

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,

### **Re: End of Term Letter**

As we approach the end of a very busy term, I would like to express my sincere thanks to parents and carers for your continued support. Our strong partnership has led to improved attendance across every year group, and current attainment progress has demonstrated a significant increase in Years 11 and 13 across all qualifications. We have many exciting programmes and activities to look forward to over the summer term, and I would also like to reflect on the events that have taken place during the spring term.

### **Celebrating 174 Years of Notre Dame Education in Liverpool**

This year marks 174 years of Notre Dame education in Liverpool— a proud milestone for our community. On Friday, 28th March (Foundation Day), we welcomed former Headteachers Sr. Mary O'Brien (Sr. Kevin) and Tim Alderman, alongside our Chair of Governors, Brigid Smith, and other representatives from the Sisters of Notre Dame. This special occasion included the presentation of an honours board to Sr. Mary O'Brien in recognition of her many years of Catholic leadership and service. To celebrate, all students and staff received a Notre Dame cupcake!

### **Leading Parent Partnership Award**

During the spring term, we secured a national award with a three-year accreditation. This achievement involved over eighteen months of gathering evidence, followed by a rigorous six-hour external assessment that included staff, students, governors, and parents. The Leading Parent Partnership Award highlights the importance of communication and collaboration with all key stakeholders to ensure that students feel happy, safe, secure, and fulfilled as they progress through their educational journey at St. Julie's Catholic High School.

### **National Careers Week**

During National Careers Week, our students engaged in various workshops and seminars, broadening their understanding of potential career paths. This initiative has been instrumental in inspiring students to dream big and plan for their futures. We hosted representatives from health, law, finance, engineering, and business sectors. The workshops featured question-and-answer panel sessions with industry professionals, providing valuable insights.

### **Raising Awareness for Child Exploitation Week**

We participated in Child Exploitation Week to raise awareness and educate students on this critical issue. Our sessions focused on safeguarding and empowering students to speak up and protect themselves and others. PC Patterson, our Safer Schools Police Officer, delivered assemblies to each year group throughout the week. This important topic was also embedded within our PSHE curriculum.

### **Developing STEM Projects**

We are thrilled to announce the development of new STEM projects across the school. These initiatives aim to ignite a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,

preparing students for the future. Students participated in the Medical Mavericks programme and a virtual reality experience that allowed them to explore how the human body works.

### **Sustainability Initiatives – Urban Farm Project**

In collaboration with an urban farm organisation, we are raising awareness of sustainability. Our students are actively involved in projects that emphasise the importance of sustainable practices. This initiative will encourage students to grow their own food and develop areas across the school that promote environmental sustainability.

### **Mentor Violence Prevention Programme**

Our Mentor Violence Prevention Programme continues to make a positive impact. Through this initiative, students develop essential skills to prevent and address violence. Year 10 students actively participated in the programme and delivered a drama performance, 'Wrong Place, Wrong Time', at St. George's Hall. The event, attended by schools from across the northwest, was also presented to all year groups at school.

### **Student Voice and Feedback**

We have received very positive feedback from students regarding learning, teaching, assessment, behaviour, and safeguarding. Their voices are invaluable in shaping the direction of our school, and we remain committed to incorporating their feedback into our practices. Over 650 students responded to the survey, sharing positive insights into their experiences at St. Julie's.

- 95% of students agreed that the level of challenge in class supported academic rigour.
- 94% of students agreed that staff support their learning in class.
- 98% of students agreed that they receive the right amount of homework.
- 60% of students take part in extra-curricular or enrichment activities.
- 90% of students feel a sense of belonging at St. Julie's Catholic High School.

In response to the survey, we will continue to enhance high-quality written feedback in books and further develop the application of knowledge to ensure that students can access complex topics and support their long-term memory.

### **Summer Term 2025**

During the summer term, Year 11 and 13 students will begin their public examinations. Revision sessions will take place throughout the Easter break and during the exam season, with masterclasses scheduled prior to each examination.

Trips to Valencia, New York, and the Lake District will take place in June and July. Please refer to the school calendar in the My Child At School app for details on upcoming events, including parents' evenings and the Year 8 Options Evening. Additionally, please continue to check our weekly newsletter, where we celebrate individual achievements.

On Wednesday, 2nd April, we welcomed over 400 families to recognise the individual achievements of students selected for Notre Dame Awards. Congratulations to all students who received a nomination.

To conclude the term, we gathered for a whole-school Easter Service on Friday, 4th April, with over 1,000 students and staff in attendance in the sports hall. This memorable occasion was a wonderful way to end a busy and productive term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our school community. We look forward to another successful term ahead.

Warm regards,

**Kate McCourt**

Headteacher

St Julie's Catholic High School