Christmas. May we take this opportunity to wish you all a pleasant half term break and a happy Hop tu Naa.

Yours faithfully



Mr C J Coole
Head Teacher



Miss J White
Deputy Head Teacher