



St Mary's Catholic School

Shining together in faith, joy and love



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2nd February 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Pastoral Update

I hope that this letter finds you well. Thank you for your continued support. We really appreciate it. We have enjoyed a great start to this term, with students continuing to work hard in lessons and contributing exceptionally well to the wider life of the school. As we approach the midway point in this academic year, I wanted to share some important information below.

Safeguarding

Nothing is more important to us here at St Mary's than the health and safety of our students. We are committed to providing the best possible care and support for your child each and every day. Therefore, if you are ever worried or concerned, please contact your child's Head of Year. We have six Designated Safeguarding Leads here in total at St Mary's, and including me, we have Miss Lamb (Key Stage 3 Pastoral Leader), Mrs McKelvie (Key Stage 4 Pastoral Leader), Mr Turnbull (Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form), Miss Lague (Deputy Headteacher) and Miss Patterson (Headteacher). As part of our ongoing safeguarding work and commitment to keeping all of our students safe, students regularly receive safeguarding sessions, assemblies and lessons as part of the Personal Development Programme. We will continue to hold regular, online 'Parental Safeguarding Briefings' throughout this academic year and we will continue to notify you in advance of these sessions.

Attendance/Punctuality

As you know, excellent attendance and punctuality at school is vital to ensuring all students can reach their full potential and continue to develop their gifts and talents. Excellent attendance allows students to develop both holistically and academically, with exceptional punctuality ensuring students start the day positively. If your child will be absent from school, it is your responsibility to notify school on each day of their absence. If your child persistently arrives late to school, they will be sanctioned. We are proud that student attendance here at St Mary's is consistently high, especially compared to regional and national figures, and we maintain these high standards so that our students can achieve the best outcomes. There will of course be occasions when your child is too unwell to attend school and we thank you for your communication regarding this. If you are having any issues around your child's attendance at school, please do contact your child's Head of Year.

Uniform

Student uniform is excellent across the school. We are so thankful for your daily support in this area. Just by way of reminder, students should only wear one pair of gold/silver studded earrings, students should not wear false nails and all students must carry a school bag big enough to carry an A4 folder. In addition, skirts should remain at their original length and should not be rolled up nor the length altered. We thank you for your support in this area.

Vapes

As reported widely in the media, vape use continues to rise amongst young people. Here at St Mary's, we will not tolerate any child having/using a vape either on the journey to/from school or on the school site. Over the past two weeks, we have discussed vape use and its damaging effects with all students during assemblies and Personal Development lessons, including the extremely harmful health implications of underage vape use. We have made it exceptionally clear to all students that any child found with a vape in their possession, or any child using a vape, will face the most severe consequences. We thank you for your continued support in this area and we encourage regular dialogue with your child around this national issue.

Thank you very much for your continued support. If you have any questions, worries or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J McDonald
Assistant Headteacher Pastoral

