



## **END OF SCHOOL YEAR LETTER 2025**

July 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of this school year, I would like to update you on school developments.

### **School closing and September re-opening**

School finishes for the summer at 1:30pm on Friday, 18 July. We will celebrate Mass from 12:15pm with Father Michael Barrett 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. As ever, parents and carers are very welcome to join our end of year celebration. It is encouraging to see more and more adults take-up this opportunity in recent years.

Turning our attention to the return in September, staff will be in school for 2 INSET days on Monday, 1 September and Tuesday, 2 September. Pupils will then return on Wednesday, 3 September, at the usual time of 8:40am. We look forward to welcoming all pupils on the 3<sup>rd</sup>, including 168 new Year 7s.

### **Launch of Arbor Parental Portal**

The school has recently moved to a new information management system called Arbor, which will include the Arbor App & Parent Portal, a platform that will enhance home / school communication and allow you to manage your child's details on line. More information on this will be available at our Parent Information Evening on Tuesday, 09 September (4.00; 5.15; 6.30 pm).

### **Uniform**

A reminder of the high expectations we have for all pupils in terms of uniform and appearance. The summer holiday often means that children experiment with hair dyes, piercings and other alterations which would be regarded as too 'extreme' for school! As you would expect, upon our return on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, St Mary's expectations will be in force from the start, so please ensure that your child is looking smart and adhering to school expectations.

### **Year 11**

Our Year 11 leavers enjoyed an excellent night at Park Hall for their Leaver's Prom on Thursday, 26 June. The pupils delivered some excellent speeches of their time at St Mary's, with touching recollections about the staff who have helped them in their 5 years at secondary school. We wish them all the very

best for their future, and keenly await news of their exams on Thursday, 21 August. School will be open from 9am on this day for collection of results.

### **Staffing Information**


As is often the case at the end of a term we take a moment to thank those staff members who are leaving us and also introduce new colleagues.

This year we bid farewell to Mrs Bennison (Tech.), Miss Ellison (RS) Miss Robinson (English) and Mrs Latiff (Maths Part-Time). In addition, we say goodbye to Mrs Shelley, Miss Fields and Miss Mawdsley from the teaching support staff. On behalf of all pupils and staff, past and present, I'd like to thank our departing staff for all for their service to the school, and wish them well with their future away from St Mary's. We also pass on our very best wishes to Mrs Sinnett (Maths) who will be going on maternity leave.

Joining us in September are Mr Allen (History), Mr Barnes (Maths), Mrs Maguire (RS), Mr Smalley (English) and Mrs Rawsthorne (Maths maternity cover). We welcome all of our new appointees to the team and look forward to working with them.

Finally, as a school, we can look back on this year with pride. There have been a number of successful school trips, most notably the Year 7 visit to London, the RS & Chaplaincy visit to Rome and the Food & Geography trip to Sorrento. The school recently celebrated retaining our 'Good' grade in the two-day Ofsted Inspection in June and we look forward to another successful year when we return in September. However, before then, I'd like to thank you for all the support you've shown us over this year and, on behalf of all staff and governors, would like to wish you all an enjoyable and restful summer for you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P Thompson'.

Mr P Thompson

Headteacher