



OMAGH HIGH SCHOOL

14 Crevenagh Road - Omagh - Co. Tyrone - BT79 0EQ

Principal: - Mr C Gaitatzis B.Sc. (Hons.) PGCE, M.B.A

24 October 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Following a very positive start to the academic year, I would like to update you on various school issues, to request your support in contributing to our School Fund and to invite you to join our PTA / Friends of Omagh High School group who work tirelessly to raise funds for our school which directly benefit all pupils.

SCHOOL FUND

Omagh High School, similarly to other schools, has a School Fund which is invaluable in providing resources to enhance the educational experience of all our children. The majority of funds raised by the School Funds are through the contribution which we ask Parents/Guardians for each year, (**£30 per child or £50 per family**) as well as numerous other PTA/FOHS fund raising activities which occur at various stages throughout the year. Ideally, I would not need to make this appeal but as you know, there is a chronic underfunding in education and as a result, we have a very limited budget to run our school. It would be impossible to offer our current excellent educational experiences without the contribution from the School Fund.

If you have already made this contribution, we thank you kindly for your generosity. However, we would like to appeal to those who have not yet been able to do so to consider making your contribution using the form attached. I would like to reiterate the importance of every single donation and the difference a collective contribution can make to our school and pupils.

Over the past few years the Friends of Omagh High School / PTA through the School Fund have supported all subject areas of our school. Here are just a few examples below:

- Purchase of books/equipment, subscriptions to online learning platforms e.g. My Maths
- Supporting school trips and subsidised costs on multiple occasions.
- Purchase and maintenance of **the school minibus**, vital for local school trips and sports fixtures.
- Purchase of vital **new computers** for two ICT rooms.
- During the last academic year 2023-2024, the School Fund has made a massive contribution of £5000.00 to six department areas.

JOIN THE PTA / FRIENDS OF OMAGH HIGH

My second appeal is for volunteers to actively participate in the Friends of Omagh High School / PTA meetings and support the work of the existing team of parents. You have possibly noticed members of this group providing refreshments during school events or organising fund raising events such as the school discos. Their contribution to the school is immense and we always value their opinion on a variety of issues.

Please complete the attached reply slip to indicate receipt of this letter and to raise any questions you may have at this time. We would also be delighted if you would be willing to dedicate some of your time to joining and assisting with our existing PTA group.

School Uniform

It is important to remind you that our school uniform is a representation of our school in the wider community and therefore it is essential that **full school uniform** is worn at all times. Our uniform is designed to be neat, functional and relatively inexpensive. A school bobble hat/beanie is also now available for purchase at a cost of £10. No other hats/beanies are permitted. As we approach winter, parents are reminded that only plain black outdoor coats can be worn and a grey jumper/pullover is available for the colder months. **No hoodies are permitted. No trainers are permitted**, only office style black shoes should be worn. A list of the correct school uniform is found in the school diary and the school prospectus on our website. I urge you to support our uniform policy. **All uniform items must be clearly labelled with the pupil's name.** May I remind you that during the months of November to April, black tights should be worn rather than white socks.

Important School Dates and Attendance

Please visit regularly the school website and note down the important dates that are relevant to you, in particular the dates for the parents' meetings. Full attendance by pupils is crucial during tracking point weeks. Please note that Tracking Point 2 (Christmas Exams) takes place from Thursday 12/12/2024 to 20/12/2024 (the end of term). Full attendance is expected. It is also important to attend the open events mentioned on the school calendar, thus supporting your child and the school community.

There is, all too often, a direct correlation between poor attendance and underachievement at school. Excessive absences which extend the weekend or the holidays are noted and often provided in references to potential employers in due course. It is important to instil into young people that attendance at school is important to a pupil's future employment prospects. Pupils should attend unless they are sick or on an authorised absence. Details of the reporting of absences can be found in the Homework Diary. Detachable slips contained within the School Diary should be used to explain absences. Punctuality to school in the morning and to classes is taken very seriously in Omagh High School. Pupils must be in school by 8.55 a.m. at the latest and **in Registration by 9.00 a.m.** Pupils who arrive late for school i.e. after 9.00 a.m. will automatically receive a lunch-time detention that day. Please note that missing the bus, sleeping in or being delayed by traffic are not accepted as excuses for lateness.

SIMS Parent App and Cashless Payments

The Parent App is now on the third year of its use and it has given you the opportunity to look at the daily absence reports, achievement and behaviour analysis, tracking point reports, summer reports and receiving important files and messages from school. If are you experiencing issues accessing the app, please contact Ms Smith at school to make the necessary arrangements to activate your Parent app account.

The school now has an online parent pay system, parents are encouraged to use this system to add money to their child's account or to pay for a school trip etc.

The school is aiming to provide a monthly online safety newsletter reference digital awareness etc. This should be available next month on the Sims Parent App.

Start and End of the Day arrangements

The Crevenagh Road is a very busy thoroughfare and there is always concern for pupils crossing the road. A Toucan crossing is situated at the front of the school and this should be used at all times when crossing the road. Parents are asked to discuss road safety practice with their children and this message will be reinforced in school assemblies. All parents are asked **to use the car park facility opposite the school to drop off and pick up** their children. For safety reasons vehicles **must not** stop at the front of the school.

Please inform the school of changes to any of the following since your child enrolled in Omagh High School.

Medical Records

It is important that pupils medical records are accurate. Some pupils may have experienced changes to their health of which the school are unaware. If your child has any additional needs which have not been previously drawn to the attention of the school, then please contact the school office as soon as possible to update your child's records.

Nut Allergies

A number of pupils in school have mild to severe nut allergies, therefore, **pupils should NOT bring any products containing nuts to school.**

Inhalers

Pupils who use inhalers for asthma should ensure that a spare inhaler is left in the school office for emergencies.

Epipens

Pupils who have prescribed epipens should leave a spare epipen in the school office for emergencies.

Regular Medication

If your child requires regular medication during the school day, then please contact the school office to make arrangements for this to happen and to complete the necessary consent forms.

Medical/Dental Appointments

Appointments should be made outside of school hours when at all possible.

Should you have any queries regarding your child's medical provision within the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours faithfully

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

C Gaitatzis
Principal

REPLY SLIP - PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN BY 8 NOVEMBER TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

Parent's/Guardian's Name: _____

Pupil's Name: _____ Year group: _____ House group: _____

I acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Signature and date: _____

Please return this reply slip to the school by Friday 8 November 2024

Please tick to confirm

- I have read the letter and I would like to support the Omagh High School Fund.
(Please complete the form included in this pack)

- I have already contributed to the School Fund for the academic year 2024-2025
(A big thank you from all staff and pupils for your contribution)

- I would like to join/support the work of the PTA / FOHS

- Cash or cheques payable to FOHS to be delivered to the main office.

- Have you got any questions or comments which you would like to share with me on any of the issues discussed in this letter?



**“Friends of Omagh High School”
(Parents Association)**

Gift Aid Declaration



Name of Charity: **“Friends of Omagh High School” (PA)**

Details of donor:

Title Forename(s) Surname

Address:

.....

..... Post Code

I want the charity to treat

All donations that I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Date:/...../.....

Signature:

Notes:

1. You can cancel this Declaration at any time by notifying the charity.
2. If you pay tax at the higher rate you can claim further tax relief in your Self-Assessment tax return.
3. If in the future your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax on your income and capital gains equal to the tax that the charity reclaims, you can cancel your declaration.
4. If you are unsure whether your donations qualify for Gift Aid tax relief, ask the charity, or, refer to help sheet IR65 on the HMRC web site.
5. Please notify the charity if you change your name or address.