

Dear Parents

19 July 2011

### General Letter No 37

This is the last weekly letter of this academic year. As you are aware, I have been in post for just one term and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the whole community for making me so welcome. The parents, students and staff have all been supportive, and there is a real sense of optimism about the future. I say this even though many areas of the public sector are struggling with budgets and changes to the way that we work. St. Mary's is well placed to face these challenges and go from strength to strength in the coming years.

Over the Summer we are making some changes to the building. Some changes will be visible such as new IT areas, and others will not be visible, for example new boilers and power supply to the school. All of the above work is essential and will mean that the school facilities will continue to improve.

I would like to wish everyone a restful Summer break, and look forward to the new academic year at St. Mary's.

### Results

A2 Results will be issued to Year 13 students at 10.00 am on Thursday 18 August.

AS Results will be issued at 12 noon on Thursday 18 August.

Students will receive their GCSE Results on Thursday 25 August at 10.00 am.

Results will be issued to Year 10 students in school on Thursday, 8 September.

### Staffing

At the end of term we say farewell to a number of colleagues. We are particularly grateful for the contribution made over a number of years of our long serving members of staff who are leaving St. Mary's.

Miss Alacoque Marvin, who is leaving after 14 years, most recently in the role of Head of Faculty of Creative and Performing Arts: we wish her every success in her new career.

Mrs Shirley Powell, who has committed 13 years to the role of Teaching Assistant at St. Mary's. We wish her well in her retirement.

Other staff leaving St. Mary's this summer are:- Miss Amanda Twigg, Mrs Catriona Simms, Miss Rachel Carroll, Mr Duncan Roberts, Miss Emma Atkinson, Miss Laura Tweddle, Mr Nicholas Coombs, Mr Aaron Hefferin, Mrs Rachel Parker, Mr Chris Finch, Miss Rachel Webster, Miss Rebecca Hinkler, and Mr Grant Woodfine. All these staff leave with our very best wishes and thanks for the contribution they have made to the school.

### Reports

End of year reports are issued to Years 7, 8 and 9 this afternoon. Please take time to discuss the reports with your son/daughter during the holiday period.

### Pastoral Letters

Pastoral letters from the Student Progress Leaders are enclosed with this letter. These letters include important information relevant to your child's particular year group.

### **Awards Assemblies**

It was a great pleasure to celebrate the many achievements and acknowledge the great progress being made by students in Years 7 and 9 in the recent Awards Assemblies.

### **International Water Week/Starving Millions in Horn of Africa**

Fund-raising efforts during last week's International Week have raised £486.00 so far. Year 12 students will visit forms during registration periods before the end of term to collect any cash donations from the pupils who are encouraged to bring some of their pocket money to give to this worthwhile cause. All monies will be sent to CAFOD at the end of term.

### **Lockers**

All pupils have been reminded several times to make sure they empty their lockers and remove the padlock to keep for use next September. All lockers will be completely emptied over the summer holiday and are re-allocated next year. Please make sure that your child has emptied his/her locker before the end of this term.

### **Lost Property**

Pupils are asked to check lost property for any missing items. Any lost property not claimed by the end of term will be donated to charity. The Lost Property Room will be open at break time on Thursday. Please take this opportunity to ask your child to look for missing items.

### **Text Book Return**

Please can all students return any text books, or equipment, for subjects which are completed, which belong to St. Mary's School to Pupil Reception before the end of term.

### **St. Mary's Dinner Card Daily Limit**

Due to the increasing cost of food and services the price of meals, snacks and drinks has steadily continued to rise. This has meant that the current daily limit of £4.00 for each student is not always sufficient and therefore this will increase to £4.50 from September 2011. However if you wish to set an individual daily limit, please contact the Catering Manager, in writing or by email [toppsr01@leedslearning.net](mailto:toppsr01@leedslearning.net)

### **Leave of Absence**

A reminder to all parents that in line with the North West Area Inclusion Partnership, no leave of absence will be authorised during the month of September. For any leave of Absence during term time, a request must be made by completing the appropriate form, which is available on the website.

<http://www.stmarysmenston.com/schoolpolicies.html>

### **School Calendar Academic Year 2011 to 2012**

For your information, holiday dates for the year are given below.

<b>Holiday</b>	<b>School Closes</b>	<b>School Opens</b>
Summer		Mon 5 Sept 2011
Aut mid	Fri 21 Oct 2011	Mon 31 Oct 2011
Christmas	Fri 16 Dec 2011	Tues 3 Jan 2012
Spring mid	Fri 10 Feb 2012	Mon 20 Feb 2012
Easter	Fri 30 Mar 2012	Mon 16 April 2012
May Bank	Fri 4 May 2012	Tues 8 May 2012
Summer mid	Fri 1 June 2012	Mon 11 June 2012
Summer	Mon 23 July 2012	

In addition, school will be closed to pupils on the following Training Days: Monday 5 September 2011, Tuesday 6 September 2011, Friday 21 October 2011, Friday 10 February 2012, and Monday 23 July 2012.

### **Visits/Activities**

- Year 10 students returned to school following their two weeks on work experience. They completed an evaluation of their work experience yesterday and today they participate in enterprise activities, including a "Dragon's Den".

- Year 12 students participate in a Biology residential course at The Drapers' Field Studies Centre, Conwy, North Wales from Monday to Wednesday this week. This field trip will be extremely valuable in preparing students for their Module 4 and Module 5 A2 examinations.

### **Young People's Guide to summer Activities 2011**

Students in Years 7 and 8 have been issued with a guide to Summer Activities in the North West Leeds area.

### **End of Term and Starting Dates**

School closes for the summer holidays on Thursday, 21 July when pupils will be allowed to leave school early at 1.00pm. All pupils are required to attend on this day as it is a statutory day in the school calendar with lessons taking place as normal during the morning. Parents of those students who are entitled to a free meal should order through Miss Topps, Catering Manager.

There will be a staggered start to the new term in September. Monday, 5 September and Tuesday, 6 September are Training Days and school will be closed to pupils. Years 7, 9 and 12 will start school on Wednesday, 7 September. School will be open for all year groups on Thursday, 8 September.

Yours sincerely



**R Pritchard**  
Headteacher