

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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MAY HALF TERM LETTER 2021

May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and all your family well as we approach the May half term. Although things have not quite fully got back to normal, we can certainly see an end in sight to the restrictions which have affected us all in the last 14 months.

Covid-19 Testing

Thankfully, since our return in March, we have had very few positive cases of Covid-19 reported to us, and only one occasion when we have had to ask pupils to isolate in number. However, we know that Covid-19 is still prevalent, especially the new variant and especially in the North West, as seen by the letter we forwarded on this week from the LCC Director of Public Health. Therefore, I ask that you continue to support the home testing programme. Test kits have once again been issued to all pupils and they are still asked to home test twice a week.

Summer Term Expectations

School finishes today for the week-long half term holiday. We reopen on Monday 7 June at 8:45am. When we return, we will, of course, expect the highest standards of uniform and appearance from all our pupils. Unseasonably cool weather has led to a small number of pupils wearing hoodies under their blazers. Hoodies are not part of St Mary's uniform policy, so such items will be confiscated on our return. All pupils have been informed of this.

In addition, I would ask that pupils return with all the correct equipment, including footwear - black trainers, no matter how smart, are not part of St Mary's uniform!

'Everyone's Invited'

As always, informing and communicating the latest safeguarding information is critical to us in ensuring that all children are safe and cared for whilst attending school. I therefore want to highlight the recent 'everyone's invited' campaign. This is an initiative brought about to raise awareness of abuse and in ensuring that all children feel comfortable speaking to an adult in school or having the knowledge of how to report any abuse in education. The NSPCC have now launched a free and anonymous helpline for young people who have experienced abuse at school. It is also accessible to parents and carers who need support and guidance. Any further questions on this matter then please contact dsl@ismchs.com.

Free School Meals

We have been informed that the latest round of Free School Meal vouchers will be the last to be distributed by schools. All eligible families should by now have received their voucher for the half-term holiday.

Year 11

Today we say goodbye to Year 11. They have been a wonderful year group and deserve our best wishes. Of course, the majority of their Key Stage 4 has been severely disrupted. However, they have shown resilience and perseverance to get through the toughest times. However, secondary school life consists of five years, and they have made valuable and worthwhile contributions throughout their time with us. I'm sure you will join me in wishing each and every one of them all the very best for the future, whichever path they choose to follow.

Thankfully, we are able to celebrate their time at St Mary's in a way that was denied to last year's Year 11. Therefore, we will be celebrating a Leaver's Mass on Wednesday 23 June at 2pm. To allow the staff and Year 11 pupils to celebrate mass together, school will be closed from 1:30pm to all other year groups on this day. School busses will be arranged for this earlier pick-up time.

Many thanks for your continuing support during as we have navigated our return back to full-time education. I wish you all a restful half term holiday.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr P Thompson

Headteacher