

WORK TOGETHER; SUCCEED TOGETHER

Respect | Courage | Pride | Determination | Compassion



**St Mary's
Catholic College**
Wallasey

A Voluntary Aided Academy

March 2026

Dear Families,

I am writing, as always at the end of term, to reflect on the spring term and to share some information for the term ahead.

At the start of this week, our students have been reflecting on the simple but powerful verse, *"Jesus wept"* (John 11:35). This is the shortest verse in the Bible, yet it carries great significance. In just two words, it shows how much Jesus cared. It reminds us of His full humanity, His deep empathy and emotional connection to human suffering.

This reflection has helped our young people to understand that it is okay to show emotion, and that kindness and compassion truly matter. It links closely to our core mission at St Mary's, where we encourage everyone to recognise Christ within us all, especially in how we look after one another.

As we continue through Lent, we are encouraging our students to live this out each day by showing care, understanding and support to those around them. This feels more important now than ever, as our children are growing up in a world that can at times feel more fragile and harder to navigate than ever before. In this, we take comfort in the message of Christ and the example He sets for us all as we prepare for Easter.

In the letter we covers the following

- Ofsted report
- Termly newsletter
- Attendance update
- Monday morning drop ins
- Canteen update
- Exam season
- Uniform expectations and Mobile phone pouches
- 2026/2027 term dates update
- Staffing updates
- Parish mass time

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Ofsted

Following my earlier letter, I am delighted to again share how proud I am of our recent Ofsted report. It was wonderful to see the many strengths of the school recognised, particularly the caring and welcoming environment, the strong relationships between staff and pupils, and the significant improvements in behaviour.

This outcome reflects the collective efforts of our whole community—staff, students and families—and it is something we should all feel incredibly proud of. St Mary's is a school on a strong upward journey, and this report is an important milestone along the way.

As I said previously, this also provides us with a clear springboard for the future. We will continue to focus on improving outcomes and attendance so that every child can achieve as well as they should, while maintaining the high standards and supportive environment that define our school.

The report can be found here

<https://stmaryswallasey.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Inspection-Report.pdf>

Newsletter

As ever, there are far too many great things happening in school to capture fully in this letter. For a more detailed overview of this term's highlights, along with key dates for next term, please find a link to our Spring Term Newsletter [here](#).

Attendance

We continue to need your full support with attendance, as our attendance is still below the national average. This is holding some of our students back from flourishing as they should. Every day missed is a lost opportunity for your child to learn, grow and achieve the outcomes they deserve.

While overall attendance is higher than at this point last year, we are still seeing significant variation across the week. For example, last week there was a 5% drop in attendance on Friday compared to Tuesday. In the lower school alone, this equated to around 50 fewer students in school on Friday. The impact of this lost learning time is considerable, and it is something we must work together to address.

If you would like support with your child's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact our Attendance Team, we are here to help.

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Monday morning drop ins

Our Monday morning drop-in sessions with the Senior Leadership Team have been incredibly popular this term. They have provided a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to come into school, ask questions, share feedback and discuss any aspects of school life in a supportive and informal setting.

Due to this positive response, we will be continuing these sessions next half term, running between 9:00am and 10:30am each Monday. We look forward to welcoming more of you and continuing these important conversations.

Canteen update

Please see the following link to view the menus for the [summer term](#).

I would also like to thank you for your support in reducing lunchtime debt. We are now in a much more sustainable position, with students who have outstanding balances still able to access a packed lunch while their accounts are topped up.

If you have any questions about how to top up your child's ParentPay account, or if you believe your child may be entitled to free school meals but are not currently receiving them, please contact us at schooloffice@stmaryswallasey.com.

Examinations

We are looking forward to running our first full Easter School for Year 11 students to support their revision. When we return after the Easter break, we will move into the final phase of preparation for the summer examinations. Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have shown an excellent attitude towards their studies and revision this year, which is very pleasing to see.

On our return, there will be just 15 school days until the first exam. The coming weeks are crucial, and the hard work, determination and focus shown now will make a real difference. I am sure you will join me in wishing all of our Year 11 and Year 13 students, alongside those in Year 10 and Year 12 who will also be completing exams this summer, the very best of luck.

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Uniform, Equipment and Mobile Phone Update

We continue to be proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform, and we thank you for your continued support in maintaining these high standards. A reminder that pupils must bring the correct equipment each day. This includes a St Mary's bag, black or blue pens, pencils, a ruler, rubber, sharpener, protractor, compass, colouring pencils and a scientific calculator. Pupils should also bring a refillable water bottle. Please note that fizzy and energy drinks are not permitted on site. Where necessary, we will provide essential items to ensure pupils are ready to learn.

We have also raised our expectations around corridor behaviour this term. Mr Wilson has written to you separately regarding this. As we continue to improve the experience for all students, it is important that every pupil plays their part in maintaining a calm and orderly environment.

Finally, I would like to thank parents, staff and pupils for the feedback shared over recent months regarding mobile phone use in school. In the parent survey sent last term, there was overwhelming support for mobile phones to be completely removed from school life. This expectation has now also been reinforced by national guidance on restricting phone use in schools.

As a result, we will be introducing a full mobile phone ban, supported by phone pouches, for all students in Years 7–11 no later than September 2026. There will be a phased introduction of this system to ensure we are fully prepared for implementation. Therefore, in advance of the summer holidays, it is likely that there will be some changes to morning routines, to support bag checks and scanning, ahead of the full rollout in September. Once in place, any student not complying with the pouch system will be dealt with in line with the most serious level of our behaviour policy. Each student will receive their first phone pouch free of charge, with any replacement pouches being charged via parent pay.

Further details on this process will be shared next term, if you have questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Term dates 2026/2027

Since sharing the 2026/2027 term dates, we have received feedback regarding the July 2027 end of term date, with a number of people suggesting it be moved from Tuesday 20th July to Friday 16th July.

We have agreed to this change and wanted to share this update now to support families with planning and booking holidays for summer 2027. As a result, there may be some slight adjustments to other dates, which we will confirm early next term.

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Staffing Updates

At the end of this term, we say farewell to Mr Bowcock from science and Miss Bentley-Jones. We thank them for their service to the St Mary's community and wish them every success in the future.

We also say farewell to Damien Mooney and would like to thank him for his time and support at St Mary's over the last couple of months.

Parish Easter Mass Times

All of our families are warmly invited to celebrate Easter at our local parishes. For full details of Mass times please see below:

- Holy Apostles and Martyrs Parish – Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00pm & Easter Sunday Masses at 9:30am and Family Mass at 11:00am
- Our Lady's & St Edwards and St Paul's - Easter Saturday Vigil at 7.45pm (OLSE) & Easter Sunday 9.30am (SP) and 11.00am (OLSE)
- St Alban's and St Joseph's Parish – [View Mass times here](#)
 - Holy Saturday Vigil Mass at St Joseph's Wallasey at 8.00pm
 - Easter Sunday Mass at St Alban's at 9:30am and St Joseph's at 11:00am (No evening mass on this Sunday)

If you are new to the area or haven't yet visited one of our parish churches, you would be most welcome to join in this special celebration of Easter

Easter Break Information

The college will close for the Easter break at 3:05pm on Friday 27th April.

Year 11 Easter revision camp will take place during the prearranged times during the Easter break

We will reopen for all pupils on Monday 13th April at 8:35am. The canteen will be open from 8:00am for pupils to access a free breakfast.

I hope you have a wonderful break and I hope you have a peace filled and joyful Easter.

Best wishes,
Mr Maddocks

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