

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher

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16th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Autumn Term Letter – December 2025

I write to you as we approach the end of the Jubilee Year of the Church in which we have been celebrating the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We are also now well into our Advent journey, preparing for Christmas celebrations after a long but successful Autumn term. The term has had many special highlights and I hope to cover some of these in this letter as well as providing some useful information on the end of term arrangements.

First of all, I want to congratulate our new Year 7 pupils who have had an exceptional start to life at St Gregory's. Year 7 have settled in remarkably well to secondary school life in what is a huge challenge. Each Year 7 has made our school a richer place to be with their unique personalities and many talents. It was a pleasure to welcome our Year 7 parents, carers and grandparents to our new families' mass back in October.

At the other end of the school journey, we recently welcomed back our Year 11 leavers (the class of 2025) for an evening of celebration and catching up and to collect their many individual awards and GCSE certificates. We miss our class of 2025 but we know they have gone on to do some amazing things in their new chapters.

I am very pleased to report that the DfE have confirmed that Year 11 were one of the highest performing year groups in both Warrington and Liverpool Archdiocese. We are delighted to maintain these high standards for all ability ranges and the current Year 11 are on track to have a positive year too, having just successfully completed their mock examinations. Year 11 will certainly deserve a good break over Christmas.

The top achievement for the school this term is undoubtedly being judged as 'Outstanding' in all areas in our Section 48 inspection. I am very proud of the report, especially this part of it; *"St Gregory's is an outstanding example of how a school community can embrace the distinctive Catholic identity, charisms and mission of a Catholic school"*. It was your children that enable us to demonstrate all that was outstanding about the school.

Development of School Facilities: I am working hard in the background with a number of stakeholders to continue to develop the facilities that are available to our pupils. Most notably, my focus is on a 3G all-weather pitch facility, I am also looking to extend/increase classroom spaces and develop specialist teaching provisions in school. I will keep you updated about these projects as and when we reach new milestones.

Pupil Leadership and Reflection Garden: I want to thank the pupils who were pivotal in the design of our new 'Reflection Garden', which will open in the spring term. The Reflection Garden is a space for the pupils to use and a group of Pupil Leaders came together to decide the layout, furniture and special features that will be in the garden including this white butterfly which holds special symbolism for our pupils as a source of remembrance.

I want to also thank your children for the incredible amount of volunteering they do for the school, local community and parish. Whenever we need pupils to support events, they offer their time in abundance. The pupils have also raised thousands of pounds this term alone to support important Charities such as Young Minds, The Warrington Wolves Foundation, Wear it Pink Campaigns and Homeless charities. Your children really make a difference.



Attendance: Pupil attendance remains a strength of the school and this has so many benefits for young people, from better standards academically, to socialisation skills and developing resilience. We are however noticing that attendance seems to be lowest on Mondays and Tuesdays and we are going to scrutinise this further to ensure that all pupils attend school as much as they can and do not fall behind their peers.

Trips: Our pupils have been enjoying plenty of cultural capital again this term with many trips taking place; most notably, we had representation at the COP 30 environmental events in which our pupils successfully debated important topics about the environment and climate change. There have been trips to the theatre to see Young Frankenstein and Matilda. We have groups taking place in the All Aboard Youth initiative. There have been numerous college visits and visits to primary schools to work with younger pupils. Pupils have been out to Liverpool for urban studies, experienced rock climbing, the art galleries on Albert Dock, Lancashire Farming, ten pin bowling and bonded on the Year 7 retreats to Lowe House – it really has been nonstop! To cap off the extracurricular highlights of the term, during the week of 24th - 28th November, St Gregory's was delighted to present our drama production of 'Matilda'.

Eucharistic Minister Training: I am very proud that we have had a number of pupils train to be Eucharistic Ministers and to support primary aged children to be involved in the Faith in Action award. These volunteers really are outstanding young people who personify the ethos of our school perfectly.

School drop off and pick up developments: Following on from my letter on Friday 5th December, I just want to remind all parents and carers about the reopening of the road outside the school. I want to make a plea to all parents to continue to maintain the arrangements you have had in place during this term as the new road system does not have any waiting area for cars to park up and wait. Going forwards we only have a lay by for speedy pick up and a turning circle.

I am sure you will agree that safety is the highest priority for our pupils and the fewer cars we have outside the school entrance and exit areas, the safer the pupils will be.

End of term arrangements: School will close for the Christmas holidays to all pupils on Friday 19th December at 12.30pm. We have informed the bus companies of the earlier finish and the canteen will ensure a lunch 'grab bag' for any child that is entitled to a free school meal before leaving school.

New Term: School will reopen to all pupils at the normal time of **8.10am on Monday 5th January 2026**. We understand that over the festive period, children will be in party mode and may change haircuts and add piercings etc; however, we do expect all pupils to return to school with the usual correct uniform standards and without any of the items that are not permitted in our policies.

A big 'thank you' to all parents, carers and my staff team: As always, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of my entire staff team over this busy term and whole year. Every member of staff continues to do so much above and beyond for our pupils, making many personal sacrifices to ensure that your children and the school community is successful. I have a great team of staff.

I want to thank you as our parents and carers for all you do in supporting the school and working positively with us. Recently we had a very strong turnout for our Year 11 parent engage evening and I hope to see parents and carers at the future engage evenings in the spring and summer. We could not be a successful school community without you and I am grateful for all that you do.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very holy Christmas and positive remaining journey through advent that brings you hope for 2026. I very much look forward to the whole St Gregory's community being able to rest in anticipation of a great start to the new year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr McGlinchey
Headteacher