



New Year Announcements from the Headteacher

4th September 2018

Dear Parents,

At the start of the Autumn Term it is my custom to write to you to highlight important news and updates from the summer and for the weeks ahead.

Before I do that, I must make mention of the consecutive years of record breaking results achieved by students at both A Level and GCSE. To see school records broken again in 2018 and now year on year is so pleasing, but the real pleasure is seeing the students' joy as the results send them on to a successful and secure future life. We have much to be proud of as a community, so my heartfelt congratulations to each and every student, to the staff and to the families concerned. A real team effort!

In returning to the school, we have new facilities to enjoy from the very start of the term. Several new classrooms are available and in use immediately. The whole topic of developing the school will be prominent in our communications to you as we continue to enhance the learning opportunities for students. Please be on the lookout for regular updates on our Twitter feed, web site and magazine. Indeed, I have already tweeted a few photos of developments – more will follow!

So, as ever, a busy period ahead and full of opportunities. Here are some key matters to be aware of:

Summer Exam Successes

This year at A Level and GCSE the students broke school records again. At A Level, results have now risen for the last three years, year after year, and at GCSE we are expecting our highest ever progress score and equal highest ever attainment. Put simply, this is a remarkable achievement from everyone concerned and we are so proud of everyone involved.

Planning the future for St. Mary's: "St. Mary's 2025"

Every year I invite parents to review our school development priorities. They can be found on our website at <http://www.stmarys.net/about-us/policies-and-references/> and over the last 3 to 4 years we have achieved a great deal, for example those year on year rises in GCSE & A Level results, securing £millions to improve our young people's facilities, and achieving outstanding in every category in our inspection of 2018.

However, I am always impatient for more good things for the students and community at St. Mary's, and so I am not satisfied to simply rest on the achievements of the last few years. Because of that, I have chosen a special focus to create a 7 year development plan to go alongside our annual development plan. I've called the 7 year plan "St. Mary's 2025" and to create this I will be working with the governors through September to set our long-term strategic objectives. I'd like you to be involved...



...Headteacher consultations

So I'd like to hear from you all, directly. In particular, across this year, I would like to make appointments with parents who would like to contribute to the vision for the school's future. One way I will do this is to open up appointments during parents' evenings and also to be available to those without appointments. I will write in due course with more details, but if you are interested already, please email me directly at headspa@stmarys.net to book your appointment or informal chat. Clearly, a big part of our 2025 Development Plan will be our facilities, and to update you on that...

...Site Development

You may have followed our twitter account to keep informed of developments regarding K Block. I am now delighted to say that progress was good over the summer building work and that enough of that refurbishment is complete for us to be able to open the school without delay this year. It is so exciting for me to see the school's reaction to the fabulous new facilities, and I will write again with details of how you can get involved and help with the next steps in this dynamic building programme. The next practical project should be the refurbishment of the very oldest buildings, and this could be a most transformational stage!

Deputy Head

You will be aware that Miss McHugh is Deputy Head at St. Mary's. This year, I have appointed a second Deputy Head to create a traditional model: Mr Tatum is in charge of the Academic Life of the school, and Miss McHugh remains in charge of the Pastoral Life (including Safeguarding). I hope that you are delighted with the news of Mr Tatum's promotion, and I thank you in advance for your support of him in this important new role.

Key dates

As promised – some key September dates for your diaries (a useful year summary can be found at <http://www.stmarys.net/events/>):

13 th September	Year 7 Dedication Mass, 7pm
19 th September	Year 12 Information Evening, 7-9pm
20 th September	Year 13 Information Evening, 7-9pm
26 th September	Open Evening and an early finish for students
27 th September	INSET day (school closed to pupils)

Thank you all for your support of the school. I look forward to keeping you posted with news and events, and please, as ever, if you would like to contact me at the school, feel free to email headspa@stmarys.net. I wish you all a blessed, productive and peaceful Autumn Term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Celano
Headteacher