



March 2025

Dear Families,

I am writing as ever at the end of term to review the term we have just worked through and think ahead to the coming term. Moving through this term is always rewarding as we see lighter days and students growing into their studies with a focus for our older students on exams. From the catholic school perspective we are also well on with our Lenten journey. It has been interesting talking to children and staff this week about what they have given up for lent and how they are looking forward to enjoying some of their favourite treats again after the period of sacrifice. This has reminded me that this is a time not only of reflection and sacrifice, but also of hope and looking forward to new beginnings. Lent gives us an opportunity to pause, to look inward, and to consider how we might grow closer to God and to one another.

The children this week have engaged with the parable Prodigal Son. In it, we see a son who loses his way and feels unworthy of returning home. Yet the father runs to meet him with open arms, not with judgement, but with joy. It is a moving example of God's boundless mercy and a call to us all to extend that same grace to others and to ourselves. At St Mary's, our vision *"Work Together, Succeed Together"* resonates deeply with the message of this parable. It reminds us that no one succeeds alone. We are part of a wider community, built on trust, compassion, and mutual support. Whether we are students, staff, or families, we are called to lift each other up, to walk alongside those who may be struggling, and to celebrate each step of progress together.

This Lent, I hope you find the courage to return to what matters most and reconnect with our values, with our faith, and with one another. I look forward to returning after the Easter Break and continue to build a school community where everyone feels they belong, and where, together, we can succeed.

Parish Easter Mass Times

All of our families are warmly invited to celebrate Easter at our local parishes. For full details of Mass times please see below:

- [Holy Apostles and Martyrs Parish](#) – Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass at 8:30pm & Easter Sunday Masses at 9:30am and Family Mass at 11:00am
- [Our Lady's & St Edwards and St Paul's](#) - Easter Saturday at 8.30pm (OLSE) & Easter Sunday 9.30am (SP) and 11.00am (OLSE)
- [St Alban's and St Joseph's Parish](#) – [View Mass times here](#)
 - Holy Saturday Mass at St Joseph's Wallasey at 12.00pm & 5.00pm at St Albans
 - Easter Sunday Mass at St Alban's at 9:30am and St Joseph's at 11:00am

If you are new to the area or haven't yet visited one of our parish churches, you would be most welcome to join in this special celebration of Easter

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Key Stage BSc and QTS



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Newsletter

It has been another exciting term at St Mary's, with students involved in a wide range of extracurricular activities. Just in the past week alone, I've seen our Year 11 dancers complete their final dance exam, our Performing Arts students take to the stage at the Empire Theatre, and our Year 8 pupils take part in a mock trial. Students enjoying their rewards and experiences day today, our sixth form students completed first aid training, and I had the privilege of spending time with the entire Year 11 cohort during their rewards assembly to congratulate them on an excellent mock exam series. We take great pride in the experiences we offer beyond the taught curriculum. Our clubs, societies, and wider enrichment opportunities continue to be highly valued by students, consistently receiving positive feedback in student voice activities.

For a full overview of this term's highlights, including upcoming dates for next term please find a link to our Spring Term Newsletter [here](#)

Attendance

Since I last wrote to you at Easter, we have seen some encouraging improvements in whole school attendance. However, these are only the green shoots of progress rather than a level of attendance we can truly be proud of. Attendance remains a key area of focus at St Mary's, both for us internally and for our external partners, including Ofsted.

We are working hard to improve this and are beginning to see some marginal gains. However, we need your continued support. Every day missed is a lost opportunity for your child to learn, grow, and secure the outcomes they deserve. We're also noticing significant variation in attendance during a typical week. For example, last week there was a 5% drop in attendance on Friday compared to Tuesday. In the lower school alone, this meant around 50 fewer students were in school on Friday than on other days. The impact of this on learning is considerable, and we must work together to reduce these variances. If you would like to speak to someone about attendance support, please don't hesitate to contact our Attendance Team.

Canteen update

Following feedback from pupils and ongoing discussions with our trust catering provider, Innovate, lunch menus have been reviewed and updated - these are attached for your information.

Where pupils have outstanding balances, we will continue to serve food up to the value of £2.58. However, as drinking water is freely available in the canteen, bottled drinks and cartons will not be sold to any pupils with outstanding balances until the balances are settled.

If you have any questions about how to top up your child's ParentPay account please email schooloffice@stmaryswallasey.com

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Examinations

After the Easter break, we move into the final phase of preparation for the summer examinations. I'd like to take this opportunity to commend our Year 11 and Year 13 students for their excellent attitude and focus during their most recent mock exams. They have shown real maturity and commitment.

When we return after Easter, there will be just 14 school days until the first exam. The coming weeks are crucial, and the hard work, determination, and focus our students show now will make a real difference. Mr Loon has written separately this week to parents of year 11 students with more information on this.

Uniform and Equipment

We continue to be proud of how smart our pupils look in their uniform, and we thank you for your continued support with this. A reminder that pupils must bring the correct equipment every day. This includes a St Mary's bag, black/blue pens, pencils, ruler, rubber, sharpener, protractor, compass, colouring pencils, and a scientific calculator. We will provide pupils with uniform items that they fail to bring with them. Pupils should also bring a refillable water bottle. Fizzy and energy drinks are not permitted on site.

Staffing Updates

At the end of this term, we say farewell to Mr Crawford in Science who is moving on to new opportunities and Mrs McEntee who retires as our Science technician. I must also thank Mrs Lam Snr, who returned earlier this term to support our attendance strategy. We thank them for their service to the St Mary's community and wish them every success in the future.

We're pleased to be welcoming Mrs Harris, who will be joining us as Lead Practitioner in Science and Mr Lee who will be joining us as the Senior Science Technician after the Easter break.

Easter Break Information

The college will close for the Easter break at 3:05pm on Friday 4th April.

We will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 22nd April at 8:35am. The canteen will be open from 8:00am for pupils to access a free breakfast.

I hope you have a wonderful break and I hope you have a peace filled and joyful Easter.

Mr Maddocks
Headteacher

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Headteacher: Mr. K Maddocks *BSc and QTS*



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