

St Andrew's College

# Pipe Band Handbook 2016



St Andrew's College



# Pipe Band Handbook

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St Andrew's College

# Welcome to the St Andrew's College Pipe Band



St Andrew's College has maintained a strong tradition of piping and drumming since the formation of its first Pipe Band in 1919. The Band is an integral part of daily life at the College, performing regularly at assemblies, prizegiving, open days, Founders' Day,

rugby fixtures and on many other special occasions. The Band is widely regarded as New Zealand's premier college band.

Each year, true to the school's commitment to community service, the Pipe Band performs at a wide range of community events. Members are frequently requested to play at weddings, birthdays, funerals and other occasions.

Importantly, the Band is a competing band. The Band competes in contests locally, nationally and

internationally with many titles to its name including the Juvenile World Champions 2013. Competition, I believe, drives up standards and provides regular goals for students and tutors to strive together.

Former members of the St Andrew's College Pipe Band can be found in many bands both here in New Zealand and overseas. Current members are aware that pipe banding can become a lifelong hobby. Many former members who shared the common interest at the College form naturally enduring friendships.

I hope that your association with the Pipe Band at St Andrew's College is a very enjoyable and valued experience.

**Richard Hawke**  
Pipe Band Director



# Aims and Structure

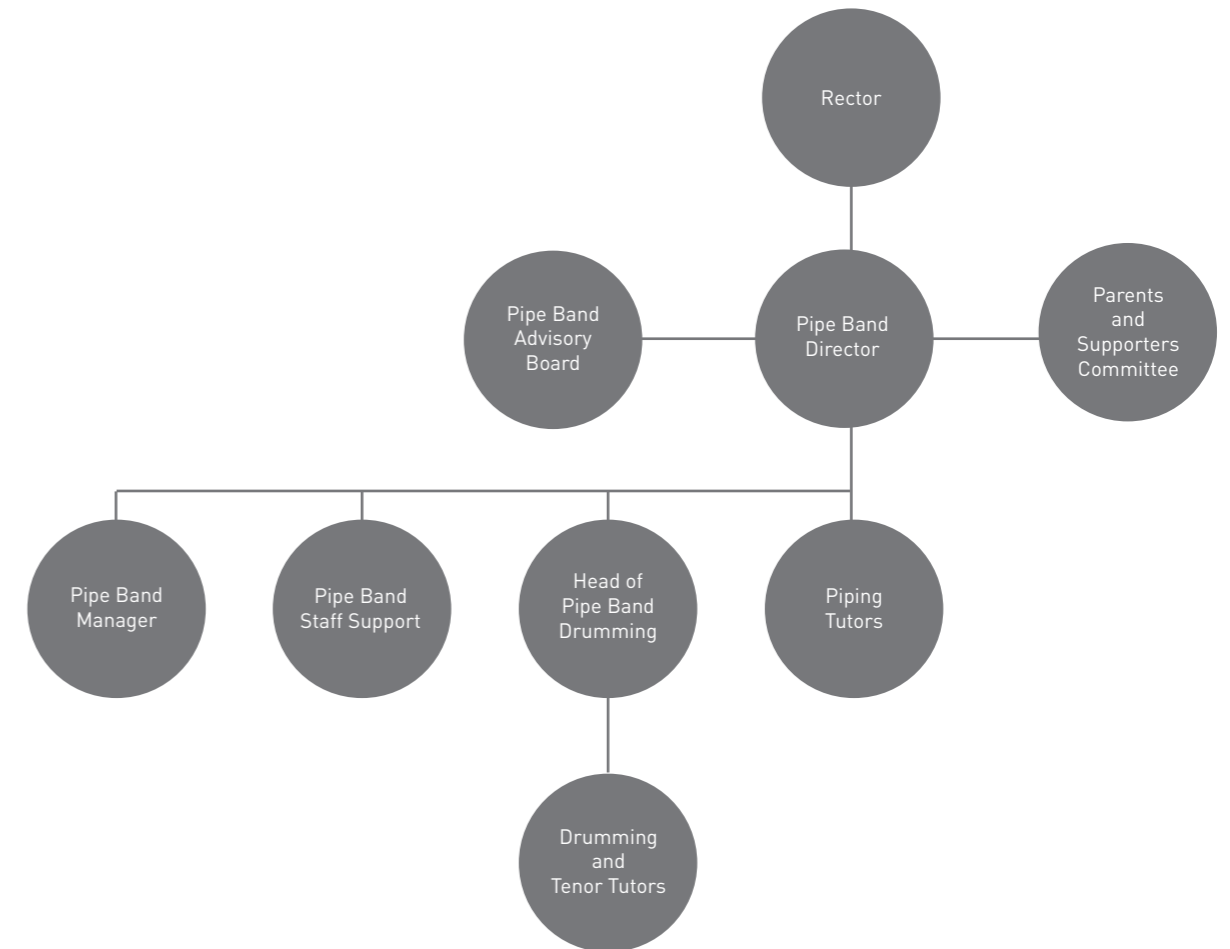
## AIMS

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|--|---|
| 1. That the St Andrew's College Pipe Band remains the premier college pipe band in New Zealand, maintaining a high international standard of musical excellence. | 2. That the organisation will provide the very best support to all members of the Band. Students will be encouraged to learn and develop to the very best of their ability, both individually and as a group. |
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## ST ANDREW'S COLLEGE PIPE BAND ADVISORY BOARD

The Pipe Band Advisory Board will meet once a term with the Pipe Band Management to discuss any issues that may relate to the Pipe Band. The Pipe Band Director (who reports directly to the Rector of the College) is directly responsible for the day to day runnings of the Band. The Band has goals and objectives, which it reports on to the Rector annually.

- Pipe Band Director;
- Pipe Band Manager;
- Pipe Band Head of Drumming;
- Parent Supporters' Chairperson;
- College Support Staff Representative;
- Two parents of the Pipe Band appointed by the other members of the Advisory Board.



## Current Staff

The Band is very fortunate to have an exceptionally high calibre of tutors across all the disciplines. The Pipe Band Director and Pipe Band Manager are responsible for overseeing tutors, setting the musical programme and managing the day-to-day responsibilities associated with the Band. Tutors are appointed annually by the Pipe Band Director.



**Richard Hawke**  
Pipe Band Director  
Pipe Tutor

Richard is an internationally-renowned solo piper who has achieved many titles, including the Highland Piping Society of London's Gold Medal won in Oban, Scotland, in 2007.

As well as an accomplished solo piper, Richard is also pipe major of the Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band. This Band are national champions (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015) and are ranked in the top 10 in the world.



**Graeme Bryce**  
Pipe Band Manager  
Pipe Tutor

Graeme comes from the Kingdom of Fife in Scotland, growing up close to St Andrews. He has been Pipe Band Manager for almost three years and he continues to help

develop the Pipe Band further using his years of experience having started to learn bagpipes at the age of six.

He has played in various world class pipe bands including Strathclyde Police Scotland and 78th Fraser Highlanders Canada. While playing in Strathclyde Police and the 78th Frasers, he helped both bands to achieve two top six places.

Currently, Graeme is a senior piper in the Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band.



**James Laughlin**  
Head of Pipe Band Drumming

James is from Northern Ireland and is an exceptional drummer, having won the World Juvenile Solo Drumming Championships on two occasions.

James is a three time World Drum Corps Champion, two time World Pipe Band Champion and semi-finalist at the Adult World Solo Championships. He also has played with a World Championship winning band, Simon Fraser University of Vancouver, Canada, whose accomplishments have been outstanding. James is leading drummer with the Canterbury Caledonian Pipe Band Society, who rank in the top 10 in the world.



**Jamie McEwan**  
Drum Tutor

Jamie is one of New Zealand's top drummers and has been very successful in bands and as a soloist. A well-respected and sought after tutor, Jamie has instructed at various workshops, camps and schools

throughout the country, working with both bands and individuals.

As a seasoned competitor in bands, Jamie has competed extensively both nationally and internationally. During his tenure as leading drummer of the Canterbury Caledonian Society Pipe Band, Jamie led the corps to the New Zealand National Champion Drum Corps title. He remains a senior member within the drum corps since handing the leadership over to James Laughlin.

## Staff Support



**Peter Dawkings**  
Pipe Band Staff Support

Peter has been part of the Pipe Band team since 2005 including four trips to Scotland, nine Nationals and other New Zealand competitions. When not supporting the Band Peter is Director of Outdoor Education

responsible for the Castle Hill Programmes.



**Rainer Klebert**  
Pipe Band Staff Support

Rainer is a current Secondary School staff member and is involved in planning with fundraising as a part of the Parent Supporters Group.

He has been to the World Pipe Band Championship 2015 in his support role and is a valued member of the team.



**Bid McLean**  
Pipe Band Staff Support

Bid is a current Preparatory School staff member as well as an Old Collegian, who played with the Band during her time at school. Since her return Bid is involved in recruiting students,

particularly those new to the Preparatory School, and assists with student supervision during contests, performances and other Pipe Band activities.



**Ellen Petersen**  
Pipe Band Staff Support

Ellen supports the Pipe Band in assisting with uniform requirements and supervision of students at special events and contests. She particularly enjoys travelling with the

Pipe Band and has been to two World Pipe Band Championships in her support role.

## Scholarships

The College offers annual piping and drumming scholarships for entry into Year 9.

The Old Collegians Association also provides two annual Pipe Band tuition scholarships.

The amount of the scholarships varies and is advertised annually. If you wish to enquire further about our Pipe Band tuition scholarships, please contact Registrar Lynn Smith, on 03 940 2016 or email enrol@stac.school.nz or visit our College website [www.stac.school.nz](http://www.stac.school.nz).

An Old Collegians Association tuition scholarship is awarded to an existing Band member each year.



# Learning the Pipes and Drums



## Private Tuition

Outside of normal pipe band practices and activities, piping and drumming tuition is available at the College.

Lesson times are available with tutors to assist in the individual development of students. These lessons are held in the Pipe Band Room, and are optional for students.

Arrangements, including payment of lesson fees, are made directly between the student and the teacher as is the case for any itinerant music teacher.

## Pipes

Within a pipe band, the pipes play the melody. Pipes include a chanter on which the melody is played and three drones (a bass drone and two tenor drones), which sit on the player's left shoulder.

## Drums

The side drum is often called a snare drum. The bass section includes a number of different tones. The bass drum itself is the largest drum, with the deepest tone. Tenor drums complement the bass with higher tones. Side drums provide a rhythmical accompaniment to the pipe melody, while the bass and tenor section provides a basic underlying rhythm with tone and visual enhancement.

A typical band will have from eight to 16 pipers, four to eight side drummers, a bass drummer and three to five tenor drummers.

## Learner Pipers and Drummers

Learner pipers are supplied with a practice chanter at the cost disbursed to the students' school account. The College bagpipes are available on loan as students progress onto the piper.

A bond of \$100 is paid upon receiving the bagpipes. When the bagpipes are returned, the bond will be refunded (once the bagpipes have been inspected by the Piping Tutor).

Learner drummers are required to purchase sticks and a drum pad and disbursed to the student's school account.

## Tuition for Learners

Learners will be assigned to an individual tutor by the Pipe Band Director and the Head of Pipe Band Drumming. The tutor will organise weekly lessons with your child. A fixed charge per term for learners will apply.

## Advancement from Learner to Full Band Member

At the discretion of the Pipe Band Director and the Head of Pipe Band Drumming, learners will be advanced to play in the Band.

With this transition, the Pipe Band uniform is issued to the student. The Pipe Band membership fee also applies.


At the sole discretion of the Pipe Band Director, students will then progress and advance through to the A Band, based upon ability.

## Music Books for Pipers and Drummers

Periodically, music books will be distributed and disbursed to the student's account. Music sheets will be given to students and should be placed in a clear file.

# Pipe Band Practices

## PIPE BAND PRACTICES (Senior College Study)

<b>Monday</b>	<b>5.30pm – 7.00pm</b>	<b>B and C Band</b>	
<b>Wednesday</b>	6.00pm – 8.00pm	A Band	
<b>Saturday</b>	9.00am – 11.00am		

(as required by Pipe Band Director)

Additional practices will be held as required by each section of the Band. These practices are often scheduled close to competitions and will be communicated to students directly.

As a courtesy, students are expected to contact their tutor if they are unable to attend any scheduled practice.

# Uniform

Uniforms are issued to students once they become a playing member of either the A, B or C Band.

The College supplies the kilt, sporran, waistcoat, Glengarry and hose flashes. **All items are to be named.** If an item of uniform has been lost, the student will be responsible to pay for a replacement.

Students are required to purchase their own white long-sleeved shirt. The Pipe Band tie and socks are available through the Pipe Band Manager and will be disbursed to the student's school account.

## Footwear

For B and C Band members, regulated school shoes are acceptable. For the A Band, brogues are encouraged to be purchased.

Dress is an important element for the Band, and we encourage members to take pride in their uniforms. We ask for parental support in care of Pipe Band uniforms, as the whole the outfit is valued at approximately \$850. Caring for them appropriately greatly extends the life of what is a large ongoing cost to the Band.

Please refer to the photo on the inside back cover of this handbook, showing how the uniform is to be worn.

# Competitions

The Pipe Band is competition-focussed and regularly competes at local, provincial and national contests.

Contest dates are set by the Royal New Zealand Pipe Band Association, with the majority falling in the spring and summer months.

A Captitation Levy is set by the RNZPBA for all playing members and this is charged to the school account.

Overseas contests are the highlight of members' time with the Band. However, they are a major logistical exercise and require a significant amount of fundraising. For this reason, and because they often require senior students to take time out of school during their preparation for NCEA, careful consideration is given to attendance of such events. College Board approval is required and consideration is given on a case-by-case basis. Consultation is undertaken with parents and caregivers when an event of this nature is being considered.

It takes a significant amount of work on behalf of the tutors to prepare the Bands for contests, and all Band members are expected to be available. The Pipe Band Director should be advised of a student's unavailability for contests and performances at the earliest possible opportunity.

Students wishing to play for another band must seek the approval of the Pipe Band Director.

## Solo Competitions

Students are encouraged to develop their musical abilities both within the Band and as individuals.

One of the best ways to do this is through entering solo piping or drumming contests. This helps students to progress through the national grading system from Novice, through D Grade, C Grade and B Grade, and finally into elite A Grade status, attained by only a few.

Tutors can assist in identifying the most appropriate contests for a season and in preparing for these contests, including the choice of music. Periodically, the Pipe Band Manager will communicate competition details to Band members and parents.

# Pipe Band Officers

Leadership positions within the Band are appointed annually in association with the College's senior leadership programme.

## Officer roles available include:

- Pipe and Drum Corporal(s)
- Pipe and Drum Sergeant(s)
- Pipe Major

## Pipe Major: Responsibilities

- Lead the band in areas of music, presentation and discipline;
- Motivate all members to achieve Pipe Band goals in a positive manner;
- Liaise and communicate with the Pipe Band Director and College staff on any matters of concern within the group;
- Communicate regularly and effectively with all other Pipe Band officers – e.g. hold regular officers' meetings and set your own goals that are compatible with the Pipe Band Director's goals;
- Be a positive role model to all members in terms of musicality, conduct, presentation and commitment;
- Arrive early to Band functions and, when possible, initiate activity and assist the Pipe Band Director on piping matters including tuning;
- Communicate and mix with the whole Band community including B, C and learners and other Pipe Band tutors and assist where possible.

## Pipe Sergeant: Responsibilities

- Lead the Band in the absence of the Pipe Major;
- Support the Pipe Major in motivating members to achieve Pipe Band goals;
- Communicate regularly and effectively with the Pipe Major;
- Assist the Pipe Major in building a positive environment;
- Be a positive role model to all members in terms of musicality, conduct, presentation and commitment;
- Get to know each piper as a friend so that everyone feels comfortable within the group;
- Assist the Pipe Major on piping matters including drone tuning.

## Pipe Corporal: Responsibilities

- Lead the Pipe Band in areas of marching, drill, presentation and discipline;
- Assist the Pipe Major in motivating all members to achieve Pipe Band goals in a positive manner;
- Liaise and communicate with the Pipe Band Director and College staff on any matters of concern within the group;
- Assist College staff whenever possible in terms of logistics and equipment requirements;
- Be a positive role model to all members in terms of conduct, presentation and commitment;
- Get to know each member of the Band as a friend so that everyone feels comfortable within the group;
- Communicate and mix with the whole Band community, including B Band, learners and other Pipe Band tutors, and assist where possible.

## Drum Sergeant: Responsibilities

- Lead the drum corp in areas of drumming performance;
- Motivate all drum corp members to achieve Pipe Band goals in a positive manner;
- Communicate regularly and effectively with the Pipe Band Director, Pipe Major and Drum Major;
- Be a positive role model to all members in terms of musicality, conduct, presentation and commitment;
- Get to know each member of the drum corp as a friend so that everyone feels comfortable within the group.

## Drum Corporal: Responsibilities

- Liaise and communicate with the Pipe Band Director and College staff on any matters of concern within the group;
- Assist all other officers in building a positive enjoyable environment where everyone wants to do well;
- Be a positive role model to all members in terms of musicality, conduct, presentation and commitment.

# General Information

## Blazer and Colour Awards

### BLAZER AWARD (Awarded in Term 1)

#### A nominee must have:

1. Been a member of the A Band with at least **two** years' Band experience.
2. Attended provincial and national contests for at least **one** year in the A Band.
3. Satisfied the Pipe Band Director's expectations with regard to attendance and attitude at practice and in competition.

### COLOUR AWARD (Awarded in Term 3)

#### A nominee must have:

1. Satisfied the criteria for a Blazer Award and continues to do so after being awarded the Blazer Award.
2. Achieved a standard of excellence as a bandsman both in music and in drill.
3. Achieved success in major solo competitions or contest music in B grade drumming or B grade piping or higher.
4. Exhibited exemplary bandsmanship in competition and a responsible attitude around the College and by such be considered a positive role model for younger students.

## Reports

Students develop an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) with their personal tutor and receive regular feedback on their progress at each lesson.

Written reports will be forwarded to parents and caregivers twice yearly with school reports (for Years 9–10 June and December, for Years 11–13 June and October).

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, please contact their tutor in the first instance.

## Communication

A newsletter outlining upcoming events, practice times etc. is emailed out each term for parents/caregivers to diary.

The Parent and Supporters Committee holds monthly meetings and this is a very good way for parents and caregivers to stay in touch with developments.

## Parent and Caregiver Involvement

Parent and caregiver involvement is actively encouraged. Most parents and caregivers find it very rewarding being part of the Pipe Band 'family'. The Parent and Supporters Committee is a way to be more involved in band activities.

While parental support is valued, we ask respectfully that at competitions, including tuning and warm-up, a distance is maintained from the Band. Being close during warm-up can be a major distraction, particularly to younger players. During these times tutors will take full responsibility for the students.

## Parent and Supporters Committee

The Parent and Supporters Committee is the fundraising and socialising arm of the Band. Over the years the Committee has played a crucial role in the success of the Band, by raising funds to minimise travel costs for families when their children travel to national and international competitions.

Fundraising activities are an enjoyable way to work together with other members of the Pipe Band community.

## Ceilidh Dance and Scottish Celebration

This is an annual event organised by the Parent and Supporters Committee. Details will be communicated to parents prior to the event.

## Student Management Policies and Procedures

Full school policies and procedures relating to student activities and expectations of behaviour can be found in the Preparatory School, Middle School and Senior College handbooks, and apply to all Band activities.

## Pipe Band Leavers' Dinner

The Pipe Band leavers' dinner is to celebrate members who have completed their time with the band. This is normally held at the national contest.

# Student Behaviour and Welfare

## St Andrew's College School Trip Conduct Policy

### Ear Plugs

All students of the band should be aware of the noise levels generated by playing bagpipes and drums for a prolonged period indoors and the potential of causing hearing loss.

Tutors will regularly remind students of the hazard and the importance of wearing ear plugs. Approved musicians earplugs are available through the Band at a cost of approximately \$30.00.



A booklet is produced that sets out relevant information for each Pipe Band trip.

Participating in competitions will be a memorable experience. The eyes of the College will be on every member of the party. The management team trusts each Pipe Band member and expects from you the highest of standards at all times. We ask that each of you does your best at all times.

### Aim

To maintain an environment in which each student exercises self-discipline and sets high standards for themselves, promotes the good name of the school and protects the rights of everyone in the community.

1. The Rector has overall responsibility for discipline. When students are involved in trips this responsibility is delegated to staff-in-charge.
2. Students are expected to maintain good standards of dress and grooming at all times. They are required to behave courteously to staff, other students and hosts and to abide by the standards set by the school.
3. Inappropriate behaviour will be handled by the management team. Such behaviour includes:
  - loud, rough or discourteous behaviour;
  - damage to property;
  - lateness for commitments;
  - incorrect wearing of uniform or untidy appearance;
  - incorrect use and/or time of use of cell phones.The above behaviour will have an outcome at the discretion of the Pipe Band management.
4. For totally unacceptable behaviour, parents will be informed and other appropriate action will be taken by the management team or Rector on return. Such behaviour includes:
  - continual or repeated disregard of school standards;
  - any behaviour that makes it difficult for others to enjoy or benefit from the trip;
  - absence from any tour engagement without good reason;
  - involvement in smoking, drug taking, party pill popping or consumption of alcohol while on a school trip;

- any behaviour which the staff-in-charge, at their discretion, considers to be inappropriate or likely to affect the proper functioning, discipline or image of the school, or adversely affect other students or hosts.

Unacceptable behaviour is likely to result in a student being sent home before the completion of the trip, at the parents' expense.

5. The Rector may, without any minimum period of notice, suspend or expel any student for serious misbehaviour or serious breaches of discipline.

### Attendance, Leave and Accommodation

No student may absent him/herself from the school party or its arranged activities, except for special reasons, which have been approved by the Pipe Band support staff.

### Bullying

All students have the right to be free from bullying. Any form of bullying is contrary to St Andrew's College philosophy and will not be tolerated. (Please refer to Policies and Procedures in the Preparatory School, Middle School and Senior College handbooks.)

### Transport

Essential transport will be arranged by staff. Students should not accept lifts without the approval of staff or hosts. Hitchhiking is forbidden.

### Health

It is the responsibility of parents to inform the school in writing of any health problems likely to affect a student while on school trips. (A health form will be sent out for completion prior to each trip.)

Students taking prescribed medication should ensure that they have an ample supply for the duration of the trip. For minor needs, a simple First Aid kit will be carried by the trained staff.

Parents are asked to authorise the management team to give permission for an emergency operation if, after considerable effort, the parents cannot be contacted.

**Property**

All personal property must be clearly marked with the owner's name.

It is the student's personal responsibility to take all reasonable care to safeguard money and personal possessions. Money should not be left in insecure places.

The school does not carry insurance for loss of student property on school trips.

**Social Activities**

When students are involved in informal social activities while competing, the same high standards of behaviour are expected as when staff are present. The school policy regarding alcohol must be adhered to.

**Uniform and Appearance**

Students are required to wear the appropriate uniform/dress as directed by the management team. Uniforms must be worn correctly and in accordance with College standards at all times. All uniforms should be drycleaned and pressed.

The appearance of students must be in keeping with College expectations whether in uniform or not.

**Punctuality**

Students are expected to be punctual to all commitments such as briefings, practices and departure times.

Students need to be aware that lateness by one or more students will have a detrimental effect on the whole tour party.

**Daily Briefing**

On trips, students will be advised of the time and venue for the daily briefing. All students are expected to attend these briefings.

At these briefings, instructions on activities, times, uniform/dress, expected behaviour and conduct relevant to the day will be given. Daily briefings will be organised by the management team and will include input as appropriate from the student leaders.

**Cell Phones**

Cell phones are permitted and are recommended to be taken for when students are on 'free time.' Each student is to take responsibility for organising this service if required.

Cell phones are not permitted to be used at times indicated by team management. This will include all practice and contesting times and on any occasion when the Band is being hosted together, such as at a dinner. Cell phones will be confiscated if used inappropriately.

**Spending Money/Security/Valuables**

Students should have access to their own spending money. Under no circumstances should money be lent by students to other students.

**Alcohol Policy**

For the duration of trips no student is to consume, be affected by, or be in possession of alcohol at any time.

**Smoking Policy**

For the duration of trips no student is to smoke or be in possession of any sort of tobacco or cigarettes.

This applies to all activities, even those where parents are present. Tobacco products cannot be purchased on others' behalf.

**Drugs Policy**

For the duration of trips no student can use, be affected by, be in possession of, or be dealing with any sort of drugs or party pills.

St Andrew's College has a zero tolerance policy on drug use. Drugs are illegal and the College retains a non-negotiable position on any illegal substances.



Use this photo as a guide to correct presentation of the St Andrew's College Pipe Band uniform.





St Andrew's College

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