

September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your support for what has been a very successful start to the academic year. The pupils are a credit to you and our College in their appearance, behaviour and attitude to learning. This year is the first year when all our pupils are in our new uniform and we are delighted with the feedback from members of the community about how smart they look. We got the same messages from the hundreds of visitors we had to our recent Open Evening.

Big improvements in English and mathematics at GCSE in Summer 2018

The changes that we have introduced since becoming an academy are impacting significantly on the behaviour for learning of our pupils and the academic outcomes in terms of public examination results. Over the last two years we have seen a 10% increase in the number of students achieving the benchmark qualification of at least a 4 (the old grade C) in both English and mathematics. This year we saw a big improvement in our maths results, in particular. In 2017 we were in the top 7% of schools in the country for improvement in the Progress 8 measure.

More improvements in English and mathematics in summer 2019

Having moderated with SJP about our reported current grades for this year's Year 11, we are very confident that there will be a further very significant improvement in our English and mathematics results again this year.

Full complement of inspirational teachers in every department

As I shared with you before the summer we have been able to make an excellent series of appointments at every level which will further strengthen the improvements we have already seen in the quality of teaching. I have already had feedback from pupils and parents about how much better things are this year.

Parents' Forum Wednesday 26th September 2018

Working in partnership with parents to ensure your children get the best possible educational experiences is crucial. In my letter before the summer holidays I shared with you that we were proposing to offer parents the chance to meet with myself, Mr Quinn and other senior leaders for you to have the opportunity to give us personal feedback on aspects of St Mary's that we could improve further.

The forum will run like an MP's surgery where people who attend will get a time with myself and Mr Quinn or another senior leader, we take note of the idea you have for how we can improve and we will come back to you in an agreed timescale with how we are going to respond to the idea that you have. We do hope you can join us on 26th September, if you have ideas as to how we can improve further.

The Giants Visit to the Wirral 5th October

You may well be aware of the visit of 'The Giants' to the Wirral from 5th – 7th October. As was the case in the previous events, starting with the capital of culture celebrations in 2008, it promises to a huge public event and it has been recently announced that The Giants will actually be on shore on the Wirral on Friday 5th October. We have already been contacted by Wirral Local Authority to inform us of some of the additional traffic control measures they will be putting in place in the local area and warning us of possible disruption.

Given the potential for significant disruption in the area on the day from visitors and our commitment to giving our pupils the chance to experience significant cultural events we have taken the decision to **close the school on Friday 5th October 2018.**

Newsletter

I have included a hardcopy of our most recent Newsletter which, I hope you have a chance to read and will agree, gives you a flavour of the wonderful opportunities available to your children and their many achievements. Included in it is an update on some of our recent leavers who have graduated this summer with some outstanding degree results.

We have many more exciting learning experiences planned this year linked to our determination that our pupils should '...be more...' and we will continue to share these and our pupils' many achievements with you.

New Website Update

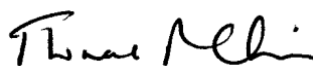
You may have noticed that our current website has not been updated as regularly as was the case previously but we have kept up our tweeting about school events. The new website will be launched on 1st October 2018. Once, it is up and running, we will invite your feedback on how well it is informing you and whether it can be improved still further.

Thank you, in anticipation, of your continued support for your child's education. We look forward to working with you this year.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Boyle
Headteacher



Mr T Quinn
Executive Headteacher