



# St Louis Regionalate

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

January 30<sup>th</sup> 2018

Today is a good news day for St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, the community of Mourne and the wider region.

We have been informed by the Department of Education today that the development proposal for the expansion of St. Louis and its becoming a bilateral Voluntary Grammar School has, in the absence of a Minister, been approved by the Department's Permanent Secretary. This will take effect from September 2018 with St Columban's College closing on that date. We are confident in the proven quality of teaching and learning and academic and educational outcomes that mark St. Louis will endure and be enriched with this development.

Yesterday, Year 10 pupils from St. Columban's College joined our pupils for the Year 10/12 Options Day. This was organised to ensure preparedness for the new arrangements. Already, current Year 11 pupils with their teachers in both schools are synchronizing course delivery in all subjects. We, as trustees, welcome this initiative and the generosity of both schools' leadership and staff to pave the way for change while assuring the best interests of all pupils.

The Enrolment Policy for the new arrangements has been agreed by the Board of Governors of St. Louis, and will apply to all applicants for places in Year 8 for 2018/9. This means that local children will be offered a place on the basis of their home address, while children from outside the area will be accepted through the GL academic selection process. The school principal, Mr. Martin will be meeting with all feeder Primary schools and others to advise on this new policy, which will also be published on the school website. The location of the Learning Support Centre has yet to be decided and is solely within the remit of the Education Authority. St. Louis Grammar School would warmly welcome the inclusion of all pupils in the new arrangement.

We are confident Mr. Martin along with the school leadership team and staff will continue the good work, care, and commitment to doing what is best for each pupil, to be their best selves, the mark of St. Louis education. An extended school will offer a wider curriculum and more opportunities for pupils which is to be warmly welcomed. Most recently it was confirmed that the school is to have a new full-size Sports Hall. Additional facilities and classrooms are also to be provided. We remain committed to working with the Department to deliver our vision of a new school building as soon as possible.

We take this opportunity to wish you and your daughter/son/s every success and contentment in St. Louis, as it moves to a new chapter in its history,

With every good wish,

Sr. Noreen Shankey SSL (Trustee)

Sr Eithne Woulfe SSL Trustee Delegate