

St Mary's Catholic High School, Leyland

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INFORMATION FOR YEAR 11 PUPILS

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the final weeks of your child's time at St Mary's I'd like to outline a few points about the arrangements we are putting in place.

Formal Lessons

In order for all pupils to have the best possible opportunity to maximise their final course grades we will continue to run all Year 11 classes in full, up to and including, Friday 28 May. Teachers will then spend time considering all the available evidence in order to arrive at a final grade in their subject for your child. These grades will be checked for fairness and accuracy, before being sent off to the exam boards on Friday 18 June.

Although teachers are allowed to share where they are gathering their evidence from, they are not allowed to disclose the actual final grade they are submitting. This is because all grades submitted are subject to potential change by the exam boards before the national results day of Thursday 12 August 2021.

Details on how St Mary's is collating evidence and following all exam guidelines can be found in this document on the school website: <https://ismchs.com/learning/students/year-11>

After May Half-Term

Despite everything, the government has decided not to alter the national school leaving date for pupils in Year 11. This year, the official leaving date for pupils will be Friday 18 June. However, after the May half-term, pupils will not be expected to attend school for lessons. Instead, we will be providing a mixture of resources for all pupils to access up to their leaving date. This will include information from local colleges, online work that pupils can access in readiness for sixth-form study, materials on wellbeing and aspirations, as well as resources on careers and future choices.

We are hopeful that some of this work may be done in school, for example to see representatives of the college your child has chosen for September, or to access help from our careers advisor Mrs Womersley. For any activity taking place in school, full school uniform would still be expected to be worn.

Farewell Activities

Leaving high school is a momentous occasion for any pupil; a mixture of excitement, sadness, relief and hope for the future often stir the emotions. Sadly, last year, we were unable to mark the occasion with any of the traditional events. This year, we are determined to make the most of the situation and provide a fitting farewell, albeit slightly altered due to the restrictions we still face, to this fabulous year group.

Given that teaching will continue up to the end of this half-term, we are inviting the whole year group to return for their leaver's mass on Wednesday 23 June. It will begin at 2pm. All other year groups will be allowed home early that day, to enable staff to join our leavers for this celebration. After mass, pupils can then take part in the traditional shirt-signing, book-signing etc.

Sadly, yet perhaps understandably, venues are not particularly willing to commit to a large event yet. However, one site that is definitely available is the school. Therefore, we will be holding a celebratory event for our Year 11 leavers here at St Mary's. This will be in the evening of Wednesday 23 June.

We would like to think of this as a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your child's time at high school. By holding the leavers event here, it means that the dress code can be more relaxed than at a hotel for example. In addition, costs of transport, tickets, clothing can all be reduced significantly. In what has been a difficult year for us all, with some facing significant financial strain, we are hopeful that you will see the benefits of this approach. For many of us, this will be the first large gathering we have attended for a long time, so it is nice to think that the ending of Covid restrictions can mark the start of your child's adult life.

Attendance at either the leaver's mass or the celebratory event that evening is, of course, not compulsory, though we would like to encourage as many Year 11's as possible to come along. However, no pupil will be allowed to attend the celebratory event unless they have also attended the leaver's mass.

More details will follow shortly regarding the price of the celebration, but we will endeavour to keep costs to a minimum.

Yours sincerely,

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

Mr P Thompson

Headteacher