

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

Royal Avenue, Leyland, PR25 1BS

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END OF SCHOOL YEAR LETTER 2022

July 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the school year draws to a close, it is pleasing to be able to report that this year has very much had a sense of 'normality' to it. Whilst it would be foolish to say that Covid has now disappeared, it is fair to say that it has impacted us less and less as the year has gone on.

School closing and September re-opening

School finishes for the summer at 12:30pm on Wednesday, 20 July. We will celebrate Mass at St Mary's parish church, and all pupils will be asked to make their own way home from there. School busses have been arranged to collect from the church.

School re-opens for all pupils on Monday, 5 September 2022, at the usual time, 8:40am. Staff will be in school for 2 INSET days on Thursday and Friday the week before.

School Entrances and Exits from September

From September, there is no need for separate year group entrances. Therefore, all pupils in Year's 7, 8 & 9 will be able to use the pupil entrance outside the bus lay-by. They will then gather on the school yard at the start of the day. Pupils in Year's 10 & 11 will continue to use the side entrance near the main car park.

At the end of the day, pupils will no longer be able to exit school from the main front door, so if you are collecting your child, please check with them which exit they will be using.

Pupil Numbers and Royal Avenue

It is a great blessing that St Mary's continues to grow. The incoming Year 7 is over-subscribed, and this means that the school population will rise to over 800 in September. Sadly, the dimensions of Royal Avenue have not changed and this means that more pupils may well lead to more traffic on the road outside school. If you are using your car, please be considerate of other drivers and the local residents. In addition, please remember to drive safely near pupils at the start and end of the school day. If you can, please park a little distance away from Royal Avenue and encourage your child to walk a short distance to their destination.

Year 8 Pupil Helpers

From September, we will be introducing a new scheme for our Year 8 pupils to be student helpers for the main office. The pupils will help on a rota basis, either in a morning or an afternoon. We hope that this scheme will help to build confidence amongst our younger pupils, and allow them to enjoy a greater sense of responsibility. Depending on numbers, this should take place approximately 3 times in the academic year. The pupils will be seated outside the main office at a desk and will not be privy to any sensitive information. If not assisting with the office, they will be completing work from their class. Please email Mrs Dickinson at d.dickinson@ismchs.com if you do not wish your child to participate in this scheme.

Appointments during the school day

It is important that should your child need to attend a medical/dental appointment during the day, that you inform school well in advance. Evidence of appointment cards/emails/texts are required before permission can be granted. By having the information in good time, this will minimise any delay for you or your child.

Uniform

As you are aware, St Mary's has high expectations for all pupils in terms of uniform and appearance and, as you would expect, these expectations will be in force from the first day of the autumn term. This includes, amongst other things, no make-up/false tan, no extreme haircuts, no jewellery, black shoes (no trainers) and blazers. Information has already come home regarding expectations regarding footwear for the new 3G pitch. Jumpers will only be required from October half-term.

Building Works

We are delighted that all building work has now been completed and the school will be fully open from September. The top floor of the Mercer block has now been renovated, with Art once again taking its place up there. Of course, our top-quality 3G pitch was completed recently, meaning that St Mary's now has a suite of facilities that can rival any school. It is a wonderful educational environment for your child.

Staffing Information

This term we say goodbye to a number of staff. From our office team, we say thank you and goodbye to Mrs Cookson. Leaving with our very best wishes from the teaching team are Miss Wyeth, Miss Donnelly, Miss Burbidge, Miss McKeivitt, Mr Rawsthorne and Mrs Loftus. They all depart for pastures new, whilst for Mrs Morrissey, a well-deserved retirement awaits! I'm sure you will join me in thanking them all for their service to the school, and wish them well with their future away from St Mary's.

In addition to replacing those leaving, the growing needs of the school have required us to recruit a number of new staff for September. In Maths, we welcome Mr Barnes and Miss Batty. In English, Mr Callaghan and Miss Bevins join the team, and Mrs Melis will act as maternity cover for Mrs Walsh. The Humanities department sees Mrs Taylor and Mr Cane join us, whilst Mrs Lowe extends the RE team. Also joining us to teach English and Drama is Miss O'Bryan, and Miss Fortune who will teach Music part-time. In addition, joining the office will be Mrs Standen. We welcome them all to the St Mary's community!

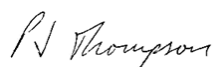
At the end of this year, Mrs Drew is standing down as Head of Year. She has been an excellent pastoral leader and has been a real champion for all the children she has overseen in her years in this role. Lastly, Mrs Webb will join the Senior Leadership Team from the new term and will oversee the school's strategy for Teaching and Learning.

Father Jonathan Cotton

Finally, I'm sure you will be aware that Father Jonathan will be leaving St Mary's parish at the end of the summer. He has offered spiritual guidance to thousands of pupils during the many years he has been a friend of the school. On behalf of all the St Mary's community, I would like to thank Father Jonathan for all he has contributed and ask that you remember him in your prayers as he embarks on life back at Ampleforth.

Thank you for the support you have offered school this year. It is always best when home and school work in unison with one another. I would like to wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer, and look forward to welcoming your children back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr P Thompson

Headteacher