

2 September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers

I am hoping that you have all had an enjoyable summer break with your children and that they have now readjusted back into the routine of school life.

At the start of this new term I would just like to inform you of some developments over the summer. Firstly, we were delighted with our Sixth Form exam results. Once again students celebrated achieving over 70% of all grades at A*-C for their A Level studies. Our A Level students performed above national average and many of our students have now left us to go on to university at places such as Liverpool, John Moores and Hope Universities, and the Royal Veterinary College, London, to name but a few, as well as on to employment and apprenticeships.

Later in August we received our GCSE results and once again there were some fantastic achievements by the students. Of particular note, the results in English Literature showed that 92% of students achieved A*-C and 37% of students achieved A*A grades. The reason I highlighted this achievement in particular is that it clearly demonstrates the relentless focus that St Julie's places on developing the necessary skills of literacy and numeracy to prepare our students for life outside of school, in the workplace, and beyond. We are delighted with the success of all our students, many of whom have enrolled in our Sixth Form to continue their studies.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for the support that you give to the school as we work together to achieve the best for your daughters. At this time I would like to once again ask parents and carers to continue to support us with the basics that help staff in school get the best out of your daughter. These include the following:

- **Uniform** – please ensure your daughter's uniform adheres to the school policy with no make-up/nail varnish/hair colouring/jewellery/non-uniform bags, etc. Please see the enclosed information about school uniform.
- **Equipment for lessons** – please ensure that your daughter brings all relevant equipment and books for lessons including PE kit.
- **Mobile phones** - please remind your daughter that mobile phones are not permitted to be switched on or used for any purpose in school. Please ensure your daughter understands that her phone will be confiscated if it is seen. If your daughter needs to contact home during the school day please remind her to go to the Administrative Co-ordinator for her Key Stage or the main school office, where she will be allowed to use the phone or a member of staff will contact home on her behalf.
- **Punctuality** – please ensure your daughter arrives in school between 8.00 am and 8.45 am each day to ensure that she is punctual for registration. The registration of all students is a legal requirement.
- **Homework** – please continue to check your daughter's Homework diary and let us know if you have any concerns about her work via the diary, email or phone call to subject teachers.
- **Learning Resource Centre (LRC)** – please remind your daughter that the LRC is open from 8.00 am to 8.30 am and 3.15 pm to 4.30 pm Monday to Friday, for the use of computers and for printing.
- **Attendance** - As of 1st September 2015 the Government has changed the threshold for student attendance and any student whose attendance drops below 90% will be classed as "persistently absent" (PA). This can result in Court action leading to fines for parents and carers. The school is required to co-operate with the Local Authority (LA) in providing this

information to the Education Welfare office. As such, we have raised our minimum expected attendance to 96%. We will offer support, advice and guidance, to families whose children's attendance falls below this threshold of 96%.

- **Safeguarding** – As part of our safeguarding procedures can I remind parents/carers to phone school by 9.00 am if your daughter is going to be absent for whatever reason on that day. A phone call by 9.00 am must also be made for each day of her absence. A phone call from you will avoid you receiving a "Parent Pay" text message from our Attendance Team.

Over the summer holiday we have displayed new posters on each form class notice board which provide information for students on a variety of issues, which include the following:

- St Julie's Merit and Commendation system which leads to rewards at the end of a term and at the end of a school year.
- Expected standards of behaviour in class.
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Calendar which details the topics that will be delivered to students throughout the year.
- Catholic Life of the school and how students contribute to and benefit from their Catholic education and the activities that they can participate in are also clearly shown.
- British Values poster provides information about our democratic system, the rule of law, and our responsibilities living in a multi-cultural society.
- "Keeping Children Safe" poster highlights to our students the relevant information about what they should do if they are at all concerned about their own welfare, the welfare of others, or if they just need help or advice. There are contact details for outside agencies as well as the names of all the relevant staff in school who are there to help your daughters.
- "Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural" (SMSC) poster which explains to our students how we are promoting their SMSC development. This aspect of our work shows how we develop not just academically successful students but also well-rounded citizens.
- School Mission Statement, which summarises what we aim to achieve as a Catholic learning community.

A copy of each of the above posters is available in the 'Parents' section of our website.

New build developments - in this academic year the new school for St Julie's will start to be built at Christmas. However, I can assure you that there are many plans in place to ensure that our students' educational provision will not be affected. For example, PE will benefit from a range of activities off-site at Wavertree Athletics and Tennis Centre, as well as Swimming Centres in South Liverpool. As we approach the start of the building process I will keep you updated with the plans that we have in place to ensure that students continue to receive an excellent well-rounded education.

Contacting school - Please do always contact us if you have any concerns or worries. A list of email addresses for all Curriculum Leaders and Progress Leaders is available on the school website as well as other contact details, or you may wish to contact school via the feedback form on the website or you may wish to phone school to make an appointment to meet with a member of staff. Whatever the issue, please be assured that we are here to listen and to help.

Yours faithfully



Mr T Alderman
Headteacher

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