

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Headteacher
Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our ref; EM/SH

21st December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

Completion of Autumn Term 2022

I write to you as we arrive at the end of a successful and very busy term. In this letter, I will update you on the achievements and experiences of our outstanding young people, information about school life, including term date reminders and I will inform you on how you can support St Gregory's through your feedback as parents and carers to help shape the future development of the school.

Firstly, I would like to say how humbled and proud I am of my staff team and our pupils who have, once again done everything that has been asked of them and much more. My staff and the pupils have continued to go the extra mile, despite the various flu bugs that have rampaged through the school community and whilst not feeling 100% at times. The staff and pupils can be rightfully proud of their efforts and reflect positively on their work this term, which has resulted in the school continuing to go from strength to strength.

A key reason for success at school is very strong **attendance**. I encourage you to ensure that your child can achieve **at least 97% attendance** over the school year, which equates to **missing no more than 6 days of school**.

Parent / Carer Voice Surveys in 2023

I have always promoted our parent / school partnership as a major strength of our school. As parents and carers, you are supportive, through both positive and turbulent periods, in all aspects of school life and in the implementation of our policies and procedures. You do your best to ensure that your children arrive at school ready to learn. Like I, you know that the 11-16 year olds journey is not always smooth, as children develop from the primary age stage into young adults who are ready to move on to college or apprenticeships.

St Gregory's is established as a successful school both academically and pastorally but I am always conscious that we can develop further by continuously evaluating how we assist children on their high school journey.

In order to plan development well, I will be seeking your feedback and views on the school and incorporating that feedback into our planning. **In the new year, I will be sending out surveys to all parents and carers to gain your views** and I am keen that we get the views of **everyone** in order to get a well-rounded picture. Your participation in feedback activities and your effort to complete the new year surveys is very much encouraged.

Achievements over the autumn term

The achievements of the pupils this term have been substantial in both an academic sense and through service to the community. It was a pleasure to welcome back the class of 2022 in November to present them with their certificates and special awards in what was a joyous, celebratory occasion.

An action packed seven-week half term has witnessed the poignancy of remembrance services, the inclusivity of interfaith week and black history month, the positive messages that emanate from anti-bullying week and the bonding of relationships through friendship Friday and the retreats with animate.

The World Cup brought the whole school together to enjoy the England v Iran game in an important cultural capital event. There have been numerous external visits for pupils to experience ranging from the Tate Museum to Chester University. Similarly, pupils have had the benefit of visits from job market representatives to talk about careers and work experiences. A number of pupils from Year 8 are participating in the Warrington wide 'Oarsome' project, which develops skills in water-based activities and teamwork.

The term has seen hundreds of pupils collect thousands of rewards points through our '**Ambition for All**' programme in which we have witnessed the gifts and talents of our pupils across many subjects and facets of wider life. The end of the term has enabled pupils who qualify with outstanding attendance and behaviour to enjoy an ice-skating rewards trip (KS3) and an early finish for Christmas shopping (KS4).

Year 7 have settled in very well and have immersed themselves fully in high school life. They have made such a great impact through their participation in sports activities, extracurricular clubs and proactive charity work.

Year 9 will make key choices in the New Year through the options process. In Year 9, we are seeing a year group who have matured well over the term as they make the transition to KS4. Year 10 have made a very encouraging start to their GCSE courses and are reaping the benefits of the well-informed choices they made last year.

Year 11 have had a significant term in which they have completed their mock GCSE examinations. I was very impressed with their positive attitude and strong attendance during this period. Year 11 will now experience a 'mock results day' in January ahead of their final push towards the real exams in the summer of 2023.

In the classroom, the pupils have benefitted from **enhanced schemes of learning and updated content** to bring learning to life and to promote lifelong learning. I have welcomed many visitors to review our provision and the feedback is always very positive as we continue to keep developing to be the best possible school we can be. Our new progress reporting system is underway and removes any limits on your child's academic potential.

St Gregory's has formed new alliances over the term with similar high performing schools from across Liverpool, Manchester and the North West in general and this enables our school to both share our good practice but also to learn from other institutions. Last week I had the pleasure of meeting with our primary school headteacher partners to discuss how we can continue to develop our transition processes and to support each other.

The build up to the festive period has been busy for our pupils who have been reaching out and serving the local community in many ways. From the choir's visit to Warrington Hospital and the Chaplaincy teams support for the 'coffee and cake' afternoon to benefit the St Joseph's Family Centre. The Youth SVP group were active for the Salvation Army and the performing arts team topped off the term with an awe-inspiring carol service at Sacred Heart Church to get everyone in the mood for Christmas and its true meaning.

Further updates

The development of the school facilities continues with the completion of our refurbished Food Technology facilities and a new Construction space. In the spring, a new Science lab will be completed ahead of the redevelopment of the reception area and a student services hub, which should be complete by the summer.

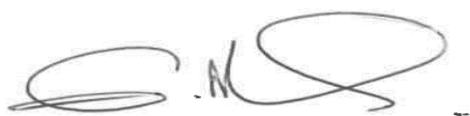
This term ends for all pupils on **Thursday 22nd December at 1pm**. The pupils will leave school via the usual exits and the bus companies have been informed about the earlier finish time. Lunch is provided as normal.

St Gregory's will reopen for the new term to all pupils at the normal time on Monday 9th January 2023.

For the term dates for the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years, please see the school website under the 'parents' tab and then the 'term dates' tab. If there are any changes to these dates, I will notify all parents and carers.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your loved ones a very happy, holy and restful Christmas holiday period and I look forward to a new year with optimism, excited about the prospect of more success with our young people.

Yours sincerely,



Ed McGlinchey
Headteacher

Please remember, if you would like to follow day to day events in school, you can join our twitter on @sgrch_school