



# Glastry College

Principal: Mr A J Hutchinson BSc Hons MSc PGCE PQH (NI)

*Enrich ✦ Empower ✦ Excel*

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Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I'd like to begin by saying a huge thank you to our school community for supporting Glastry College staff in getting our pupils back to school. I know we all missed them and we are hugely relieved to be getting back to doing what we love most – which is teaching our students face-to-face.

May I also take this opportunity to thank the many parents/carers who have sent positive messages to either myself or my staff – we greatly appreciate those messages of support in these difficult times.

Normally at this time of year Governors write to parents to ask them for a contribution to the College's School Fund. These monies are used to provide all our pupils with a diverse range of memorable learning and extra-curricular experiences that cannot be funded by the basic Department of Education budget allocation.

Last year the School Fund totalled £10,389.37 which was made up primarily from contributions from parents and a small carry-over from the previous year. Before the COVID-19 lock-down the College had spent only £2,761.00 of those funds; primarily on positive behaviour, sporting events and other trips. The remaining funds had been earmarked for merit and recognition rewards, trips and visits as well as for contributions to after-school clubs in the summer term. Well, as we all now know, the school was not open during the summer term and none of these initiatives were able to go ahead.

As a result, the College has £7,628.37 remaining in its School Fund bank account from funds collected last year. Clearly the ongoing restrictions we face due to the COVID-19 pandemic will, at least in the short-term, severely hinder the College's ability to run traditional trips, after school activities and clubs. So Governors have decided they will not ask parents to contribute to the College's School Fund this academic year.

Instead, Governors plan to use last year's remaining School Fund to pay for merit, recognition and positive behaviour rewards as well as contributing towards affirming initiatives aimed to improve our pupils' wellbeing and help them work, learn and have fun during these difficult times. Governors feel strongly that in these uncertain and restricted times it is more important than ever to ensure our pupils enjoy positive and creative time outside the classroom, that they are rewarded for hard work and endeavour, and their successes are celebrated. We hope pupils will be encouraged and have positive memories of their time at Glastry College even in the midst of the COVID pandemic.

Of course, should any parent still wish to contribute to the College's School Fund this year – they can do so. In fact, it would be greatly appreciated. All funds will be used solely to benefit and enhance our pupils' College experience beyond the classroom. If you would like to make a donation to the School Fund account, please email Mrs E Whiteside on [ewhiteside143@c2kni.net](mailto:ewhiteside143@c2kni.net) and she will provide you with further details about how you can make a one-off payment.

Finally, I would like to remind parents/carers that given the continuously changing guidance received by the Department of Education regarding the pandemic it is essential that the College is able to communicate with parents quickly and effectively. So, I'd like to strongly encourage anyone not already signed up to the SIMS ParentApp to do so as soon as possible. If you require any information or technical assistance on how to do this, please email Mr L Copeland on [lcopeland678@c2kni.net](mailto:lcopeland678@c2kni.net) who will be happy to help you get set up.

Kind regards

A J Hutchinson  
**Principal**