



# St Mary's Catholic School

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*where everyone can succeed*



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Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. As you may recall, I am leaving St Mary's this summer after 15 years as Headteacher. It has been a privilege working as the Head and I will be leaving with many great memories of my time at the school. I would like to thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. I am delighted that our current Deputy, Miss Patterson, is taking over as Headteacher. She will do an excellent job and I am sure that the school will continue to thrive. I know you will give her your full support.

The school year ends this Friday on 17<sup>th</sup> July. It has been a school year like no other. Thank you for your support over these difficult and challenging months, for supporting your child with home learning and for your patience with this, as well as for your appreciation of efforts made by staff who have faced many challenges themselves, professionally and in their personal lives, given the national crisis we have all been living through.

It is the government's intention for all children to return to school full time in September. The school is working hard on its plans for this and will continue to do so over the summer, to ensure the safe return of everyone. We are working through the detailed guidance issued by the government regarding what schools need to do by September. If you wish to read the government guidance, it is available on the Gov.UK website.

There is a lot to finalise and you can expect further communication over the next few weeks, once our planning is complete and before we return in the week of 7<sup>th</sup> September. At this stage, to help ensure that students are well supported in settling back into school at the start of the new academic year, the new year 7s and new Year 12s will return on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September, Year 11 and Year 13 students on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September, with Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students returning on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Full details will be sent out to in due course. I will write separately this week to parents in y13 and y11, to outline arrangements for exam results days – ie Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August (y13) and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August (y11). We are just awaiting some final guidance on this. Our arrangements will cover the return to Sixth Form for year 11s.

Over the summer, we feel it is important that students take a well-earned break from home study and, in particular, try to get outdoors and begin to socialise with friends and family in line with government guidelines. We do not expect key stage 3 students to be studying in the holidays. Year 10 and year 12 students also need to have a good break but teachers will set some summer work for them, so that they return ready for their important final year before public exams. Year 11s planning to return to Sixth Form need to complete previously issued work over the summer break, before returning in September.

Miss Patterson will write later this week with further information regarding September. Meanwhile, thank you all again for everything. I wish you an enjoyable summer with your families and friends.

Yours faithfully,

J Foster- Headteacher