

St. Gregory's Catholic High School

Cromwell Avenue, Westbrook, Warrington, Cheshire, WA5 1HG.
Telephone: 01925 574888



Headteacher

Mr E McGlinchey BSc (Hons) NPQH & NPQEL

Our ref; EMcG/SH
15th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of term letter – Part 1

I write to you as we approach the end of an incredibly busy but successful autumn term. This letter will provide a brief summary of the term and include important details about the arrangements for the end of term and the start of the new term in 2022. I also enclose a part 2 letter from my deputy head, Mrs McKenna on pastoral matters.

The year started with the celebration of exceptional examination results in the summer and I am proud that 100% of our **Year 11 of 2021** attained a place at college or on an apprenticeship. It was wonderful to welcome back Year 11 for their Awards Evening in what was a packed event full of celebration and recognition of their achievements.

The **current Year 11** have shown immense maturity and work ethic towards their final year and they have just finished a busy two-week mock examination schedule. As a little reward, Year 11 were provided with a free period treat and some snacks, simply to unwind and reflect on their hard work. However, they will now get back into the focus of their studies and preparation for the summer examinations. I have made it clear that Year 11 must take time to rest and switch off as much as they study for their exams. The balance is very important for well-being.

Our new **Enrichment Activity** programme is very popular with 'hundreds' of children attending extracurricular activities covering sport, performing arts, languages, science and smaller groups such as crafts and gardening. The darker evenings will see a reduction in these events but spring will welcome a full schedule once again.

Our **Open Evening** was a huge success, and this is primarily down to the pupils that supported the event as tour guides or within subject activities. St Gregory's is now an oversubscribed school, completely full in each year group and we have a waiting list for entry to the school. I regularly attend appeals for places at our school and this is all because of the hard work of our staff and the way that your children live the school's ethos. I thank you for the role you play in ensuring our partnership remains strong and your support for our ethos.

Year 9 have an important term ahead of them in spring as this is the time they will make their curriculum choices. Please use the holiday period as a good opportunity to discuss subject choices and career paths with your children.

It is very pleasing to see the amount of awards being attained by pupils across all year groups through our **Ambition for All** diploma. The awards will enable pupils to build up a long-term record of their achievements in school when they go above and beyond and this will be hugely beneficial and will give them confidence when making applications to college.

The parent 'app' has now been launched and the vast majority of our parents have downloaded the app and are already using it interactively. St Gregory's will be moving away from posting paper letters before the end of this

One family... inspired to learn.'

SEAL it with RESPECT

Fax: 01925 243 816

Email: schoolenquiry@stgregoryshigh.com

Website: www.stgregoryshigh.com



St. Gregory's R.C. High School Appeal Trust. A REGISTERED CHARITY



academic year so we strongly encourage all parents and carers to download and use the app as soon as possible to ensure your communication with the school is very strong.

Standards of Behaviour

We are very blessed at St Gregory's that behaviour is very positive and our pupils have exceptional manners and respect for others. This ethos is well supported by and enhanced by our parent and carer body who set the tone at home for exceptional standards and the school staff continue this in school life.

However, after a long term, there are occasions when some pupils do not demonstrate the high standards we expect when it comes to uniform, punctuality or other behavioural issues. Thankfully, this only involves a very small minority of pupils and it is my intention to meet with parents in the new year where issues have been identified and do not seem to be improving. We want every pupil to value their place at St Gregory's and contribute positively to our school community. The New Year will be an opportunity to start fresh with uniform, punctuality and respect.

Please remind your children that mobile phone usage in school is **completely banned** and breaches of the school policy will result in overnight confiscation. Phones should be switched off, kept in pockets and never on show.

Reading at Home

A significant factor that contributes to a pupil's progress is their level of literacy. At St Gregory's, we ensure that reading, speaking and listening skills are promoted and developed across the curriculum, contributing to the development of high standards of literacy for all of our pupils. We also actively encourage our pupils to read at home as often as they can. We ask you, as parents, to support us with our drive to promote reading. In a world where mobile phones and social media dominate most children's lives, we know this isn't easy! The long-term benefits of reading and the development of literacy skills, however, are invaluable to pupils in both their academic and social lives. Therefore, please take all opportunities to promote reading with your child at home as we do in school.

End of Autumn Term 2021 / New Spring Term 2022

- School will **close to all pupils at 1pm on Wednesday 22nd December 2021.**
- School will **reopen for the new spring term on Monday 10th January 2022** at the normal school time. Pupils need to be within the school gates by 8.40am.

IMPORTANT: Covid-19 Testing over the holiday period and returning to school in January

Ahead of your children returning to school in January, the government have stated that all pupils **must** take an LFT test **before** arriving to school – the school are providing all children with a pack of seven test kits, which will cover the entire school holiday period and up to the return to school.

This will help to halt mass spreading of any viral loads amongst the rest of the school population and avoid significant disruption to learning or requirements to isolate.

If your child is absent when the test packs are distributed, you will need to request an LFT (lateral flow test) kit yourself via a local pharmacy.

If your child tests positive on an LFT test or shows any covid-19 symptoms, you should book a PCR test and your child should **not** attend school until it is confirmed they do not have covid-19 or they have completed an isolation period following confirmation of an infection.

There will be a testing schedule in place in January that will see all pupils take **one** LFT test over the course of the 10th and 11th January. The pupils are now very familiar with this process having done it several times before.

I would now like to take the opportunity to wish you, your children, your family and friends a very happy, holy and restful Christmas and New Year period. I pray that all in our community is safe and well and finds the time to switch off from the issues of the pandemic and enjoy all that we should be thankful for; each other.

Yours sincerely,

Ed McGlinchey
Headteacher