



July 2024

Dear Families,

At the end of another rewarding year at St Mary's I am writing to provide an update on some of our key highlights and updates to support the year ahead. This letter covers the following areas:

- A year of celebration
- Uniform and equipment standards
- Attendance
- Summer activities and support
- Summer Results Days
- Pastoral team updates
- Become a Foundation Governor at St. Mary's Catholic College
- Staffing changes
- End of Term and Start of Term arrangements
- Canteen Prices from September
- New Automated gates
- Summer activities and support
- Final note

A year of celebration

As we reach the end of a truly remarkable school year, I am filled with pride and gratitude for the collective efforts and achievements of our staff, students, and supportive parents. There are simply too many things to list to exemplify our successes, however we try to capture the events of each half term in our newsletter. For an overview of the last term you can find a link to our Summer term newsletter [here](#). A link to all newsletters can be found [here](#)

Some key highlights for me this year are that we welcomed an oversubscribed Year 7 cohort in September and celebrated the success of a new year group in our ARC provision. We were pleased to receive a good rating from Ofsted for behaviour and from the Catholic life inspection for our leadership. Our students have had incredible opportunities to broaden their horizons and show courage, including a ski trip to Italy and a cultural exchange to Morocco in February, as well as a poignant Year 13 trip to Auschwitz. We launched a new teaching and learning strategy, which has resulted in improved student engagement in lessons and the successful implementation of a scholars programme across all year groups. Additionally, our fully funded experience week for all students was a resounding success.

I am particularly proud of the growth of our diversity group, which has gone from strength to strength, embodying our commitment to inclusivity and representation. It was also great to be a part of the Duke of Edinburgh bronze award expedition earlier in this term and I look forward to seeing this grow in the coming years. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the hard work from staff and support of our parents, for which I am deeply grateful.

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Uniform and equipment standards

Please find a link [here](#) to our uniform and expectations policy, this policy has remained in place for a number of years. We will continue to provide uniform to those students that arrive at school without any correct items. It is likely we will move to a deposit system for items of borrowed uniform in the new academic year. It is important that our students continue embody our core value of pride by adhering to these expectations,

It is also essential that all students are well equipped for lessons. Students need a St Mary's College bag, a pencil case with black or blue ink ballpoint pens, pencils, a sharpener, a rubber, a ruler, a protractor and compass, some colouring pencils and a scientific (natural display) calculator. Equipment is also available to purchase at school. Students are also advised to bring in water in a refillable bottle as sugary fizzy drinks, including any form of energy drink, are not permitted at St Mary's and will be disposed of.

As we approach the end of the year if you are able to donate any uniform that you no longer need it would be greatly appreciated. We are in particular need of smaller sizes of blazers, skirts and PE Kits. There is a box in Reception where items can be dropped off at any time, including over the summer break.

As it stands we confiscate mobile phones, jewellery and other banned items from students and they are available to collect again at the end of the school day. I am proposing that during the next academic year, where persistence confiscation of items occurs by the same student, a system would be initiated in which a parent, or other appropriate adults would need to collect the items on behalf of the students. I would welcome your feedback on this as part of a consultation that will remain open until September, please email schooloffice@stmaryswallasey.com if you wish to provide any feedback.

Attendance & Punctuality

Attendance is a key priority at St Mary's and as it stands a large number of students do not attend school at the same levels as schools locally or nationally. This is concerning and adds an additional level of scrutiny from external stakeholders such as Ofsted. I need the whole school community to work together on attendance in this coming year and ensure that students attend everyday, apart only in extreme circumstances. There is new national guidance that is coming to effect in September which means I will be unable to authorise a number of activities that in the past have been authorised, there is also new national guidance around increasing the use of Fixed Penalty Notices.

Where there are barriers to attendance I urge parents to open up a dialogue immediately with us so we can work together to overcome these issues. To help me understand the issues more closely I will be setting up regular meetings with parents of students whose attendance is showing signs of becoming an issue.

The recent letter sent out from Wirral Local Authority can be found [here](#).

Summer Results Days

Year 11 and Year 13 parents will receive a letter from College regarding the arrangements in place for each results day. As a reminder, results can be collected from 8am on the following dates:

- A level results day: **Thursday 15th August 2024**
- GCSE results day: **Thursday 22th August 2024**

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Pastoral team updates

From September, there will be some changes to the pastoral teams across the College.

Year group	Head of Year	Progress & Aspiration Coach	e-mail address
7	Mrs Watson	Miss Paton-Watson	year7@stmaryswallasey.com
8	Mrs Witan	Miss Rubin	year8@stmaryswallasey.com
9	Mrs Willis	Mrs Schumann-Edwards	year9@stmaryswallasey.com
10	Mr Davies	Mrs Cotgrave	year10@stmaryswallasey.com
11	Miss Boisson	Mrs Jones	year11@stmaryswallasey.com
Sixth Form	Miss Jones/Mrs Wainwright	Mr Cotgrave	6thform@stmaryswallasey.com

Attendance Officer	Mrs Garrigan	attendance@stmaryswallasey.com
SEND Team	Mrs Moor / Mrs Todd	Sendco@stmaryswallasey.com

Become a Foundation Governor at St. Mary's Catholic College

St. Mary's Catholic College is seeking to appoint two dedicated Foundation Governors starting this September. This is a rewarding opportunity to make a significant impact on our school community and support our mission of providing high-quality Catholic education and ensuring Christ within us all.

The Role

- **Strategic Leadership:** Help set the school's strategic direction and priorities.
- **Accountability:** Ensure the school meets its educational and financial objectives.
- **Support and Challenge:** Work with the headteacher and senior leadership team to ensure high standards of achievement and progress.

Requirements of a Foundation Governor in a Catholic School:

- **Practising Catholic:** Foundation Governors hold additional responsibilities in relation to promoting and developing the Catholic Life and religious character of the school. They are the Bishop's representatives and as such, must ensure that his policies are implemented in the school. They must be committed to promoting the Catholic ethos and values of the school.
- **Community Focused:** A desire to contribute to the wider school community.
- **Skills and Experience:** While educational experience is beneficial, we welcome individuals from all professional backgrounds who are committed to the role.
- **Commitment:** Willingness to attend regular meetings and participate in school events.

If you are passionate about education and want to make a difference, we encourage you to consider this fulfilling role. For further details, please contact Shirley Fox at St. Mary's Catholic College on shir.fox@stmaryswallasey.com

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**Staffing changes**

The end of an Academic year brings inevitable changes and this year is no different. We have a small number of staff from across the college who are leaving us at the end of this term; Mrs Morgan, Miss Llyod, Mr Williams, Mr Eames, Mr Jones, Mrs Talbot, Mrs Sherlock, Mrs Doherty, Mr Beedles and Mrs Allen are all leaving us to take up new roles in other schools. We also wish Miss Evans the best of luck on her Maternity Leave and thanks to Mrs Hampson who has supported us in French this year. We are incredibly grateful for all that they have done for us at the College and I am sure you will join me in wishing them well for the future.

When we come back in September, we will also be welcoming a number of new staff. Miss Gallagher, Mrs Corrigan and Miss Killbride will be joining our Performing Arts department. Mr McCann and Mrs Southall will be joining the Maths department. Mrs Keating and Miss Beckett will join the RE department. Mr Todd, Miss Pickles and Miss Wood will all be joining the SEND department. Miss McDavitt will be joining our humanities department. Mr Everall will be joining our PE department. Miss Popa will be joining as our new Cover Supervisor. I look forward to welcoming our new staff on our return in September.

End of Term and Start of Term arrangements**End of 2023/2024 Term arrangements**

St Mary's will **close to students at 12:30 on Friday 19th July, 2024**. School buses will still run at the normal time, if you are not able to make alternative arrangements for your child to get home and would like them to stay in school until 15:05 please complete this form [here](#).

Start of 2024/2025 term

Monday 2nd September 2024	Staff Inset day, students do not attend
Tuesday 3rd September 2024	Year 7 and 12 students attend Year 7 start at 08:35 Year 12 start at 11:00
Wednesday 4th September 2024	Year 7, 11, 12 & 13 start at 08:35 Year 11 and 13 post mocks coaching day.
Thursday 5th September 2024	All year groups return College day starts at 08:35

Year 7 will use the gate on St George's Road. All other students will access college through the main student gate at the front of College, which will allow direct access to the canteen for free breakfast from 8.00am.

Further to this, I wish to provide notice that St Mary's will close to students at 1:45pm on Tuesday 10th September, this is to accommodate the preparation for open evening. All term dates for 2024/2025 can be found [here](#).

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Catering Prices from September

Impact has confirmed that there will be some price increases from September. A letter from Impact explaining these changes can be found [here](#). Meal deal prices will be increasing to £2.58, which is above the 2% increase as stated in the letter.

New Automated gates

Last year I wrote to you to inform you that we have successfully won a bid to install automatic gates at the front of school. This was in response to a small number of safeguarding issues and to ensure the school site was safe for students and visitors.

Both the pedestrian and vehicular gates that lead onto the main car park will be automated to control the flow of cars and students during the day. The vehicle gates will close at 08:20 am each morning and will remain closed until 3:15pm in the afternoon. The pedestrian gate will close at 08:35 am each morning and open at 3:05pm in the afternoon. To support this the school car park will no longer be used for dropping and collecting students at the start and end of the school day.

Summer activities and support

I understand that any holiday period can bring its own challenges for some families, particularly the long summer break. Miss Skinner has created a list of useful contacts that may be of some use in the coming weeks, this list can be found [here](#). The St Mary's transition Summer College is running from Monday 12th August to Friday 23rd August. Wirral's Holiday Activity Fund also provides enriching activities, nutritious meals, and a chance for young people to meet new friends in a safe & fun environment during the college holidays. Use the [interactive map](#) to find an activity near you.

Final note

As this term draws to a close, I want to thank you again for your support this year. During our end of year Mass of Thanksgiving two weeks ago I reflected on how we will answer the call of Pope Francis to be Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee year being celebrated by the Catholic church in 2025.

"We must fan the flame of hope that has been given us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision." Pope Francis.

After another successful year we have truly proven that if we work together we will succeed together. Have a restful break and please do not hesitate to contact the College office should you have any queries over the summer holidays.

Peace be with you all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr K Maddocks
Headteacher

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Calendar Events

To further support our communication strategy at the College I want to draw your attention to the events that are planned to take place during the next half term.

Date	Event
Tuesday 10th September	Open Evening 6.00-8.30pm
Tuesday 17th September	Open Morning 09:00-11.00am
Thursday 3rd October	Parents' Evening - Y11 (3.30-6.45pm)
Thursday 24th October	Last Day of Half-Term 1 for students
Friday 25th October	College Closed to all students.
Monday 4th November	Return to College for Half Term 2 - all year groups
Friday 13th December	College closed to all students
Friday 20th December	Last Day of Half-Term 2

Further Dates can be found [here](#).

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