

# St. Gregory's Catholic High School

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Telephone: 01925 574888



**Headteacher**

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

Our ref; EMcG/SH

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I write to you at the end of a very busy but successful half term for St Gregory's and to provide you with you some important updates and information concerning a number of aspects of school life.

## **Half term one**

I could not be happier with the positive start to the new academic year, in particular the start made by our new Year 7 pupils to life at St Gregory's. Our Open Evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September welcomed a record attendance of prospective new parents and pupils. The positive feedback from our visitors to the school highlighted the conduct and manners of the pupils that supported subjects and acted as tour guides on the evening. Hundreds of your children volunteered, which is testament to the pride they have in their school.

Our new extracurricular events are up and running and I have been delighted to see the large number of pupils that are taking part in activities ranging from gardening to young poets clubs. As winter draws in we will scale these activities back a little to account for the lack of daylight but will return to a normal rota in spring.

St Gregory's was proud to be part of a wonderful parish event at St Joseph's church recently that saw church banners that were designed by pupils from St Gregory's, St Josephs and St Vincent's unveiled by the new Bishop, Tom Neylan. The banners will now take pride of place in the church for many years to come.

## **Continuing Improvements to the school site**

I am pleased to report to parents that following a sustained campaign to have our entire school field area secured with fencing, I have now attained the required funding and planning permission and our new fence construction is well underway. This will further enhance the security of the school site.

Over the summer, the school's IT systems were overhauled and we now have new devices, fibre optic cabling throughout and Wi-Fi across the whole school. This will have a positive impact on teaching and learning.

Our classroom refurbishment programme continues into phase 2 as we now look to renovate some of our practical learning spaces; having already refurbished Mathematics, Geography and History. I can also confirm that we will be allocating lockers to our Year 7 pupils in the new half term. A key deposit will be required and we will send out more details on this shortly to Year 7 parents and carers.

Over the coming months and years, a sustained programme of site development will take place in a bid to constantly make the school the best possible environment for learning.

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

**SEAL it with RESPECT**

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### **Support from parents / carers concerning traffic management and Cromwell Avenue underpass**

I am keen to seek improvements for our school beyond the school site, most notably the road and traffic situation outside the school grounds and the underpass area used by a number of our pupils that goes under Cromwell Avenue. To be successful, I will need your support and feedback to enable me to approach the local council.

I am also working with Warrington Borough Council, local councillors, school governors and the police to look at ways to ease the traffic congestion that is particularly evident for 15 minutes at the end of the school day. Whilst the traffic congestions clears each day by 3.10pm, the period prior to this is very busy and you will have seen senior staff helping children to cross the road safely. You may be aware that the council have ambitious plans to construct the new western link road, which will lead into the junction where Cromwell Avenue meets Sankey Way.

I see the construction of the western link as an ideal opportunity to improve the local road system and the more support I get from parents and carers on this, the more likely our school community will be heard. Please see the link below to read more about the proposed western link project.

<https://www.warrington.gov.uk/western-link>

In the meantime, can I please ask that parents and carers that park at the school and drop off / collect pupils only do so if you have no alternative such as walking, cycling or using public transport. If you absolutely do have to drive to school, please park away from the Peace Centre area if possible, show courtesy to other drivers, and be mindful of the safety considerations of our staff and children. I fully appreciate there will be times of frustration but if we can work together we can ease the situation.

Concerning the Cromwell Avenue underpass, I would like to have better lighting installed, CCTV in the actual underpass and improvements to the drainage system to stop it from flooding in periods of very wet weather. Your support with my campaign will be very helpful on this matter.

After half term, I will send you a link to a survey to get your opinions, which I will submit, to the council along with my requests for improvements to the local infrastructure.

### **Navigating safely through the winter months**

St Gregory's have enjoyed a relatively stable period in terms of Covid-19 infections and are currently below average in terms of positive cases. I would like to thank you as parents for the part you play in ensuring good safety for our community. However, we do know that there can be significant outbreaks in a matter of days and it is important to remain highly vigilant to avoid disruption to learning.

We may reintroduce the wearing of face coverings in communal spaces and corridors next half term as well as returning to some of our safety protocols from last year. Any changes to safety precautions that we reintroduce will be communicated to you and your children.

### **Half term two**

The new half term will start on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at the normal time. Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 is a staff INSET day.

However, for now, I would like to wish you and your families a safe and restful half term period and I look forward to another successful half term.

Yours sincerely



Ed McGlinchey  
Headteacher