

Parents' Association Newsletter

Hilary Term – January 2026



St. Columba's College
Parents' Association

Happy 2026

Dear parents and guardians, we hope you all had a wonderful Christmas holiday and a great start to the New Year as your children settle back into their routines.

In this newsletter you will find an update on recent projects and what we are working on for the upcoming terms. We also provide the dates of Hilary Term events.

We appreciate your continued support for 2026.

Best wishes,

Parents' Association

UPDATE

Open Day: The College welcomed prospective parents in September last term. The campus tour for the prospective parents was led by pupils, who were the absolute headliners of the event. Parents were undoubtedly delighted by the pupils' articulacy, friendliness, and excellence! A few members of the PA and several teachers assisted with the event.

Patrick Foster's Talk: The College welcomed back Patrick Foster on 13th January to speak to pupils and shared gripping story about addiction and mental health. He also held a talk and Q&A for parents in the Whispering House. The PA supported and contributed funds for this event.

Gala 2026: The event is scheduled for October 2026 to raise funds for multiple purposes, which we coordinate and align with the Columba's College Foundation. The PA is currently working with the Foundation on the details of this fun-themed event and should be able to update you more in the coming months.

Leavers' gift for 2026: PA members have diligently worked on the procurement of the Leavers' gift: a necklace for girls and cufflinks for boys which will be delivered to the College and gifted to the leavers at the 6th Form valedictory evening as keepsakes. As discussed at the 2025 AGM, the PA provides funding for 50% of the cost of gifts with the remaining 50% by the leavers' parents. Details will be sent to the leaver's parents.

Upcoming Events

*All parents are welcome to attend.

Please refer to the Green Book for complete schedule and details.

Sunday, 25th January:

***Staff and Pupils' Concert in the BSR at 8.00pm.**

Thursday, 29th January:

TY information meeting for *parents of Form III pupils in the BSR at 10.30am/ *PA Coffee Morning in the Whispering House from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Classes end at 12.50am. Exodus.

Monday, 2nd February:

Exodus ends. Return of Boarders 6.30 - 8.30pm.

Tuesday, 3rd February:

Return of Day Boarders/Day Pupils by 8.10am.

Friday, 6th February:

***Junior Play, 1st performance in the BSR at 7.00pm.**

Saturday, 7th February:

***Junior Play, 2nd performance in the BSR at 7.00pm.**

Thursday, 12th February:

Reception for *parents of pupils in Form V, IV, II and I in the Whispering House at 7.00pm.

Friday, 13th February:

Parent-Teacher meeting for *parents of Form V, IV, II and I pupils in Sports Hall from 11.00pm to 1.00pm. Classes end at 10:45am. Half-term holiday begins.

Monday, 23rd February:

Half-term holiday ends. Return of Boarders 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Tuesday, 24th February:

Return of Day Boarders/Day Pupils by 8.10am.

Friday, 13th March:

***PA Coffee Morning in the Whispering House from 11.30am to 12.30 pm. Classes end at 12.50pm. St Patrick's Day Exodus.**

Tuesday, 17th March:

St Patrick's Day Exodus ends. Return of Boarders between 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Wednesday, 18th March:

Return of Day Boarders/Day Pupils by 8.05am.

Sunday, 20th March:

***Music Prize Concert in the BSR at 8.00pm.**

Monday, 23rd March:

Online Parent-Teacher meeting for *parents of Form VI pupils from 3.45pm to 5.30pm.

Tuesday, 24th March:

Online Parent-Teacher meeting for *parents of Form III pupils from 3.45pm to 5.30pm.

Friday, 27th March: Hilary Term ends.

Regarding the College Events

Parents have an open invitation to attend College events, such as Form plays, Sunday chapel services etc, unless it is specifically stated in the Green Book as “(internal event - no visitors).”

2025 AGM

The 2025 Parents’ Association Annual general Meeting took place on 3rd October. The **2025 AGM Synopsis** is available to view [here](#) and on PA’s webpage.

PA Committee Members – Academic Year 2025/2026

The Chairperson: Richard Morphew/ Honorary Secretary: Ally Bunbury/ Honorary Treasurer: Jenny Quinn/ Overseas Parent Liaison Representative: Dylan Latimer/ Communication Officer: Ikumi Ryan

Other members: Cormac Breatnach/ Coibhe Butler/ Xuemei Germaine/ Gordon Larke/ Orla McKeon/ Simon Molyneux/ Hazel O’Dwyer/ Jeanne Parker-Weeks/ Elizabeth Sherwood-Smith/ Louise van den Bergh

PA webpage

More information on the PA and its role can be found on the College website below:

<https://www.stcolumbas.ie/parents/>

Contact information

We always welcome any suggestions, which you may send to our email address at:

pa@stcolumbas.ie

Useful Information

St Columba’s schedules – daily matters:

The most immediate place for parents to access up-to-date details on daily matters, including events, as well as changes to routine.

<https://www.stcolumbas.ie/category/updates/>

Sports’ fixtures – details of all these, including results:

<https://www.stcolumbas.ie/sportsresults/>

Google College calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=c3RhZmYuc3Rjb2x1bWJhcy5pZV9mdWU2aDRsNjNydDNwNGRwNDUyM3BiajUwZ0Bncm91cC5jYWxlbmRhci5nb29nbGUuY29t&pli=1>

Dates for the academic year and other documents:

<https://www.stcolumbas.ie/documents/>

Green Book:

<https://www.stcolumbas.ie/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/greenbook2526finalparents.pdf>