



Holy Family Catholic High School

Virgin's Lane, Thornton, Liverpool L23 4UL.

Tel: 0151 924 6451

Headteacher: Mr M Symes BA(Hons), NPQH

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

End of Year 9 – Preparing for Year 10 (KS4) & Uniform Expectations

As we approach the end of Year 9 and begin the exciting transition into Key Stage 4 (Year 10), we would like to take this opportunity to remind families of Holy Family's expectations regarding uniform, appearance, and equipment, as well as provide important updates regarding setting arrangements for KS4 subjects.

Preparing for September – Uniform and Appearance

As your child prepares for Year 10, it's important they return in full, correct uniform and ready to start KS4 positively. Please take the time to review our uniform and equipment list, available here:

Uniform & Equipment Guidelines

A few key reminders:

- **Ties:** As the students are becoming GCSE students, they will need a **black tie** as part of their uniform. These can be purchased from school (£6, pay on scopay or cash in school), or from [Paul's Place](#). Purple ties are for our lower school students. We understand some may be kept aside for siblings, but any spare, unused ties would be much appreciated for the school to use when students need to borrow one – please leave any donations at the school office.
- **Footwear:** All shoes must meet the school's uniform policy. Some styles are not acceptable, including those with decorative bows, which must be removed before the start of the new term.
- **Appearance:** While we understand some students may choose to have nails or eyebrows done during the summer holidays, please ensure:
 - Acrylic or gel nails and false eyelashes are removed before the September start.
 - If needed, we recommend booking **removal appointments in advance** to avoid any last-minute issues and the sanctions that will follow if expectations are not met.

Any student who arrives in incorrect uniform and does not accept the school's spare items, or has permanent nails or lashes, will be:

- Kept off the yard at break and lunch
- Issued demerits

Your support in this is vital and much appreciated, as we continue to maintain high standards for all students.

Setting and Curriculum Structure for KS4

As we transition into KS4, students will see changes to their timetables as **more subjects are moving into set groupings**. This is to ensure all students are supported in making the best possible progress as they prepare for their GCSE exams in Year 11.

- **English and RE:** Students will be **reorganised into different sets** to allow teachers to target support and challenge effectively. Movement between sets has been made based on progress, attainment, and where students are most likely to thrive.
- **Mathematics:** An **additional set is being incorporated** into the timetable in Year 10. This means there will be more movement than usual within Maths. Students may notice they are in a different group, but this **does not necessarily mean a 'move up' or 'move down'**. The goal is to reduce class sizes, increase focus, and tailor teaching more closely to students' target grades and support needs. Some movement has been made to best position students for **GCSE success and individual progress**.

We understand that change can feel uncertain, but these decisions have been made thoughtfully with each student's long-term success in mind. If you have any questions about your child's set placement or progress, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

End-of-Year Activities – Sun Safety and Preparation

As we near the end of term, we're looking forward to several exciting outdoor events, including:

- **Sports Day** (Monday 14th July)
- **The School Festival** (Thursday 17th July)
- **Other outdoor activities and enrichment days**

To ensure all students stay safe and comfortable during warmer weather, we ask that they:

- Bring a water bottle and refill it during breaks and lunchtimes
- Use sun cream before school and during the day
- Wear a hat where appropriate for outdoor activities

I have really enjoyed working with the students and yourselves as the Year 9 Progress Leader and I am keen to support the students further in KS4.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we prepare our students for the next stage in their school journey. If you have any questions about uniform, expectations, or academic groupings, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm regards,

Mrs. D. Moore
Year 9 Progress Leader