

# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Telephone: 01925 574888



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

Our ref; EM/ SH

27<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Half term one

I write to you as we complete half term one, the longest half term of the year, and what a successful and positive one it has been for our school community with some record breaking events taking place.

The term started with huge GCSE examination celebrations following the success of our class of 2022 pupils. I am pleased to confirm that the pupils of St Gregory's achieved very well and our performance **puts our school up in the top five** of forty-eight secondary schools across Warrington and the Liverpool Archdiocese.

**We are very proud to be one of the highest achieving schools across the whole of the North West** and this is all down to the great work of my staff, the pupils and the partnerships with have with our parents supporting us in all that we do. The class of 2022 have all moved on successfully to their college places and apprenticeships and we look forward to welcoming them back to school once more to collect their certificates at our awards evening in November.

In September, I had the pleasure of welcoming our new Year 7 cohort to school and I have been very impressed with the start each one has made, demonstrating their many talents and really contributing to our one family inspired to learn ethos. It has been fun getting to know our new pupils and I have no doubt about the success they will go on to achieve.

Our first parent engage evening with Year 7 parents was a very positive occasion and I enjoyed getting to know our parents better. This morning we had the pleasure of our new families mass to formally welcome year 7 to the school, delivered beautifully by Father Raymond and supported by our wonderful choir.

Our Open Evening in late September had record numbers of families visiting our school and as always, it was your children who volunteered in the hundreds to support the evening that made the best impression of all to our visitors who .

We are now fully up and running with our extracurricular activities on Wednesday afternoons and I am pleased see the huge turnout of pupils taking part in the array of opportunities that are available. I also thank my staff for volunteering their own time after school to make these events happen. As always, our sports teams are doing very well and representing St Gregory's very competitively.

The stand out centrepiece of this half term was undoubtedly the school production of 'Our Day Out' which was an outstanding portrayal of the Willy Russell film from the 1977 and involved so many of our pupils across the majority

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

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of year groups. A lot of incredibly hard work went into the production and it was great to welcome audiences to see the production over 4 weeknights and a special matinee showing to our partner primary schools.

I have spent a lot of time speaking with our pupils and visiting lessons across Years 8, 9 and 10. Year 9 will soon embark on their options process and Year 10 have made a great start to their GCSE courses. I have been impressed with the increasing levels of maturity on show from these year groups as they gain another year.

Following the half term break, work will begin in school to refurbish our Food Technology room, build a new Construction room, a new Science lab and finally a new reception area. Disruption in school will be kept to an absolute minimum and the new facilities will be great learning environments for our pupils. I am also making some big investments into classroom resources as we see learning at our school go from strength to strength.


Going forwards, parents and carers can expect to receive an **updated progress report** for your child that moves away from an emphasis on 'data' and is more reflective on how well your child is doing in line with their progress expectations. Detailed information on this update will be provided to you in the new half term through my curriculum senior leaders. In key stage 3, we are removing discussing 'targets' with children in order to ensure pupils have no limits on what they can achieve.

I acknowledge that some of our holiday dates this academic year are slightly different to some of our main partner primary schools and this may not have been ideal for some families. These dates were actually **set by the school over 2 years ago** at a time where minimising the length of the second half term was key due to the negative impact of the pandemic on absences and illness. I will ensure that, where it is possible, this is not the case for the 2022/23 academic year as fortunately we are in better times as far as covid-19 is concerned. St Gregory's receives pupils from over 35 different primary schools so it is impossible to find a schedule that fits with all families.

I hope that you and your families have a safe and restful half term break and we look forward to welcoming back all of our pupils at the normal school start time on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November for a half term that has been as great as this first one.

As an advanced reminder, the **autumn term will finish on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December** and **school will close to pupils that day at 1pm in a slightly earlier finish** to commence Christmas celebrations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. McGlinchey', written in a cursive style.

Ed McGlinchey  
Headteacher