



10th April 2025

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope you and your families are well. As another term comes to a close, I am writing to express my thanks for your ongoing support. This term has been immensely rewarding, with students displaying outstanding commitment to their studies—both during lessons and in their independent study—and making notable contributions to our wider school community.

It is a pleasure to write to you and reflect on the outstanding achievements of our Sixth Form students over the past three months. Their continued dedication has been truly impressive, as they have applied themselves wholeheartedly not only to their academic studies, but also to a wide range of extra-curricular and super-curricular activities in school. Their active engagement in the Student Leadership Scheme, as well as in numerous mentoring and volunteering opportunities, highlights their commitment to their personal growth and development. Our Sixth Form students consistently demonstrate a strong desire to make a positive difference—both within the St Mary's community and beyond—and they have worked with great determination to reach their goals. As our Year 13 students approach the completion of their courses and prepare for their public examinations, and our Year 12 students begin to focus on their upcoming mock examinations, I encourage all students to take a well-earned rest over the break before embarking on a period of focused revision. For Year 13 students, this is supplemented by various revision sessions taking place during the Easter break, details of which have been communicated to the students through the different subject areas. I hope the students take advantage of these opportunities as when Year 13 students return after the Easter break they will have 8 school days before the Study Leave period begins and, as such, must use this time effectively.

One of the things I appreciate most about our Sixth Form students is their commitment to leading and serving others in our school community. They have volunteered to serve others in many aspects of school life, organised fundraisers, and taken part in various outreach and enrichment programs. In addition to our weekly charity activities our recent Lenten Fayres and Sixth Form Culture Day have raised over £300 for good causes. This year, the number of enrichment points Sixth Form students have achieved for leadership and service has increased by 15 %, with new schemes such as pastoral mentoring, the relaunch of our school newsletter and the formation of a KS3 Law Society. We have also seen a record breaking number of Year 12 students apply to be part of our Sixth Form Student Leadership Team. I would encourage all students to immerse themselves further in Sixth Form life and take any opportunity that will allow them to develop a wider range of skills, to prepare for upcoming applications to university, apprenticeships and the workplace.

As a gentle reminder, last academic year we reviewed parking arrangements in school as there were a large number of Sixth Form students parking in the school car park, therefore limiting the number of spaces for staff, parents and visitors. This resulted in serious health and safety hazards, such as cars parking on bends, double parking, and disruptions to the one-way system. We therefore made the decision that all Sixth Form students are not allowed to park in the school car park. This policy is still in place and we appreciate your help in ensuring that students consistently follow this.

Many thanks again for your ongoing excellent support over this term. I am confident that next term will be even more successful than the last two. 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 and your families a restful and enjoyable break over Easter.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Turnbull - Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form