

Dear Parents,

For many parents, particularly of boarders, the first evening of a new term and academic year can be a little daunting. This can be made more so for parents new to St Columba's, for those new to the boarding experience and for those living overseas. There may be a hundred questions running through one's mind and having the opportunity to chat to people who have the answers might alleviate concerns and worries.

We, the Parents' Association, organise an informal get-together on the first evening, giving new and current parents the opportunity to get to know other parents in their child's year group. It has been greatly appreciated in previous years, and we plan to meet this coming September. It will be a casual get-together, with a drink, and **all** parents are welcome to join us.

Parents' Association Committee members will be present and we can introduce you to your Form representative. The Committee is made up of parents of boarders, day boarders and day pupils. Each year group (Forms I to VI) has a parents' WhatsApp group as does the overseas parent's cohort. We find these a particularly useful communication method, especially if one wants a quick answer to a thorny question.

This year the venue will be The Royal Irish Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire, A96 RC84, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 3rd September. For wider accommodation needs, nearby places include the Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killiney, Co Dublin A96N125 (who will give St Columba's College parents a preferential B&B room rate). There is also the Royal Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, which is reasonable and the Haddington which is a bit more expensive but very nice.

If you can't make it on the evening of Wednesday 3rd, you can email details (your name, your child's name and Form/year group and your mobile number) directly to us at: pa@stcolumbas.ie. We look forward to meeting as many new College parents as possible and introducing you to other parents of pupils already at St Columba's.

With best wishes,

Richard Morphew

Chairperson, St Columba's College Parents' Association