

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

15th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Summer Term Letter 2024

I write to you as we complete another hugely successful academic year at St Gregory's Catholic High School. In this letter I want to cover the highlights of the term and inform you of important information about the end of this year, the start of the new year in September and other useful key information.

I am proud that St Gregory's remains the highest attended school in Warrington, and indeed one of the best in the North West. We maintain excellent behaviour standards and pupils of **all** ability ranges continue to perform well academically. We have recruited some outstanding new teachers to replace those who have retired or relocated and best of all, our pupils continue to shine brightly every day.

Our sports teams have been competing strongly this term in all areas from Rugby to Rowing, Motor Racing to New Age Curling and we have won prestigious academic competitions, most recently the MOND trophy at Cronton College. We have enjoyed trips to Wales, London and Berlin this term amongst many more.

These positive stories at St Gregory's would not be possible without you, our partners and parents' body.

This term we said a fond farewell to Year 11 who also celebrated their prom at Statham Lodge in what was a wonderful occasion. Year 11 are now well prepared for their next stage of life at college or via apprenticeships and we look forward to celebrating their GCSE examination results in August. We are proud of the fine young people Year 11 have become.

Ofsted Inspection - on Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th July 2024, St Gregory's was inspected by Ofsted. I am not permitted to disclose the outcome of the inspection until the final report is publically available, however I can inform you that the judgement is both positive and one that I agreed with.

The lead inspector informed me that the report will not be available to the school or to the wider community until September as there are not enough 'working days' left in the current academic year to have it quality assured. When the report is available, I will ensure it is immediately shared with all parents and carers.

I want to offer a sincere thank you to you all for supporting the school during the inspection and for being outstanding partners to the school in working together to create and maintain a strong environment in which your children can thrive. Your support is welcomed by me and my staff and your kind words about the staff is motivating. The inspectors were in full agreement that the best part of St Gregory's is our young people, who demonstrated all that is good about our school community. The pupils were brilliant.

Ambition for All Awards Evening - on the 11th July, we had the pleasure of presenting many of our pupils with our 'Ambition for All' awards for the incredible achievements that have taken place across the year. Children from every year group of all ability ranges were awarded for an array of special talents and demonstrations of going the extra mile. It was great to see so many parents in attendance for the awards.

Supporting Children's Emotional & Mental Health - I am delighted to confirm that we have **doubled** our mental health support team in school and we welcome Ms Garcia and Mrs O'Kane as our new full-time mental health support staff. These colleagues are deeply passionate about supporting children and will be able to work in our newly refurbished pupil support bases as we go from strength to strength.

Pupil and Parent Voice supporting School Improvements - whilst the school will close for the summer to our pupils, extensive work will continue behind the scenes to plan for additional classroom spaces, new enhanced pupil toilet facilities and an extended IONA provision. We are fully refurbishing our IT classrooms, updating science labs and opening a 'peace garden' for reflection. I very am proud to say that a number of these improvements are as **a direct result of pupil and parent voice**. I thank you for sharing your views and suggestions with me.

World Culture Day - on Friday 5th July, St Gregory's had its very first 'World Culture Day' which is another example of outstanding 'pupil voice'. Culture Day was an idea from two Year 9 girls, Teodora and Tia, who put the proposal forward at a headteacher / pupil breakfast meeting. This day was a perfect celebration of inclusiveness as 'one family' and encapsulated many of our school charisms.

Healing Little Hearts - I would like to offer a huge thank you to our parents, carers and pupils for a phenomenal response to our Healing Little Hearts charity fundraising days in June and July. Through your kindness and generosity, we have raised £1500 for surgeons to perform heart surgeries on babies in third world countries. A heart surgeon from Alder Hey will thank the pupils and collect the cheque on Friday.

School drop off and pick up developments - in my end of spring term letter, I noted that we were in discussions with Warrington Borough Council about their plans to redevelop the Peace Centre into a specialist SEND centre for Warrington. These plans continue to be in progress and the authority have been working in partnership with St Gregory's to identify positive solutions for drop off and collection of pupils who travel by car to school. I will keep you updated as and when any further details are available.

End of term arrangements- with barely a week now left of the term, the school will close for the summer to all pupils on Friday 19th July at 12.25pm. 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, that will be provided during 'brunch'.

New Academic Year 2024/25 - when school re-opens to all pupils on Wednesday 4th September, the new school day timings will commence to ensure we have a 32.5-hour school week. The new timings provide much needed extra time during form time and for 'celebration of the word', whilst also enabling afternoon prayer time without impacting on curriculum time and avoiding extending the school day beyond 3pm.

Pupils will be late for school if they are not inside the school gates at 8.30am as of Thursday 5th September.

On the first day of the new term, on Wednesday the 4th September, our Year 7 pupils will arrive at school between 8.10am and 8.25am ready for a prompt 8.30am start. Years 8 to 11 will arrive at school no earlier than 11am and gather in the main yards where they will be collected by their form tutors for an 11.30am start.

8.10am	LRC open
8.30am	All pupils on site
8.35am – 9am	Celebration of the Word / Form time
9am – 10am	Period 1
10am – 11am	Period 2
11am – 11.20am	Break
11.20am – 12.20pm	Period 3
12.20pm – 1.55pm	Period 4 or Lunch
12.20pm – 12.55pm	1st Lunch
1.20pm – 1.55pm	2nd Lunch
1.55pm – 2.55pm	Period 5
2.55pm – 3pm	Prayer and Liturgy
3pm	Pupils dismissed
3pm - 4pm	LRC Open (Closed Friday 3.30 p.m.) Extracurricular Activities

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 personal sacrifices to ensure that our school community is successful.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very restful and 'hopefully' sun filled summer break. I very much look forward to the St Gregory's family being able to recharge our batteries ready for another exciting and positive year when we return in September.

Yours sincerely,



Ed McGlinchey

Headteacher