



Dear Parents & Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all our students and families as we begin a new academic year. I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer break. The first week of term is always a busy and exciting time as students move up a year group, receive their new timetables and settle back into familiar routines. We are especially delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students, as well as those joining us in other year groups. We wish them every success as they settle into school life and become part of our community.

Year 11 Leavers

A huge congratulations to our Year 11 Leavers who achieved a fantastic set of examination results. Key highlights included:

- A rise in the number of students achieving grades 9–5 in both English and Mathematics, reflecting the school's commitment to academic outcomes.
- Seven exceptional students securing grade 9s in RE, alongside many others who achieved clusters of grade 9s across a range of subjects, including English, Geography, Maths, Biology, History and Photography.
- Outstanding results in Separate Sciences, with an impressive 89% of students achieving grades 9–4 in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
- Excellent vocational outcomes, with 40% of students achieving the top grades of Distinction* or Distinction in Sports Studies, and an outstanding 83% of students securing a Level 2 Pass or higher in Health & Social Care.

These results reflected the hard work, determination, and ambition of both students and staff, and the school is proud to celebrate the success of Year 11 as students move forward to the next stage of their education. Most students have progressed to Sixth Form Colleges or apprenticeships.

A Prayer for the New School Year

Loving God,
We thank You for the gift of a new school year,
for the chance to learn, to grow and to be together.
Bless our students, staff and families.
Grant us patience, kindness and wisdom in all we do.
May this year be filled with joy, friendship and success.
Amen.



Assemblies at the start of term

Assemblies at the start of term have had a focus on the school's Mission Statement 'In Christ We Grow'. In form-time students were asked to reflect on key aspects of Catholic Social Teaching:

- Respect the dignity of every person
- Look after the poor
- Care for our local and global family
- Share the earth's gifts
- Peace
- Challenge poverty and injustice
- Speak out for debt relief

Catholic Schools have been asked by the Bishops' Conference to think of ways in which they can make the world a better place and to create a school pledge as part of the Jubilee Year.

'In Christ We Grow'

'As a learning community, we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving'

School Expectations

At the start of the school year, we focus on the School Expectations:

Our Lady Queen of Peace
Catholic Engineering College

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Our Lady Queen of Peace
Catholic Engineering College

ATTENDANCE

1. Be here
2. Be on time
3. Be ready



Every Day Counts....

BEHAVIOUR

1. Be respectful
2. Be responsible
3. Be kind



CURRICULUM

1. Be attentive
2. Be hardworking
3. Be resilient



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Attendance

We remind students about the importance of high levels of attendance, being in school every day on time. Students who are absent from school because of holidays taken in term-time are placed at a huge disadvantage. I would like to remind parents and carers that family holidays should not be taken during term time. In line with government regulations, we are unable to authorise holidays during the school term, and any unauthorised absence of this kind will result in a fixed penalty notice being issued by the Local Authority.

Research shows that good attendance at school provides students with routines and structure, positive social interaction and the variety of activities helps support improved mental health and physical well-being.

Here is the current information on Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for unauthorised school absences (such as term-time holidays) in England as of August 2025 provided by the government:

Fixed Penalty Notice Costs & Payment Deadlines

- First Holiday:
 - £80 per parent per child if paid *within 21 days* (early payment discount)
 - £160 per parent per child if paid *after 21 days but within 28 days*
- Second Holiday (within a rolling three-year period):
 - £160 per parent per child, with no discount available
- Third Holiday or more within 3 years:
 - No further FPN is issued.
 - The case is referred directly to Magistrates' Court, where fines can be issued up to £2,500, and legal action (such as a criminal record) may follow

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Behaviour

In assembly and during form-time this week we have reminded all students about the high standards of behaviour and presentation expected in school, which includes wearing the correct uniform. I am grateful to the overwhelming majority of families who have supported this by ensuring that students have arrived this week dressed smartly. I am aware that some parents are awaiting items from the uniform supplier. These will hopefully arrive very soon.

A small number of students need to address a few issues this weekend: false eyelashes and acrylic nails are not permitted, shoes must be plain black leather, and all students should bring a suitable school bag. Piercings and jewellery are not allowed. Students need to address these issues as a priority and ensure that they are following the school's expectations.

In addition, chewing gum is not permitted anywhere on the school site. Mobile phones must not be seen or heard during the school day; if they are, they will be confiscated in line with school policy.

Curriculum

Our Curriculum Overviews have been updated on the school website. The curriculum overviews also serve as a good revision list prior to a subject assessment. Please use this link to see what your child is learning in each subject.

<https://www.olqp.org.uk/curriculum/curriculum-overviews>

Pastoral Structure

Below is a reminder of key staff for each year group.

	Head of Year	Assistant Head of Year
Year 7	Ms K Batchelor	Mr J Nelson
Year 8	Miss O Jones	Mr M Evans
Year 9	Mr T Hudson	Mrs G Molyneux
Year 10	Mrs K Knight	Mrs K Scott
Year 11	Mrs K Leicester	Mrs C Snead

Communication with School Staff

For **pastoral issues**, parents/carers should contact their child's **form tutor**.

For **academic issues**, parents/carers should contact their child's **subject teacher**.

- Staff aim to respond to non-urgent queries within **48 hours**.
- Please note that teachers are in lessons for most of the school day and often attend scheduled meetings after school. They are not expected to be available outside of school hours.

If the matter is **urgent**, please inform **reception** when making contact. Urgent issues include (but are not limited to):

- safeguarding concerns
- a child in distress
- medical issues
- allegations of bullying
- school refusal

These matters will always be dealt with as a priority.

We kindly ask that all communication is polite and respectful. Our staff will always do their best to resolve any concerns. However, please note that staff should never be subjected to verbal abuse or inappropriate behaviour.

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Dates for your diary

PARENTS’ EVENINGS (Thursdays 4 - 6.30pm)

6 th November 2025	Year 8
20 th November 2025	Year 11
22 nd January 2026	Year 7
5 th February 2026	Year 9
26 th February 2026	Year 10

INSET DAYS (School is closed)


INSET 3 - Monday 3rd November 2025
INSET 4 - Friday 28th November 2025
INSET 5 - Monday 20th July 2026

Holiday Dates

Term	School Holidays
Autumn Half term	Monday 27th October – Friday 31st October 2025 (inclusive)
Christmas Holidays	Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January 2026 (inclusive)
Spring Half term	Monday 16th – Friday 20th February 2026 (inclusive)
Easter Holidays	Monday 30th March – Friday 10th April 2026 (inclusive)
Summer Half term	Monday 25th May – Friday 29th May 2026 (inclusive)
Summer Holidays	Monday 20 th July 2026

I am looking forward to us working together throughout the coming academic year.

Kind regards


Mrs M. Henshaw
Headteacher

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