

September 2025



Dear Families,

It has been an absolute delight to welcome our new Year 7 and Year 12 students back to St Mary's today. Their energy and enthusiasm have breathed new life into the college after the summer break, and it is always a joy to see our school come alive again at the start of the autumn term.

As I shared in my end-of-term letter in July, we were awaiting the formal outcome of our recent Ofsted monitoring inspection. I am very pleased to let you know that we have now received the report, and I am excited to share some of the positive comments made about our school:

- *"The school, supported by the trust, has acted with appropriate rigour and timeliness to address the areas for improvement identified at the last inspection."*
- *"Staff share the school's vision and understand how their contribution makes a difference to pupils' success."*
- *"Whole-school assessment approaches have sharpened teachers' focus on checking what pupils have learned over time."*
- *"The school has made reading a high priority... Pupils increasingly read widely and for pleasure."*
- *"The rigour of how individual subjects are held to account has increased in terms of regularity and clarity. Information is used to identify where successes are achieved and where more attention is needed."*

We are very proud of this recognition, which reflects the hard work of staff and students, as well as the ongoing support of families. At the same time, Ofsted rightly noted areas that we must continue to improve, particularly around attendance, and this will remain a key priority for us this year. I always take the opportunity to discuss the importance of attendance as it was one of the biggest contributing factors to GCSE success. It is also your key way to help improve the college further, alongside supporting home learning. A link to the report can be found [here](#).

Tomorrow (Wednesday 3rd September) we look forward to welcoming back Years 11 and 13, and then on Thursday 4th September all remaining year groups will return. Each school day begins at 8:35am, and we expect all pupils to be on site by 8:30am so that they are ready to start the day positively in full uniform with all equipment. Attendance and punctuality are crucial, and we ask for your full support in ensuring your child attends every day and arrives on time.

Please also note that school will finish early at 1:45pm on **Tuesday 9th September** to allow for our annual Open Evening. Buses will run at the normal time, so if your child needs to remain on site until 3:05pm, please inform the main office so that arrangements can be made.

Wallasey Village, Wallasey, Wirral, CH45 3LN

T: 0151 639 7531 F: 0151 201 4514

E: schooloffice@stmaryswallasey.com

W: www.stmaryswallasey.com

Thank you, as always, for your support. Together, we can build on the positive progress we have made and ensure that all our pupils continue to thrive.

With warmest regards,
Mr Maddocks
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr. K Maddocks *BSc and QTS*



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