

# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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**Headteacher**  
**Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

## End of Spring Term Letter 2024

I write to you as we complete a busy but very positive spring term for our school community. The second half of the spring term has only been 24 days but has included the most important part of the liturgical year, Easter.

The build up to Easter has of course been our Lenten journey and there have been many events in school leading up to the end of Lent, including the 'Big Lent Walk', which involved our whole school community. I am pleased to say that so far we have surpassed the £1000 mark in fundraising, which will go to CAFOD's sustainable living campaigns and to support the children of Gaza and the Holy Land who have been displaced by war and the loss of their homes.

The spring term has been another great showcase of the God given talents that your children possess and they have displayed our St Gregory's charism of 'shine' exceptionally well. It has been so humbling to hear the stories of individuals and groups of our pupils who do so much for different charities and it was a pleasure to be able to celebrate these children in our 'Volunteers Mass' which was led by Father Raymond.

The pupils have been pivotal this term in **leading** the school in many ways. We have involved pupil leadership panels in the recruitment of two of our most recent key staffing appointments, our **mental health and well-being support staff**. We are delighted that the pupils were able to ask important questions to the applicants and then recommend to the formal interview panel who they felt would be best to work with them and their peers for matters of mental and physical health support.

The pupils have also come up with the wonderful idea of hosting a **Culture Day** in school to celebrate the diverse community we have here in St Gregory's. This will take place in early July and will be organised by the pupils themselves.

St Gregory's has once again been well represented by our sports teams who have done very well, competing strongly in rugby, football, athletics and new age curling. We are very proud of the achievements of some of our pupils who are taking big steps in their chosen specialist sports by joining professional rugby teams and winning national dance and karting competitions. Phenomenal talent.

The term then ends with the highly entertaining 'Open Mic' night with acts rocking out Guns n' Roses classics, Oasis anthems and outstanding piano and vocal solo performances, to name but a few.

## Parent Voice

I want to thank you for the staggering response to our parent survey. I can confirm that we received **520** responses in total, a huge rise on the already impressive 377 responses the year before. Your feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I can assure you **it is a huge boost to the hard working staff of the school**

*One family... inspired to learn.'*

Email: [schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com](mailto:schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com)  
Website: [www.stgregoryshigh.com](http://www.stgregoryshigh.com)

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**to have their efforts acknowledged by you.** It is a pleasure to see how many of you attend Parent Engage Evenings too, again, always above 90%. I can assure you, this is not the norm at every school.

**Over 95%** of your responses were in the 'strongly agree' or 'agree' categories and that is very pleasing to hear. We want to ensure **all** parents and carers feel this way and where we see 'disagree' or 'don't know', this will be become the focus of different departments in the school to work constructively with you.

### **School Vision and Mission**

Over the next few months, it is the intention of the school to revisit our school vision and mission statement, an activity that will be led by the governing board but will ultimately involve the whole community that will include you as our valued parents and carers. I will keep you updated about the process and the events in what will be a great opportunity for the whole school family to come together.

### **School drop off and pick up**

The governing board and I will be writing to you soon about planned works to the Peace Centre, which are likely to have a significant impact on parking spaces, and waiting areas for children who are picked up by car. I am working closely with the local authority, Andy Carter MP for Warrington South and the Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council to ensure that any plans in place take the infrastructure around the school into consideration and that funding is provided for a solution that enables parents and carers to safely pick up and drop off their children at school. Watch this space for a letter from the governing board that will ask you to share your views with the planning department at Warrington Borough Council.

I can report that the school is exploring additional classroom space with new classrooms and we are at the planning stage at present. We are also having works done to improve the pathways around the school site so that they are wider and provide more space for the pupils. I have put aside a budget to once again reinvest heavily in curriculum resources so that the classroom experience for children is exceptional.

Subject leaders are now in the process of re-evaluating the resources that will enhance the learning experience of children further and they will be providing me with their wish lists in the summer term.

The school classrooms and hallways will also undertake a facelift during the Easter break with new displays, furniture and paint. This is a process that is a rolling programme, year on year.

As we move into the summer term, Year 11 will be preparing for their GCSE examinations and securing their college and apprenticeship places. Before that, we will be wishing them well with a special Year 11 Mass and a Leavers Assembly and when the examinations are complete, we will be off to celebrate with them at the school prom. I will really miss Year 11 when they leave, they have been such wonderful people to know and work alongside.


As always, I want to acknowledge the outstanding work of my entire staff team over this busy term, they continue to do so much above and beyond for our pupils, and many of them will be in school during the holidays to support Year 11 ahead of their examinations.

School closes today for the end of term at the normal time and therefore the buses will run as normal.

St Gregory's will reopen at the normal time of 8.15am on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024 and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back on that day for the start of the summer term.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very holy, restful and happy Easter period, remembering the true meaning of Easter and why we celebrate it.

Yours sincerely,



Ed McGlinchey  
**Headteacher**