

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School



Monday 9th September

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to the Douay Martyrs School community and to congratulate all students in Year 7 on their successful start to school life here at Douay Martyrs. One must acknowledge that this is an anxious time; new routines to become familiar with and new friends to make. Despite this, all settled in well last week and responded well to the challenges that a new start brings.

I believe that laying a firm foundation and setting boundaries in the early stages of high school will enhance learning and secure a positive attitude towards all aspects of school life. To this end I would ask you to support your child in RE the following ways:

- 1) Monitor the homework your child has been set on Show My Homework to ensure the homework is completed, on time and to the best of their ability. We have high expectation of each and every student – where homework has not been completed with due care and rushed, your child will be asked to re – do it. Homework is an extension of a child’s learning monitoring it will ensure that your child will not fall behind with work and will continue to make progress.
- 2) Ensuring your child comes to school with the correct equipment. They must ensure they have their Bibles with them for RE lessons to refer to if required. It is essential that exercise books are brought to every lesson, as they will prove to be an invaluable resource for revision and are therefore expected to be neatly presented. Please ensure that exercise books are covered to help preserve them. In addition to this s/he must bring a sufficient number of pens, (especially black pens), pencils, and a ruler.
- 3) Look through your child’s exercise book and discuss with them what they have been learning about in RE. Being given the opportunity to explain it to you will help to deepen their understanding and consolidate their learning.
- 4) Attendance is an important component in ensuring achievement. Gaps in knowledge resulting from poor attendance can be detrimental to your child’s overall progress. Therefore, I would ask you to emphasise this to your child and ensure that s/he only stays at home when absolutely necessary. Where students are absent it is imperative they see their class teacher upon their return to catch up with work they have missed. Similarly, punctuality must be maintained making sure that your child arrives on time for RE lessons.
- 5) Encourage your child to be proactive in their learning. If s/he is struggling with class work or homework that has been set advise them to speak to their teacher for help. Similarly, if they would like to get ahead, extend their knowledge of particular topics, they should ask their teacher for guidance or resources they could use.

I am confident that adhering to the above will have a positive impact on your child’s progress ensuring they achieve their true potential; spiritual and moral as well as academic.

An effective partnership between school and home coupled with clear communication is integral to ensuring students’ remain happy, secure and thus able to flourish during their time in school. In view of this, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding RE. I will be more than happy to discuss them over the phone or arrange a time to meet with you.

I would like to end by congratulating Year 7 students once gain on a successful start to the year both collectively and individually and look forward to further successes in the year ahead.

Thank you in anticipation of your help and support,

Yours Sincerely

Ms M Potgieter

Ms M Potgieter
Head of RE

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