St Mary's Catholic School

Benton Park Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. NE7 7PE

where everyone can succeed

Ofsted Outstanding 2008|2009

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21st July 2023

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you and your families are well. I wanted to thank you for your continued support throughout this academic year. We really appreciate it. We have had a great term in the Sixth Form, with students continuing to work hard in lessons and for their first KS5 mock examinations and contributing exceptionally well to the wider life of the school.

I wanted to express my delight at the attitude and maturity with which the Sixth Form students have approached the academic year. I have been extremely impressed by the abundant reports from teachers praising Sixth Form students' continued commitment to learning, along with the vast number of Class Chart points they have accrued over the year. As well as seeing our students adopting effective study habits for their Sixth Form courses, some of the other highlights of the year have included seeing the Sixth Form students taking on leadership responsibilities in school to help and support students in other year groups, enhancing their employability skills by participating in our enrichment workshops and trips, developing the wider life of the school by launching initiatives such as Culture Day and the School Prayer Book and supporting the spiritual life of the school by leading groups such as the Christian and Islamic Unions.

One of the aspects of the Sixth Form we are extremely proud of is our Sixth Form Dress Code. The Dress Code allows our Sixth Form students to represent our school community in a smart and distinct way to others. Unfortunately, in the past, we have had the odd student returning after a holiday without fully following the Dress Code. In addition, students must ensure they are only wearing one ring and one pair of stud earrings as jewellery. I would be grateful if everyone can ensure that all students, without exception, adhere to the Sixth Form's expectations in this area. The students will be reminded about this too when they return. Please contact me if any clarification is needed of Sixth Form Dress Code expectations.

We know that many students wish to become more financially independent and so are seeking part-time employment as they move into Year 13. Whilst we want to encourage students to develop financial responsibility, we would strongly advise your child to work no more than 6-8 hours a week during term time, to ensure their demanding academic studies do not suffer. This is especially important in a year as demanding as Year 13. In our experience, taking on more work than this can have an adverse effect on academic achievement for some students, especially if they also have a busy social life and wide range of interests. Some employers will offer more and more additional shifts and hours to reliable, hard-working students. We strongly advise that the temptation to agree to these is avoided, especially during the week, and in term time. If we feel that a student's part-time work load could be affecting their studies, we will alert you to this. This is really about getting the balance right and I am confident our students will be sensible.

The school term dates and holidays for 2023-2024 are available on the school website. Please note that every school day runs from 8.40am to 3.10pm (with some Period 6 lessons for Year 12/13 students only, until 4.10pm on some days). The new term for Year 13 students starts at 8.40am on Wednesday 6th September.

If you have any queries at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me through the e-mail stated on the letterhead above. I wish you a happy and relaxing summer with your friends and families. We look forward to welcoming back all of our current students and the new members of the Sixth Form into Year 12 in September. Thank you for your ongoing excellent support over the past twelve months.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Turnbull - Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form

National Teaching School designated by National College for Teaching & Leadership · Specialist Schools Trust · Healthy Schools Newcastle · ENVIRO Schools · International Schools Award · ssat consultant school accreditation · NPQH Leadership Development School National College for School Leadership · School Games Silver

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