

**Dominican College, Portstewart; Loreto College, Coleraine; St Joseph's College, Coleraine  
Development Proposals UPDATE                      October 2016**

The purpose of this update is to provide clarity, particularly for parents of pupils in Primary 7, at a point in time when the schools await an announcement by the Minister of Education, regarding their Development Proposals.

In March 2015, the Trustees submitted Development Proposals for the three schools. The Department of Education is currently considering these proposals. There are four key elements to the proposals:

- **St Joseph's College will close on a phased basis, over 2 years beginning 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

*If approved, a first effect of this would be that St Joseph's will not accept pupils into year 8 in September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

- **Dominican College, will expand from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

*If approved, a first effect of this will be that the Admissions Number (i.e. the number of pupils that can be accepted into year 8) will increase in September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

- **Loreto College, will expand from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

*If approved, a first effect of this will be that the Admissions Number (i.e. the number of pupils that can be accepted into year 8) will increase in September 2016 or as soon as possible thereafter.*

- **Dominican College will initiate a phased and complete transformation away from the use of academic selection criteria for admission to the school, over 4 years, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016, or as soon as possible thereafter.**

*If approved a first effect of this will be that, for the enlarged year 8, not all of the pupils will be admitted using academic selection criteria; some will be admitted through the use of non-academic criteria.*

Until an announcement is made by the Minister of Education, the points outlined above remain as **proposals**. This means that the Boards of Governors of the three schools have a responsibility to draw up Admissions Criteria for September 2016 based on **current** Admissions Numbers and the current situation in each school.

Should a subsequent Ministerial announcement, which is accepted by the Trustees of the three schools, result in a change to these current arrangements for year 8 admissions in September 2016, the Boards of Governors will then produce updated Admissions Criteria which reflect these changes.

The schools will endeavour to ensure that their feeder primary schools are kept fully informed.

Fr Tim Bartlett (Trustee, St Joseph's College, Coleraine)

Dr Bob Cummings (Trustee Representative, Dominican College, Portstewart)

Mr Brian Lenehan (Trustee, Loreto College, Coleraine)