



# St Mary's Catholic School

*Shining together in faith, joy and love*



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18<sup>th</sup> July 2025

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we reach the end of the academic year 2024–2025, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you sincerely for your continued support. It is very much appreciated and has played an important role in helping our students to thrive throughout the year. This summer term has been excellent in the Sixth Form. Students have worked diligently in their lessons and approached their first Key Stage 5 mock examinations with maturity and determination. Beyond the classroom, they have contributed greatly to the wider life of the school, and it has been a privilege to witness their engagement and leadership.

I have been especially impressed by the commitment our students have shown across so many aspects of school life. Teachers continue to comment on their enthusiasm and effort, reflected also in the impressive number of Arbor behaviour points achieved across the year. Alongside developing strong study habits, students have embraced opportunities to support others—taking on leadership roles, mentoring younger pupils, and playing a key part in school events such as Culture Day and launching the Subject Fair on our Sixth Form Transition Day. Many students have also strengthened their personal and professional development through enrichment opportunities, workshops, and educational visits. A particular highlight this term is seeing our students completing work experience in the local community, where many are volunteering in support of vulnerable communities—an experience that truly embodies the values we promote.

One of the things we are most proud of is the way our Sixth Form students represent the school community through their smart and distinctive appearance. Our Dress Code sets high expectations for professionalism and presentation. We have occasionally found that some students return from holidays not fully adhering to the expectations. I would be grateful for your continued support in ensuring that all students return in September in full accordance with the Dress Code. In addition, as a reminder, due to continuing logistical and safety concerns, Sixth Form students will not be permitted to use the school car park in the new academic year. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Many of our students are now seeking part-time employment as they move into Year 13, which we recognise can be a valuable way of developing independence and financial responsibility. However, we strongly recommend that students limit their working hours during term time to no more than 6–8 hours per week. Academic studies in the Sixth Form are highly demanding, and excessive working hours can have a negative impact, especially when combined with other commitments. While we are pleased that many employers value our students so highly, we would advise that any offers of additional shifts are approached with caution. Where we feel a student's job is beginning to impact their academic performance, we will be in touch, as finding a healthy and sustainable balance is essential.

The term dates and holidays for the upcoming academic year are available on the school website. The school day continues to run from 8.40 am to 3.10 pm, with Period 6 lessons for some Sixth Form students running until 4.10 pm on selected days. The autumn term begins for all Year 13 students at 8.40 am on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I would like to wish you and your family a safe, happy, and restful summer break. We look forward to welcoming back all our current students, as well as our new Year 12 cohort, in September. Thank you once again for your continued support over the past twelve months.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr Turnbull - Assistant Headteacher Sixth Form**

