

# St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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## 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.

### **Mission Week**

Our last week of Spring term is marked by the school's Mission Week. As a Catholic school, we are examining our core purpose and doing so by concentrating on the central themes of Love, Peace and Forgiveness. This is a wonderful opportunity for all pupils and staff to reflect on what makes us distinct as a faith school, and to help us focus on the caring, Christian ethos which should underpin all we do.

A reminder that on the afternoon of Tuesday, 4 April, the whole school will journey to St Mary's parish church to hear from Dr. Gee Walker. She will be talking to us all on the theme of forgiveness, focusing on her own experiences of losing her son, Anthony, in a racially-motivated attack in 2005.

Pupils will leave for home from church at 3pm on this day, and school transport has been arranged to collect at this time.

### **End of Term**

We break for the Easter holidays at 12:30pm on Thursday, 6 April. We will be celebrating both the end of Mission Week, and the forthcoming Easter season with our Easter Service at St Mary's church from 11:15am. Parents and carers are welcome to attend. School busses have been arranged to pick-up from church at 12:30pm. 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, 24 April at the usual time.

### **Free School Meals**

All pupils eligible for Free School Meals assistance over the Easter holidays will soon be receiving their vouchers through the post or via email. If you have any questions regarding Free School Meals, then please contact the school office to discuss further.

## **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.

## **Staffing Update**

There have been some appointments made to the school's Senior Leadership Team. An intensive round of interviews took place recently and I am delighted to announce that both Mrs Webb and Mr Weaver have been appointed Assistant Headteacher from September 2023. We are now advertising to replace their current positions of Curriculum Leader for English and Curriculum Leader for Humanities. More details will follow in the summer term when the vacancies have, hopefully, been filled.

We have also recently welcomed Miss Deane as our new Business Manager. Miss Deane has a great deal of experience in this role and is replacing Mrs Martin, who is retiring at the end of term. I would like to pay special tribute to Mrs Martin for her 8 years of service to St Mary's. It is no secret that a few years ago, St Mary's was experiencing a number of issues, not least with its finances. Mrs Martin has played a key role in helping the school recover and leaves with the school in a far healthier state than when she joined.

I'm sure you would like to join me in congratulating Mrs Webb, Mr Weaver and Miss Deane in securing their new roles, and in wishing Mrs Martin a very happy retirement!

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