

Dear Parents and Carers

Great First Term This Year

Thank you for your support and positive feedback this term. We will be producing a full newsletter early in the New Year where we will share with you more detail about the many wonderful Be More experiences our students have had already this year.

Hopefully you will have had the chance to explore our new website, which has the same address www.stmaryswallasey.com as its predecessor, and our twitter feed, which is regularly updated, and will give you a flavour of how vibrant our College life is and the diversity of experiences on offer to our pupils.

As I promised in the summer, we now have a full complement of high quality teaching staff and the feedback from parents, pupils and our own internal quality assurance systems is that this is having a significant, positive impact on pupils' learning.

At our recent Review Day we surveyed parents and the feedback was overwhelmingly positive.

- 98% of you said that you receive valuable information from College.
- 96% now say that the College ensures pupils behave well.
- 96% of parents say that they would recommend our College to other parents.

As you will know, our ClassCharts system captures the positive behaviours of our pupils and I am delighted to report that so far this term we have 52,784 reasons to praise our pupils for making a positive contribution to our College. Please look at your child's ClassCharts and join us in congratulating them.

Advent at St Mary's

We have been helping our students to focus on the real Christmas message through our Advent reflections, services and assemblies and to be active in raising monies for those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have supported our local community Wallasey Village Christmas Fair with our musicians and dancers making well-received contributions.

Our Chapel was burgeoning with our annual Shoebox collection that was collected this week. Thank you for your support and generosity. Each form has collected items for a hamper that we distribute to elderly people in our local community with the help of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and we are also collecting for the local charity Toiletries for Teenagers.

Our Pensioners' Christmas Party, where our students provided the entertainment and served the refreshments, was a further highlight.

Our students have supported Amnesty International in sending cards and letters to prisoners of conscience.

Our Annual Carol Service will take place at Holy Apostles and Martyrs Church. The details are included in our Christmas card please join us, if you can, for what promises to be a wonderful preparation for our celebration of Christ's birth.

Friday 21st December – End of term arrangements

On the last day of term we will be holding our Annual Christmas Mass for the whole College after break, which is a great way to finish the term. Students will be dismissed from College at 12.30pm. Lunch will be available for those students who would like it.

As many parents are aware from previous years, the bus companies will not promise that they can change the times of the scheduled buses and so we would ask that students make their own way home on that day. We will, however, ensure that any student who cannot make alternative arrangements is supervised in College until the normal end of the day at 2.50pm.

Monday 7th January 2019 – Students' return and single entry point

All students return on Monday 7th January at 8.30am for an 8.35am start.

Our single entry point introduced at the start of the year and has proved a great success in ensuring the smooth and safe entry of our students once they have entered through the gate.

Many of our students walk up to the gates and others are dropped by buses but some are dropped off by parents and carers. This can create traffic bottlenecks close to the gates and in some cases students have been witnessed getting out of vehicles that are still moving. Can I urge that, if you are dropping pupils off, you allow a little more time and drop your child off away from the immediate road, Wallasey Village, and encourage them to walk the last part of the journey.

Jewellery and Shoe Reminder

The standard of our uniform has been a significant factor in setting the positive tone for learning in and around College. Our experience tells us that some pupils ask for piercings as part of their Christmas presents, so I need to remind you that any piercings will need to be removed during the school day if you choose to allow this. Sometimes pupils get expensive trainers or fashionable footwear and want to wear them on their return. As you would expect this will not be allowed as we are very clear about permissible footwear for school. Please check the website if you are unsure.

Friday 18th January 2019 – Year 8 and 9 Review Day

The Year 8 and 9 Review Day is to be held on Friday 18th January and the College will be closed on that day for students from other year groups with work being set in English and maths.

Can I finish by thanking you for all your help and support in 2018 and wish you a happy and holy Christmas with your children, family and friends and every blessing on you all in 2019.

Yours faithfully



Mr A Boyle
Headteacher



Mr T Quinn
Executive Head Teacher