

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher

Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

16th July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Summer Term Letter – July 2025

I write to you as we complete the 2024-25 academic year at St Gregory's Catholic High School. In this letter I will cover the highlights of the summer term and inform you of important information about the end of this academic year, the start of the new academic year in September and other useful information.

The summer term is the time when we reflect on and recognise the hard work of the school community over the full year and there have been hundreds of pupils particularly recognised for their outstanding contributions to school and wider life.

During this term we have bid fond farewells and warm welcomes to many. We enjoyed a special prom night for our Year 11 who have now finished their five year chapter at school and they certainly celebrated in style. We look forward to welcoming Year 11 back in August to collect their GCSE exam results before they embark on a new chapter at College and Apprenticeships.

We then welcomed hundreds of Year 5's from primary schools across Warrington to engage in our 'Discovery Days', before having a week of transition events for Year 6's who will join us in September. We were very fortunate to have so many volunteers in school to support the younger pupils but also to act as fantastic role models.

We have won many competitions over the summer term through our sports teams, cross school sports and academic events. To highlight some special achievements, I would like to mention Charlotte in Y9 who won the archdiocese public speaking competition, our Faith in Action group who won an array of Bronze, Silver and Gold awards and Emily in Y10 who won a National Drama Award for her performance in our school production of '39 steps'. We are blessed to work with such talent.

In this **Year of Jubilee** for the Catholic Church with its theme of '**Pilgrims of Hope**', we have been celebrating the gifts and talents that our children put to use in the wider community; such as supporting their local parishes, organising fundraising campaigns, being young carers and supporting local sports teams and community clubs by showing dedication. I would like to thank all parents and carers who responded to my request to share your stories of what your children do outside of school; all of these pupils received a Headteacher Award, which will form part of their Ambition for All folder. During our end of year whole school mass we were able to congratulate the whole school community for achievements this year.

Ambition for All Awards Evening - on the 10th 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 and carers in attendance for the awards and celebrating together as a community afterwards.

I am happy that I can continue to report to you 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 with the **lowest suspension rates in Warrington** and pupils of **all** ability ranges continue to perform well academically. We value the input that you as parents and carers have in ensuring these high standards, as it is only in positive partnership that we will achieve this kind of success.

World Culture Day - on Friday 4th July, St Gregory's had its second 'World Culture Day' which is another example of outstanding 'pupil voice'. As always, this day was a great opportunity for our diverse community to come together and celebrate each other's cultures and heritage and the school was such a wonderful place to be during this event. It also helped us raise essential funds for the Healing Little Hearts Charity which provides crucial medical support for children in parts of the world where they do not have access to the healthcare that we have here.

This term also brought immense sorrow to our school community as we learnt of the loss of one of our children. The past weeks have been incredibly painful as our community comes to terms with this loss but I have been incredibly proud of how the school have supported each other. There are plans to ensure a permanent tribute to a child we will never forget in school.

Supporting children over the summer when school is closed – In addition to this end of term letter, you will also be sent information this week about supporting your child over the summer should this be required, including of whom to contact. We include information about opportunities with the Warrington Youth Zone which is a fantastic provision that will open all summer should your child wish to access it.

Building works on the school site. I am pleased to report that our new Geography classrooms will be ready to be moved into in September, providing the school with an additional 4 classrooms and increasing our classroom capacity. This will also lead to a number of classroom changes around school in which the site team will be working hard on over the summer holidays.

Drop off / pick up by car outside school - As you will be aware, there is a significant building programme taking place on the site of the former Peace Centre. This building work means that there will be a loss of the usual parking and drop off areas outside school. The works are set to take place for at least 12 months and this means significant disruption and a complete change to how parents and carers currently drop off and pick up their children. By Christmas there should be a new turning circle and lay by in place but spaces in the lay by will be extremely limited.

Therefore, the school strongly advises that parents consider alternative methods to drop off and pick up children if you must travel to school by car. Ideally pupils may try the bus, cycle or walk but if this is not possible, one suggestion would be to drop your child off safely at a distance from the school site that requires no more than a reasonable and safe walking distance for the remainder of their journey. It is important that any alternative drop off arrangements that you make are within highway restrictions / regulations and provide safety for your child. Children should not be dropped off on busy roads without crossings.

Access to Peace Drive will be restricted to staff members and some pupils with additional needs who have an agreement with the school. There will be no access to Peace Drive for any other cars or transport.

The school are working closely with the local authority and the contractors to ensure that there is good communication with our parents and carers and that the works are completed as soon as feasibly possible.

New staff - We only have one staff retirement this year, Mrs Knowles from our Food & Technology department, but we will be welcoming a number of new staff as we expand the staffing body in some subject areas. Our new colleagues are very much looking forward to working with your children, having already been in school to get to know them and the school community.

End of term arrangements- with barely a couple of days now left of the term, the school will close for the summer to all pupils on Friday 18th July 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, that will be provided during 'brunch'.

New academic year 2025/26 - School re-opens to all pupils on Wednesday 3rd September, the school day timings are included in this letter but please note that the building works taking place at the Peace Centre may cause traffic disruption and therefore it is important to factor this in to journey times so that pupils are not late for school and the start of form time.

Pupils will be late for school if they are not **inside** the school gates at 8.30am as of Thursday 4th September.

On the first day of the new term, Wednesday the 3rd September, our new 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 yard where they will be collected by their form tutors for an 11.20am start. School gates will not be open until 11am for Years 8 to 11 to ensure safety for Year 7.

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 safe 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