



March 2024

END OF TERM - INFORMATION FOR ALL YEARS

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we near the end of term, I would like to update you on some school matters which are relevant to all year groups.

End of Term

We break for the Easter holidays at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, 27 March. We will be celebrating the forthcoming Easter season with our Easter Service at St Mary's church from 12:15 pm. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. School busses have been arranged to pick-up from church at 1:30 pm. Any pupil who is in receipt of a Free School Meal will be able to pick this up at breaktime.

All staff and pupils return for the summer term on Monday, 15 April at the usual time.

Uniform Expectations

For the summer term, jumpers will no longer be a compulsory part of our school uniform, although pupils can of course continue to wear them if they so wish.

Whilst many pupils will be wearing earrings and make-up during the holidays, please can you remind your child that on their return after Easter, such items will again not be allowed, and if seen will be asked to be removed / confiscated. Likewise, skirts are still expected to be knee-length and not rolled-up in any way. Finally, with the exception of individual medical cases, black shoes are required for all pupils, not black trainers.

Similarly, excellent attendance is the cornerstone of any child's education. Can I stress that you continue to work with us to ensure that your child is in school, on time, every day, and that minor ailments which, for example, would not be enough for an adult to be off work, aren't used as a reason to not attend school.

EduLink

A polite reminder that EduLink is a platform we are using to help improve the way you can communicate with us. It is an excellent system to allow you to inform us of doctor/dentist appointments, but also for you to keep your child's medical records up-to-date. Unfortunately, there have been occasions recently where pupils have been prevented from attending trips due to lack of up-to-date information. Please check the website here for more information: <https://ismchs.com/news/2023-09-12-edulink-one>



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Free School Meals

Once again, the government have provided funding for schools to be able to provide Free School Meal vouchers for eligible families over the Easter holidays. If you feel that you are eligible for these vouchers, but have not received them, please do contact school through the usual means.

Y10 Mock Exams

A week after our return from Easter, Year 10 will begin their mock exams. Based in the Sport's Hall, this will give all pupils in the year group experience of revising for, and completing, GCSE exams in timed conditions. Please encourage your child to be as well-prepared for these as possible. Please note that free breakfast will be provided for all Year 10 pupils before each of their mock exams, and this gesture will be extended to Year 11 pupils for their GCSE exams as well.

Y11 Revision Room

As we approach the start of the Year 11 final exams, we will open a quiet after-school revision room solely for Year 11 pupils. This will be based in the Nurture room, and will provide an opportunity for quiet study. It will be open on a Tuesday and a Thursday, and light refreshments will be made available to aid study. Please note, the quiet study room is not replacing revision sessions held by subject specialists, or the existing revision timetable.

Staffing Update

There have been some appointments made over the Spring Term. Mrs Drew and Mrs Riley will be going on maternity leave and I am delighted to announce that experienced subject specialists, Mrs Bowdler and Mrs Akers, will be joining us as Teacher of MFL and Teacher of P.E. respectively. In addition, Mrs Brown will step-up as temporary Curriculum Leader for MFL, and Mrs Walsh will take up the temporary Year 10 Pastoral Leader post.

In addition, Miss Mawdesley joined us as TA2 in February, Mr McKelvie has recently joined St Mary's as IT Technician and Mrs Gowan takes up her role as HLTA after Easter.

The Cotton Fund

As a school community, we were all grateful for Father Jonathan Cotton's contribution to St Mary's. In his memory, we have decided to create the 'Cotton Fund.' It is our intention that money which school already uses (for example our Hardship budget), plus money raised from events such as our community BINGO events, will be combined under one banner – The Cotton Fund. Money held within The Cotton Fund will be used to support pupils and families in times of need, and is, we believe, a fitting tribute to a man who devoted his life to helping others in our local community.

As the end of term approaches, I would like to thank you all for the continued support you offer, it means a great deal to know we are united in wanting the best for your child. Please remember in your prayers our Year 11 pupils as they complete final preparations before starting their GCSE exams. We hope that their hard work and effort is rewarded. Finally, on behalf of the staff and governors, may I wish you and your family a restful, happy and Holy Easter break.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Thompson

Headteacher