AQUINAS
DIOCESAN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Induction Evening
Year 13

10th September 2026

Personal Spiritual Educational Excellence

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Schedule

Dr Dowling: Welcome and Introductions

Dr Oliver: Head of Sixth Form

Mr Brophy: Head of Year 13

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Dr Oliver

Head of Sixth Form

Curriculum and Pastoral Information

Personal Spiritual Educational Excellence

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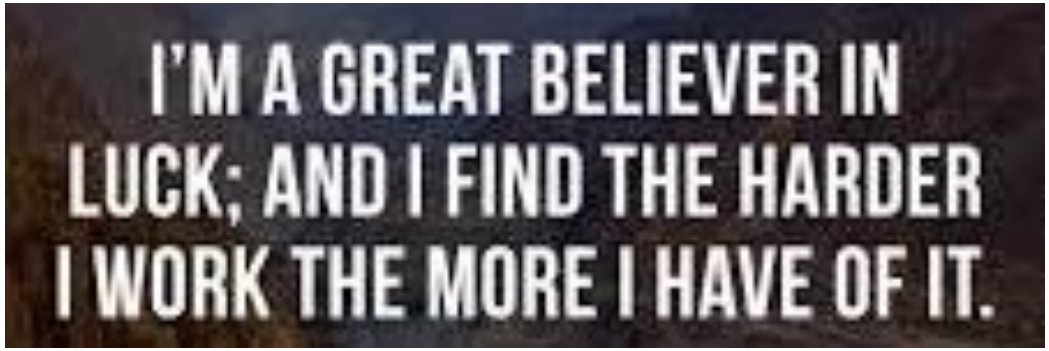
Very encouraging set of GCSE results for the year group.

Strong foundation to make the step up to AS level.

Avoid complacency this year.



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Pastoral	Curriculum	SEN	CP & Safeguarding	Examinations/ Administration
Tutor	Tutor/Teacher	Tutor/TLA/ Learning Support	Staff Member	Office Staff
HOY Mr Brophy	HOD/HOY			
Head of sixth form Dr Oliver	CLT link for department	SENCO KS5 Mr McAteer	DDT KS5 Ms Skelton-Lambon Dr Oliver	Examinations Officer Miss Dillon
VP Pastoral Dr O'Hagan	VP Curriculum Ms Skelton-Lambon	VP Pastoral Dr O'Hagan	DT VP Pastoral Dr O'Hagan	
Principal	Principal	Principal	Principal	Head of Centre Principal

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Step-up to AS level

Increased workload	Deeper understanding	Higher expectations
Build a foundation	Take responsibility	Growth mindset

Importance of Year 13

- Contributes 40% to overall AL qualification (CCEA and WJEC boards).
- Informs UCAS applications in Year 14.
- Foundation for A2 modules in many subjects.

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Qualification Information

- Majority of AL subjects offered through CCEA.
- Exceptions are Sociology, PE, Theatre Studies (WJEC), and Psychology (AQA).
- CCEA and WJEC qualifications unitised:
  - Year 13 AS = 40% and Year 14 A2 = 60%;
  - A* requires an A grade overall and an average of at least 90% UMS across the A2 modules only.
- AQA qualifications are linear: only examinations taken at end of Year 14 contribute to final grade.

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Qualification Information

Some qualifications have coursework/practical components eg Digital Technology, English Lit, MIA, Food and Nutrition, Physical Education, Technology and Design.

Important information for pupils/parents regarding coursework, examinations, malpractice etc.

https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/

AQA Questions matter | OCR Oxford Cambridge and RSA | Pearson | City & Guilds | NCFE | CEA Rewarding Learning | WJEC CBAC

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Coursework and NEAs

Information for candidates

Coursework assessments

Effective from 1 September 2026

You can demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of a subject by using information from sources, or generated from sources, which may include the internet and AI. Remember, though, information from these sources may be incorrect or biased. You **must** take care how you use this material - you cannot copy it and claim it as your own work.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism involves taking someone else's words, thoughts, ideas or outputs and not crediting the source. This includes outputs from AI tools. **Plagiarism is a form of cheating which is taken very seriously.**

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Coursework and NEAs

Sanctions for breaking the regulations

If it is discovered that you have broken the rules, one of the following sanctions will be applied:

- you will be awarded zero marks for your work;
- you will be disqualified from that unit for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from the whole subject for that examination series;
- you will be disqualified from all subjects and barred from entering again for a period of time.

The awarding body will decide which sanction is appropriate.

REMEMBER – IT'S YOUR QUALIFICATION SO IT NEEDS TO BE YOUR OWN WORK.

Referencing

- Printed book or journal
- Internet
- Computer generated content eg AI

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Qualification Information

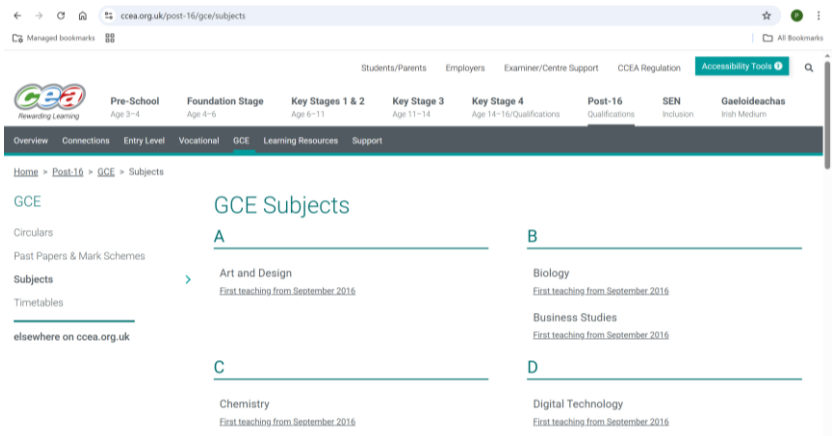
Some students will study four AS subjects in Year 13.

Most will drop one of these AS subjects in Year 14, based on AS results, degree/career choices etc.

Subject and Careers teachers will provide advice.

Further information on all GCE qualifications can be found on the examination board websites.

CCEA: https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/subjects



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Example: GCE Chemistry Spec

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple-choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (80 marks).	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 2: Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple-choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (80 marks).	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 3: Basic Practical Chemistry	Practical Booklet A consists of a variety of practical tasks (25 marks). Students take the assessment in the laboratory. 1 hour 15 mins	20% of AS 8% of A level

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Tips and advice for this year

Supervised study in the Learning Centre (morning and afternoon).

Prepare and stick to a study schedule.

- One hour per subject per day recommended.
- Use STUDY periods wisely (not FREE periods).

Take DT examinations seriously (especially DT2).

- Best indicator of progress and performance.

Strive for full attendance at school.

- As per your pupil contract, you are expected to be in school from 9.15am-3.30pm, and to attend all timetabled lessons and study periods.

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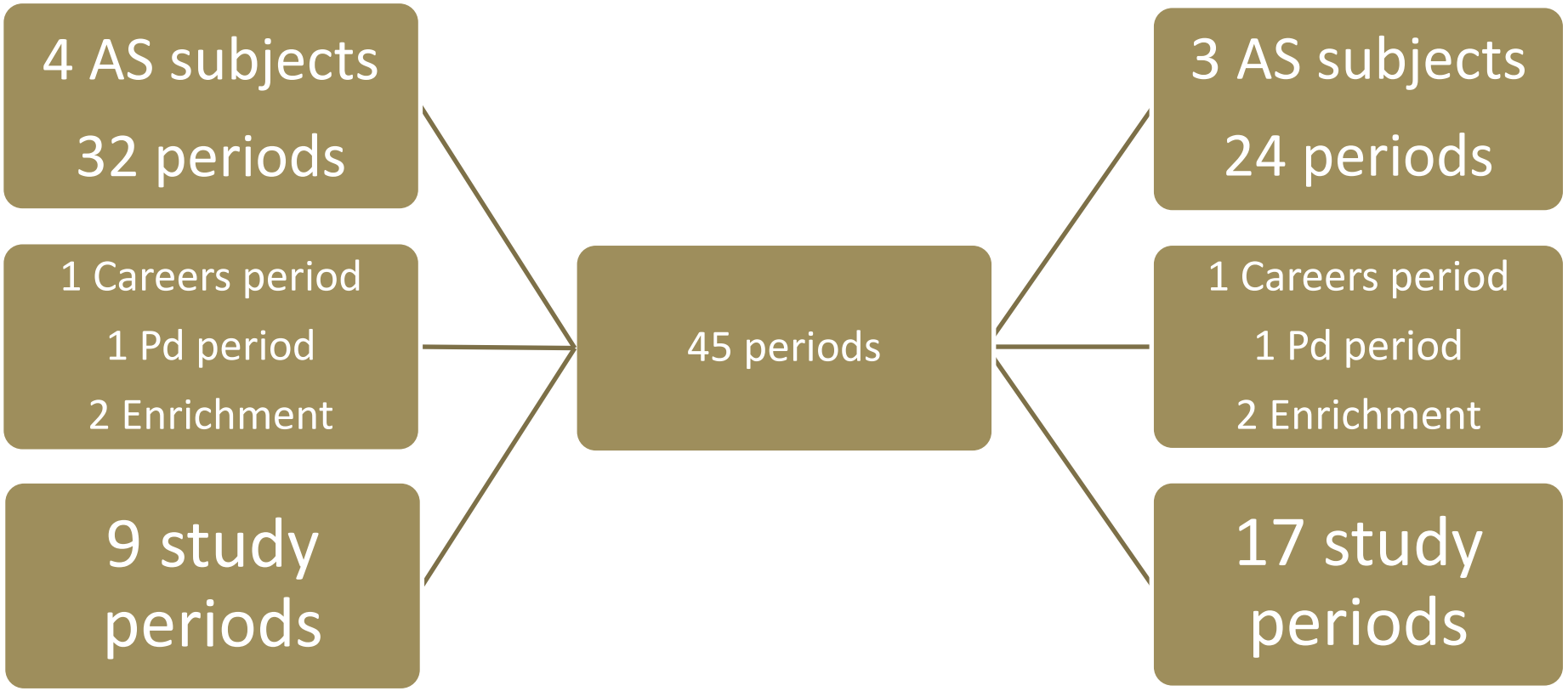
Tips and advice for this year



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Tips and advice for this year

Regular attendance in lessons.

Reduce/minimise impact of other commitments eg part-time work, sport.

Start early and work consistently.

- Earn your rewards throughout the year.

Revise smart: develop effective revision strategies.

- Ask class teachers for subject specific advice.
- Research shows that practising questions (eg from past papers etc.) and marking your work is much more beneficial than passively copying, re-reading or highlighting notes.

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Tips and advice for this year

Note that the majority of AS examinations are scheduled for the first two weeks of the Summer examinations window i.e. weeks commencing 10th and 17th May 2027.

Rewarding Learning

Examinations Timetable

WEEK BEGINNING 10 May 2027

https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/timetables

Unit Code	Subject	Time	Date	Unit Code	Subject	Time
SEC11	Economics AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45	**Monday 10 May**	SFM11	Further Mathematics AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SEP21	Spanish AS 2 Section A (40m)	9.15 - 9.55		STE11	T & D Systems & Control AS 1 Core (1hr)	1.30 - 2.30
SEP22	Spanish AS 2 Sections B & C (1hr 20m)	10.10 - 11.30		STE12	T & D Systems & Control AS 1 Options (1hr)	2.50 - 3.50
SCH14	Chemistry AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45	**Tuesday 11 May**	SGG11	Geography AS Unit 1 (1hr 15m)	1.30 - 2.45
SMX21	Moving Image Arts AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45		SGM21	German AS 2 Section A (40m)	1.30 - 2.10
				SGM22	German AS 2 Sections B & C (1hr 20m)	2.25 - 3.45
SNF11	Nutrition and Food Science AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45	**Wednesday 12 May**	SHY11	History AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SPH11	Physics AS Unit 1 (1hr 45m)	9.15 - 11.00				
SEL12	English Literature AS Unit 1 (2hrs)	9.15 - 11.15	**Thursday 13 May**	SMT11	Mathematics AS Unit 1 (1hr 45m)	1.30 - 3.15
SDT11	Digital Technology AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45	**Friday 14 May**	SBU11	Business Studies AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SFR21	French AS Section A (40m)	9.15 - 9.55		SFM21	Further Mathematics AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SFR22	French AS Sections B & C (1hr 20m)	10.10 - 11.30				

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Tips and advice for this year

Note that the majority of AS examinations are scheduled for the first two weeks of the Summer examinations window i.e. weeks commencing 10th and 17th May 2027.

Rewarding Learning

Examinations Timetable

WEEK BEGINNING 17 May 2027

https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/timetables

Unit Code	Subject	Time	Date	Unit Code	Subject	Time
APH11	Physics A2 Unit 1 (2hrs)	9.15 - 11.15	**Monday 17 May**	AHC31	Health & Social Care A2 Unit 3 (2hrs)	1.30 - 3.30
SEC21	Economics AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45		SHY21	History AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SEP31	Spanish AS Unit 3 (1hr)	9.15 - 10.15				
AGP11	Government & Politics A2 Unit 1 (2hr 15m)	9.15 - 11.30	**Tuesday 18 May**	ADV11	Software Systems Development A2 Unit 1 (2hrs)	1.30 - 3.30
SAL21	Sports Science AS Unit 2 (2hrs)	9.15 - 11.15		SGM31	German AS Unit 3 (1hr)	1.30 - 2.30
SCH24	Chemistry AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45		SRE71	Religious Studies AS Unit 7 (1hr 20m)	1.30 - 2.50
AGM21	German A2 Unit 2 Section A (45m)	9.15 - 10.00	**Wednesday 19 May**	AHY11	History A2 Unit 1 (1hr 15m)	1.30 - 2.45
AGM22	German A2 Unit 2 Section B (2hrs)	10.15 - 12.15		SHC31	Health & Social Care AS Unit 3 (2hrs)	1.30 - 3.30
SGG21	Geography AS Unit 2 (1hr 15m)	9.15 - 10.30		SPH21	Physics AS Unit 2 (1hr 45m)	1.30 - 3.15
AAL21	Sports Science A2 Unit 2 (2hrs)	9.15 - 11.15	**Thursday 20 May**	AGG11	Geography A2 Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
AEL11	English Literature A2 Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45		SBU21	Business Studies AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
SBY21	Biology AS Unit 2 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45		SPS11	Prof Business Services AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	1.30 - 3.00
AFM11	Further Maths A2 Unit 1 (2hr 15m)	9.15 - 11.30	**Friday 21 May**	AEC11	Economics A2 Unit 1 (2hrs)	1.30 - 3.30
SEL21	English Literature AS Unit 2 (1hr)	9.15 - 10.15		SMT21	Mathematics AS Unit 2 (1hr 15m)	1.30 - 2.45
SET11	Environmental Technology AS Unit 1 (1hr 30m)	9.15 - 10.45				

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Monitoring progress in Year 13

- Pupil performance and progress is monitored (relative to targets) after the DT examination periods (October, December and March).
- The minimum target for all pupils is three C grades.
- Pupils falling significantly below this target will attend a review meeting with the HOY or CLT member. In some cases parents/guardians will be invited to attend.
- Pupils expected to engage with the support mechanisms.
  - One/two afternoons per week after school in the Learning Centre.
  - Agree to a programme of self-study both in school and at home.
  - Dropping a fourth AS subject (if applicable/beneficial).

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Progression to Year 14

- The minimum published criteria for progression to Year 14 is three C grades at AS level.
- Pupils who fall below this threshold will have a meeting scheduled with a member of CLT on Results day in August, where alternative options will be discussed (depending on grade profile, timetabling constraints and future degree/career aspirations).
- Pupils are not permitted to continue a subject at A2 level where they have received an E or U grade at AS level.

All of these conditions/strategies are in place to help support your child:

- to achieve their potential/targets;
- manage studies, stress, time, workload etc.
- to work towards a successful pathway for leaving school in Year 14.

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Sixth Form Enrichment Program

Provides an opportunity to develop valuable transferable skills and experience outside the classroom.

BAR MOCK TRIAL

First aid

SistersIN
INSPIRE • EMPOWER • LEAD

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
Communities of Faith, Love & Service

Organ Donation

GAA

YOUNG enterprise

signsource

SAPHARA
Be the Change
AWARD

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Sixth Form Enrichment Program

Provides an opportunity to develop valuable transferable skills and experience outside the classroom.

Bar Mock Trials	Young Enterprise	GAA Training	Sign Language
First Aid	Financial Literacy	Gym Sessions	Cephas
Survival Cookery	Saphara	Organ Donation	Eco Club

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Extracurricular life at Aquinas

Get involved in some of the many extracurricular activities on offer.

— Develop practical skills.

— Explore new interests and build friendships.

— Showcase commitment and dedication.

— Enhance applications eg UCAS, prefect.

Sport	Music
Drama	Clubs/ societies
Fundraising	

Wide selection of extracurricular sport on offer at senior level in the school – Gaelic, camogie, hurling, soccer, netball, basketball.

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Enhancing your UCAS profile

Year 13 is the ideal time to get involved in initiatives that will develop your transferable skills and enhance your UCAS profile for next year.

— Participate in extracurricular activities.

— Volunteer as a Class Rep for School Council.

— Engagement with Enrichment course.

— Volunteering inside or outside of school.

— Part-time job (during the summer).

— Work experience placement.

— Apply to become school prefect: attendance, work ethic, grade profile, school ethos, leadership, setting an example.

UCAS

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Dates for diary

Year 13 Parent Teacher Meeting

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

3.45pm – 6pm

School Show

Wizard of Oz

14th – 16th October 2026

Year 13 Work Experience Placements

Late June - dates to be confirmed

Pupils return after AS exams

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Mr Brophy
Head of Year 13

Curriculum and Pastoral Information

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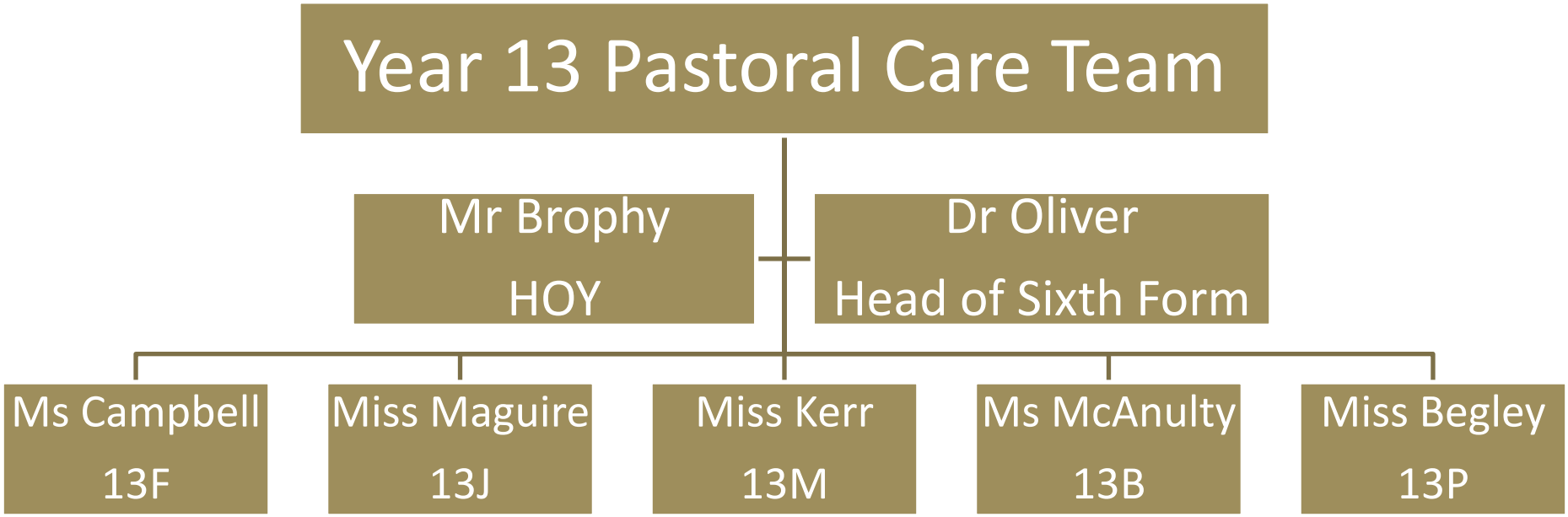
Year 13 Pastoral Care Team



Study Supervisors: Mrs McArdle and Mrs McFadden

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Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School
Child Protection & Safeguarding Team

How a **pupil** can raise a concern

Dr O'Hagan
Designated Teacher

Ms Skelton-Lambon
Deputy Designated Teacher

Mr McClean
Deputy Designated Teacher

Dr Oliver
Deputy Designated Teacher

Mr Sames
Deputy Designated Teacher

I have a concern about my own or another pupil's safety, I can talk to any member of staff

I can talk to Dr O'Hagan [Designated Teacher] or Mrs Lambon, Mr McClean, Dr Oliver & Mr Sames [Deputy Designated Teachers] or any member of staff

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal, Dr Dowling

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr P. Coll

At any time, I can talk to the social worker tel: Gateway 02890 507 000 or the Police Care Unit- (101) or (02890 65 02 22)

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Pastoral Programme in Year 13

INDUCTION	BUDDY SYSTEM (WITH YEAR 8)	STUDY SKILLS/ COPING WITH EXAMS
Homelessness	Addiction/ substance abuse	FUNDRAISING
Democracy	WHOLE SCHOOL EG ORDAN DONATION, INTERNET SAFETY	Finance/ budgeting

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School Gateway App

- Paperless
- All Home/School communications go through the App
- Daily Attendance
- Reporting (Check-in Point and Data Tracking)
- Two-way communication – via Text
- Please use this to inform the school of future appointments/illness
- Parent receives message if child marked absence at morning Reg

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Absences/Appointments

Absent from school

- If possible, message on app or phone call from parent/guardian before 9am.
- If phoning, please provide an absence note to Form tutor on day of return.
- All absences are recorded on SIMS.

Leaving school early for an appointment

- Bring in signed note from parent/guardian.
- If leaving before morning Reg (10.30am), have note signed by senior teacher on duty.
- If leaving after 10.30am, have not signed by Form Tutor during Reg.
- Sign out with the front office and hand in signed note before leaving.

Illness during school

- Inform school reception.
- Parent pick-up can be arranged.

Reminder

Driving lessons should not be booked during the school day.

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Role models for the school

Attendance: Pupils should aim for full attendance.

Behaviour: pupils should show respect for themselves and others.

Uniform: pupils should take pride in their school uniform.

Manners: pupils should demonstrate good manners to each other, to all members of staff and to any visitors to the school.

Punctuality: pupils should be punctual to school and class.

Homework: pupils should complete all home works to the best of their abilities.

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Policies and home/school agreement

P7-8 School Uniform

P9 Code for Good Behaviour

P10 Positive behaviour policy

P11 Health & Safety Policy

P12-13 E-safety – Acceptable use

This MUST be signed before you use the school computers

P15 Home School Agreement

To be signed by pupil and parent

P16 Bring Your Own Device

To be signed

Home School Agreement

Pupil's Name: .....

I have read and understood the policies in this diary in relation to uniform, behaviour, my conduct, all health, and safety and in particular e-Safety. I undertake to do my best to live up to the expectations placed on me as a member of Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School. I will attend regularly.

I will remain in school from 9.15 to 3.30pm every day. I will arrive at all lessons and activities on time, and I will take responsibility for my own learning, always remembering that my teachers and staff of the School are there to help me if I encounter difficulties.

If at any time I become concerned about any aspect of my work or School life in general I will talk to the relevant member of staff.

While I am a pupil at Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School, I will do my best to succeed in all I do, to be a good ambassador and to participate fully in the life of the school.

I will return all relevant course books and any other School property at the end of each academic year. If I am unable to return these items or lose them, I understand that the School's Charging Policy will be applied.

I will adhere to School Policies and Procedures**

Signed: ..... (Pupil) Date: .....

Signed: ..... (Parent) Date: .....

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Mobile Phone Policy

1. No mobile device should be used in school from 8.30am – 3.30pm (except under the direction of a member of staff).

2. If a pupil uses a mobile device contrary to the policy, they will be asked to leave the device at the school office to be picked up at 3.30pm.

3. In line with the Promoting Positive Behaviour policy, further repeated offences will result in the school following its outlined procedures.

Parent/guardian can contact child through school reception.

- We appreciate your support in helping us to implement the new policy last year.
- It proved extremely successful, with better focus, benefits to teaching and learning, and more social interaction.

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Health and Wellbeing

MAKE A MELODY
ARTS THERAPY AND COUNSELLING

Make A Melody Counselling Service

- Counsellor available in school
- Operates by a referral system
  - by pupils (self-referral)
  - by teachers
  - by parents/guardians
- All referrals go through Dr O'Hagan (VP Pastoral)

Education
HSC Public Health Agency
HSC Health and Social Care
ChatHealth

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Education Maintenance Allowance

What is EMA?

Education Maintenance Allowance is a **weekly allowance of £30 to help 16, 17, 18 and 19 year olds** with the costs of further education.

Payments are made every 2 weeks as long as you continue to meet your school or college's attendance requirements.

nidirect government services | tédíreach seirbhísí rialtais

Getting EMA won't affect any benefits you or your family already receive.

You need to meet the following requirements to be able to get EMA:

Age

Your 16th, 17th, 18th or 19th birthday falls on or between 2 July 2025 and 1 July 2026 and you are starting or continuing in further education from September 2026.

Course

You attend a post-compulsory further education course at an approved school or college in Northern Ireland. This must be full-time at school or a minimum of 15 guided hours per week at college, studying an eligible course and attending all classes.

Nationality and residency

If you're a UK citizen who normally lives in the UK you should be able to get EMA.

If you're not a UK citizen you may still be able to get EMA, go to **www.nidirect.gov.uk** for more information.

Household income

The table below shows how much you can get based on your household income.

Annual household income	Weekly EMA entitlement
£20,500 or less	£30
£22,500 or less and there's **at least 1 other** dependant eligible for child benefit in your household, other than you.	£30

Department for the Economy
An Roinn Geilleagair
www.economy.gov.uk

Department of Education
www.education-ni.gov.uk

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Thank you

Thank you for listening and for your support.