



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic Engineering College

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28th January 2025

Dear Parents / Carers,

Thank you for your support during our first week back when we had to deal with the severe weather conditions. It is good to be back to our usual school routines and to have had some normal weeks.

Catholic Life and Mission

Our assemblies last week focused on the Miracles of Jesus. We also brought this focus on miracles closer to home to make students aware of the cure of Jack Traynor, which has been declared a miracle. Jack was a pilgrim on the Liverpool Archdiocese first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923, and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. Archbishop Malcom will celebrate a special Mass of Thanksgiving on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool, at 7pm to mark this occasion. All students and their families are warmly invited to this Mass.

On Friday 24th January 2025, we marked the start of the Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope. Students watched a short video produced by CAFOD which outlined the focus of the Jubilee Year. Form Groups received a road map of events to mark the Jubilee Year and students received a prayer card.

Year 9 and Year 10 exams

Well done to our Year 10 and 11 students who completed their examinations second week back. Teachers are busy marking exam papers and giving students feedback. Results will be reported to parents once all the data has been collated. Students will be asked to identify their strengths and then to take steps to address their areas for improvement.

Year 11 Examination Preparation

The majority of Year 11 students have come back with a renewed focus wanting to work hard after their mock examinations before Christmas. A small number of students could still work harder. Year 11 parents have been sent a copy of the Y11 revision timetable. Please encourage your child to attend revision sessions on a regular basis. In order to be eligible for an invitation to the prom, Year 11 students need to demonstrate high levels of attendance, good behaviour and attend at least 20 revision lessons during the Spring/Summer terms. Previous experience is that the vast majority of students will have a positive attitude to learning and will achieve this criteria.

Additionally, there has been an increase in students not attending school with basic equipment. As a minimum it is expected that students bring their **knowledge organiser** and a **black pen**. Their knowledge organisers contain key information for each lesson, which helps support with their learning and revision. Being prepared with a pen for lessons, allows students to start recall activities quickly and maximises learning time. Ideally students should also bring a red pen, pencil and ruler.



In Christ We Grow

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

Behaviour

Following on from the assemblies on the first day of term, the line ups at the start of the day have become embedded quickly. Standards of uniform have shown improvement and students have had a calm and orderly start. Thank you for your support with this. I have been impressed by our students and how quickly they have adapted to the new routines.

Over 240 students recently took part in a school survey on behaviour. Students said that they were clear about the school's expectations and that they felt that behaviour had improved across the school.

A number of students are coming to school tired, having been to bed late or using their devices during the night until the early hours of the morning. This is particularly noticeable on a Monday morning. The best way to ensure good quality sleep is to ask your child to leave their device with you when they go to bed. If they get good quality sleep, they are more able to concentrate in lessons and have a productive day in school. Your support with this would be much appreciated.

Safeguarding

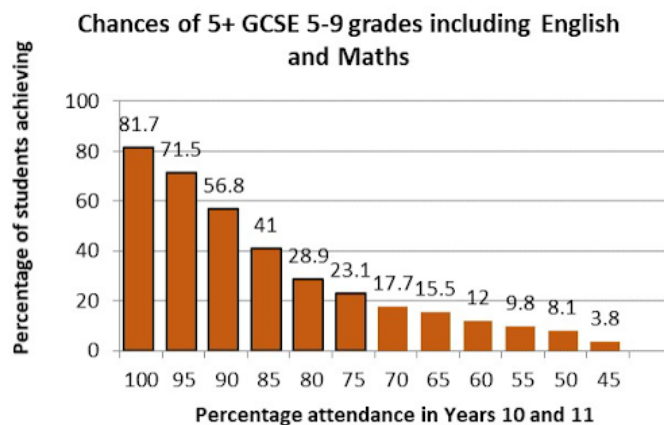
I would like to draw your attention to the following website which has a series of mini-videos and posters on safeguarding young people: <https://nationalcollege.com/institutions/national-online-safety>. Through #WakeUpWednesday, the organisation aims to equip every trusted adult with the knowledge and skills they need to keep up with the latest information, implement best practice and heighten their awareness of issues around three core topics; online safety, mental health & wellbeing; and climate change & sustainability. It is relevant to all parents and educators, from early years through to secondary school, the #WakeUpWednesday resources can be accessed both on desktop and via the #WakeUpWednesday app, providing instant and easy access to world-class expertise in the areas listed above.

Attendance

I would like to thank families who have really taken on board our work regarding attendance and are making sure that their child attends school every day. As you may know, our magic number for attendance is 97% and a significant proportion of our pupils have attendance over this figure, with a large group still claiming 100% attendance.

Whilst we acknowledge that 97% seems a high number, all of the research shows that an attendance rate less than this can impact on your child's future progress. The diagram below shows that by missing days of learning in school a child can hinder how well they do in their GCSEs.

Evidence from a Department for Education study shows a strong correlation between school attendance and GCSE success. The chart below illustrates this:



There are also many other benefits of being in school. School allows our children to develop into fully rounded young people with the initial skills, and knowledge to be successful in the ever-changing world they face.

As a school we regularly review our attendance data and one pattern that we have found is that too many pupils are absent on a Friday. For example, the week ending 17th January, we saw a drop in attendance from over 90% for the majority of the week to 88% on the Friday. As we have said above, and in all previous communications, every lesson and every day counts in school therefore we do ask that you make sure that your child is in school every day. We will be contacting parents of children who are having too many Fridays off school to highlight the issue.

Sports Updates

Unfortunately, sports events had to be cancelled the first week back due to snow and ice. We are, however, pleased that clubs and activities have now restarted.

Badminton

- A week ago we had a Y8 Badminton competition. Well done to our Doubles who achieved 1st place and to our Singles who achieved 4th place.
- In the Y7 Boys badminton tournament, our Singles achieved 2nd & 3rd place and our Doubles achieved 2nd place. Well done to all our students

Y8/9 Girls Football

- The Y8/9 Girls Lancs Cup took place at Darwen Football Club. Despite their best efforts, our girls lost to Haslingden 4-1

Girls Inter Form Football

- Congratulations to our winners: 7RL, 7DF/7EW, 8EW/8ZF, 8PD, 9KL/9JV. Well done to all our players who took part

Dates for the Diary

Thursday 30th January 2025
Thursday 6th February 2025
Thursday 27th February 2025
Thursday 3rd April 2025

Parents' Forum 6-7pm
Year 9 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Year 10 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm
Year 11 Parents' Evening 4-6.30pm

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Henshaw
Headteacher