

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
20th July 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

End of term letter July 2022 – Part 1

I write to you as we finish the term and to end the full school year later this week. This was a year where schools moved slowly but surely out of the shadow of the pandemic and life returned to 'normal'. It has been a very successful and busy year and as always, your children have been at the centre of that success. An end of term letter for the academic year gives me an opportunity to share with you my reflections on a great year overall.

I was very pleased welcoming you back to school, when you could 'physically' attend our parent engagement evenings again; your attendance to these events has been outstanding, with the school enjoying over 90% turnout from parents and carers. This demonstrates your commitment to your child's education and it strengthens the positive partnership between the school. This also emphasises our 'one family inspired to learn' motto. Online meetings can certainly be convenient, but they can never replace face-to-face interaction with staff and going into your child's school.

The same sentiment can be applied to our pupils, we have been delighted to get them out again, bringing their learning to life and enabling pupils to gain new experiences. This year we have been able to re-launch a huge extra-curricular programme that was attended by hundreds of pupils every week and your children have been very competitive on the sports field, winning many competitions and events from rugby to track and field.

Our pupils have competed in national poetry competitions, science events and they have visited many universities and colleges. Employers have opened their doors to our pupils, from the engineering world to the catering industry. Our young people have been able to express themselves on the arts and performing arts platforms, visiting Menai and North West art galleries. Our Geographers have spent time in Edale and Liverpool exploring urban and rural settings. This year we had a record number of pupil leadership applications, going into the hundreds and these pupils took part in a special training day at the Peace Centre ahead of starting important roles in school next year.

Ambition for All

The summer term has been a showcase period for our ambitious pupils to be rewarded for their outstanding contributions they make to both school and the wider life. St Gregory's awards pupils for contribution to our unique catholic ethos, making a 'positive footprint' and for supporting mental health & wellbeing, as well as demonstrating very high standards of attendance. Pupils are also rewarded for subject excellence and for many individual reasons that recognise their own unique talents.

We delivered special collective worship events over the past few weeks in which the pupils were able to recognise and celebrate each other's achievements over the year as full year groups.

The rewards calendar concluded with a **Platinum Awards Evening** on the 14th July in which very special awards were presented to pupils who have particularly excelled over the year in what was a packed out celebration.

These events truly symbolise our focus on the development of the whole child and developing all talent irrespective of academic ability. St Gregory's is about much more than examination results.

One family... inspired to learn.'

SEAL it with RESPECT

Fax: 01925 243 816

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



40th Anniversary Mass and Events

On Monday 18th July, we celebrated St Gregory's 40th anniversary with a whole school Mass that was delivered by Bishop Tom Neylon. The Mass was an event that filled me with immense pride at how the community came together to acknowledge the journey and huge success our school has experienced over the past 40 years. We welcomed back former headteachers and special guests and every attendee noted the same observation, that our children demonstrated impeccable respect. This is why we are such a special community.

Standards

We will never apologise for demanding very high standards of attendance, punctuality, behaviour and love of learning. A **part 2 letter** will re-address what we expect going forward so that parents and carers are fully aware of how they can best support us with our drive to ensure their children are in school, on time and demonstrating impeccable standards of behaviour. Our mobile phone confiscation policy remains very strict and non-negotiable.

Parent & Carer Communication by E-Mail

The pandemic period opened the doors to online learning and significant levels of e-communication between parents and schools. This was essential during *that* period. Email communication in particular has increased by tens of thousands of emails and this has continued, despite the fact that schools are now fully open again. Staff have returned to the normal school working day but increasingly, they continue to respond to hundreds of emails across the week. This is neither sustainable for their workload nor is it good for children who need their staff to be fully focussed on them for the day and not addressing emails. We have therefore devised a parent and carer communication protocol (which will be emailed out to you and placed on our school website) so that we can ease the expectations on staff around daily email communication and so I can provide my staff with 'breathing space' in which to prioritise quality teaching and learning and pastoral care. I am confident you will support my staff.

Road Improvements to ensure safety

I have been working with the local authority for some time now to improve safety on the roads outside of the school gates. Peace Drive, in particular is a key area that I am keen to see developed so that children are as safe as possible when they arrive and leave the school. I am pleased to say that Warrington Borough Council are now consulting on proposed changes to the road system outside school in response to that dialogue to make the situation safer.

End of Summer Term (July 2022)

The **summer term will end on Friday 22nd July** and **all pupils will leave school just after midday at 12.45pm** in order for the school site to be cleared. The bus companies have been notified of the earlier finish to the school day.

Start of new Term (September 2022)

- All pupils will return to school for the new term on **Monday 5th September 2022**.
- **Year 7** should arrive at school no later than 8.30am and will have the school to themselves until 11am with no other year groups present.
- **Years 8 to 11** will then arrive at school between 11am and 11.25am (no earlier), when they will be organised into their form groups and will go to period 3 at 11.25am. The pupils will be with their form tutors for an orientation session and will receive their timetables and other important information.

I would like to take this final opportunity to thank you for your incredible support throughout the year. It is clear that the success we have enjoyed is down to your positive partnership commitment with the school. I hope that you and your families have an enjoyable, safe and restful summer holiday period and I look forward to welcoming your children back in the new academic year, especially our new Year 7 children who I am sure will be both nervous and excited to join our school family.

Yours sincerely,



Ed McGlinchey
Headteacher