

St Monica's R.C. High School

BURY OLD ROAD, PRESTWICH, MANCHESTER M25 1JH

Tel: 0161 773 6436

Fax: 0161 773 7155

Finance Dept: 0161 798 0186

PE Dept: 0161 798 8206

Email: stmonicas@bury.gov.uk

Web: www.stmonicas.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr C Foley MA Hons (STA) PGCE



February 14th 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to you as we come to the end of our third half term of the year. I would first of all like to express my thanks to so many of you who continue to be great supporters of our school and our ongoing drive for improvement.

We continue to see the impact of our work together. We have been so very proud of our Year 11 and Year 10 pupils in the final week of this term as they undertook a number of mock examinations. Senior Leaders and I have met individually with almost all pupils in Years 9, 10 and 11, and we have been able to let so many pupils know how proud we are of their attitude and work ethic. I am grateful for all your support as we work together to instil strong and positive attitudes into our pupils. May I again remind parents of the need for strong attendance and punctuality to school. Research does suggest that success in examinations in Year 11 is closely linked to high attendance during the course of years 7 to 11. I am sure you will not be offended if we look to support your child's attendance.

You will be aware that we have introduced a more focussed PSHE curriculum into our registration period. Thus far this has been a success. After the half term sessions will be delivered around the use of and impact of derogatory language, and we will begin to explore the impacts of gang culture and knife crime.

One focus in half term four remains ensuring our oldest pupils are as well prepared as they can be for their final GCSE examinations. A number of staff will be in school over the half term to offer some additional revision sessions. It is also important that Year 11 pupils do get some rest. We will also continue to focus on the conduct of our pupils around the school. We are delighted with the improvements we have seen in this area, but as will always be the case, good will never be good enough. We will continue to challenge where necessary.

Thank you to the parents who took the time to attend the meeting on Monday regarding the proposed change to the finish time of the school day from September. I was able to share the proposed school day structure, and there is no intention to reduce the length of the lunch break. Once the responses from parents have been shared with the Executive Board we will be in a position to confirm this change.

On Wednesday February 26th we will be joined by Monsignor Allen for the distribution of Ashes, and all pupils will be given the opportunity to receive them. It is essential that we continue to develop the Catholic mission of our school and our young people. There will a number of activities that will take place during lent to support those less fortunate than ourselves.

Last week the 2019 School Performance Tables were published. Our 2019 Progress 8 score is positive, and this further supports the evidence of improvement found by the OFSTED Inspection team in December. I have attached the link below just for your information.

<https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/school/105366/st-monica's-rc-high-school/secondary>

We will return to school on Monday February 24th. Please have a safe and relaxing half term break.

Yours faithfully

Mr C Foley
Headteacher

@HT_StMonicas #onthebus