

St Monica's R.C. High School



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September 6th 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we begin the new school term I wanted to write to you to welcome you and your children back to St Monica's. Myself and the staff will continue our work this year to make our school the very best it can be.

I am delighted with the way the new term has begun. Our two staff training days were focused on improving the quality of teaching in lessons and embedding the new behaviour framework and pupil expectations. A lot of work was done in the previous two terms to prepare for these changes, and we will monitor them to ensure they are having a positive impact. Much of the ground floor has been redecorated, as it is vital that the learning environment is attractive – this helps to improve the school climate. We have also introduced a one-way movement system around the school. Whilst this is in its infancy I believe it will make transitions between lessons more effective. Again, these expectations will be continually reinforced. So far I have been delighted with our pupils and there is a real sense we are moving forward.

I am pleased to report to you that our summer results were positive. 69% of pupils achieved a grade 4 in both English and Mathematics, and 47% achieved a grade 5 in both. I was satisfied with the outcomes, and our leavers can now enjoy their post 16 lives. We wish them every success. However, I have made it clear that we still have much work to do.

For this academic year we have four key school improvement priorities and I will update you on these as the year progresses. Our key areas of focus are:

1. Develop pastoral systems and responses that are more effective and managed effectively to improve the school culture and climate.
2. Develop school and subject curricula to ensure they are effectively sequenced to support pupil learning.
3. Improve effectiveness of classroom practice so pupils are able to know and remember more consistently.
4. Rapidly improve leadership at all levels for all stakeholders to have an impact on the quality of education with specific reference to outcomes for Boys and SEND pupils.

Each member of the leadership team has been assigned a priority and will report to myself every two weeks on their progress towards meeting each objective. The Executive Board then challenge me on our progress on a monthly basis. I will place a version of this plan for you to access on the school website in due course.

A number of key events are taking place over the next few weeks. Our Year 11 Parents' Information evening will take place on Thursday, September 12th at 6:00pm. We will talk parents through the schedule for Year 11 pupils over the course of the year. This is done to ensure we are all very much on the same page and I hope it will help parents understand not only the expectations we have of our pupils, but how best they can support their child. Working together I am sure we can achieve great things.

Our Open Evening will take place on Thursday, September 26th from 4:30pm to 7:30pm. To ensure the school and our staff are prepared school will close at 1:10pm. On this day there will be no school buses. Should a parent wish for their child to remain in school until 3pm please do contact your child's year leader.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Foley', written in a cursive style.

Mr C Foley
Headteacher
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