

St Gregory's Catholic High School

Cromwell Avenue, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 1HG.



Headteacher

Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

15th October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of half term one letter

I write to you as we approach the end of the very busy first half term of the year.

Firstly, I would like to once again praise our new Year 7 pupils for the outstanding start they have made to life at St Gregory's; they have been incredible. From fire line practice to respect in Celebration of the Word, retreats to Lowe House, their conduct around school, their lovely manners, their enthusiasm, positivity and their attendance to extra-curricular events; I am so pleased with the start they have made. I now look forward to welcoming you as Year 7 parents to our New Families Mass tomorrow morning.

All other year groups have started brilliantly too - the atmosphere around school has been very hard working and when I have visited lessons, the level of engagement and getting stuck in is what is so apparent. A special mention to year 10 who have adapted to their GCSEs as if they have been doing them for years, very impressive.

Year 11 have already done important mock exams and are now well underway with final preparations for their examinations in the summer.

Exciting news - In previous correspondences I have mentioned that I have been working behind the scenes to improve the sports facilities at the school. As an update I am pleased to confirm that plans are well underway for a new large scale 4G all-weather pitch AND improved outdoor PE surfaces for other sports too. We are hoping to have these developments in place by September 2027 and I will keep you updated on the progress we are making.

We are also investing substantially in our Design Technology curriculum and updating a number of subject areas as we approach a new future proofed curriculum for our school which will equip our young people very well for the changing workplace landscape in the future and in line with the DfE curriculum review for 2028.

Over the half term, our courtyard will be resurfaced to ensure better recreation spaces for pupils during break and lunchtime.

Extra-curricular activities have been at the forefront of this half term. I have seen a huge take up of what is on offer from Drama clubs, Sewing club, a multitude of sports clubs including darts, Science clubs and huge interest in Duke of Edinburgh. Pupils have already been on multiple trips with Geography trips to Liverpool, Theatre trips, Youth Rowing and the COP 30 environmental group event, also in Liverpool.

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Our pupil leadership teams are now fully in place with Head pupils elected and delivering an 'Outstanding' assembly to the school and pupils on duty all around the school ensuring high standards. I was particularly impressed with the recent Young Carers training in school and if you have a child who is a young carer and we are not aware of this, please do let us know.

Big events have gone very well such as our school Open Evening which attracted a record number of visitors with the feedback highlight being the children who volunteered to support the school. Year 10 and 11 parents came to our GCSE preparation evening and our 'Wear it Yellow' mental health fundraising campaign raised over £1000 for a very important cause.

I would like to thank parents and carers for the improvement in the situation outside school regarding **parking and congestion**. It is vital that pupil safety is considered at all times when you arrive at school in your cars and that respect and patience is shown at all times towards staff on duty.

Yondr pouches - we have seen a continuing dramatic drop in pupils requesting to go to the toilet in lesson time, better concentration in class reported and less phone related social issues between pupils as a result of restricting usage. Thank you for continuing to support the school with phone restriction for our young people and please do ensure that your children are not bringing second phones to school as circumnavigating the rules on phones will see a permanent ban on them bringing phones to school.

That is all for now, I look forward to updating you again during our next half term which starts again on **Tuesday 3rd November** at the normal time as Monday 2nd November is an INSET day for staff.

I hope that you all enjoy a well-deserved and enjoyable break over the half term when it eventually arrives.

Yours sincerely,

Ed McGlinchey

Headteacher