



24<sup>th</sup> April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week during our Celebration of the Word, we reflected on Psalm 23:4:

“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.”

This verse reminds us that challenges are a natural part of every journey, but that we do not face them alone. This message is especially relevant as we approach the upcoming assessment period, a time that can feel demanding for many of our pupils.

Assessments often bring pressure and uncertainty. However, with consistent attendance, positive behaviour, and the right support from both home and school, our children are far better equipped to persevere and succeed. Regular attendance ensures that pupils do not miss vital learning opportunities, while positive behaviour creates a calm and focused environment in which everyone can do their best.

In school, we are encouraging pupils to see this period not as something to fear, but as an opportunity to show resilience, responsibility, and growth. This aligns closely with a quote by Jim Rohn, which we have also shared with pupils:

“Your life does not get better by chance; it gets better by change.”

Improvement does not happen accidentally. It comes through commitment, effort, and making positive choices - whether that is attending school every day, engaging positively in lessons, or demonstrating respect and self-discipline in behaviour.

I would also like to make you aware that on **Friday 1st May**, we will be holding our Year 11 Leavers' Mass. This is a significant and reflective occasion as our Year 11 pupils prepare to move into the examination season. On this morning, staff will be attending the Mass with Year 11, and therefore students in Years 7 - 10 should not come into school until break time. Normal lessons will resume for Years 7 - 10 from break onwards. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support with this adjusted start.

We are very grateful for the strong partnership we share with you as parents and carers. Your encouragement at home is invaluable in helping our pupils face challenges with confidence and determination. Together, we can continue to support them academically, emotionally, and spiritually during this important time.

### **Cartias St Joseph's Penny:**

We are delighted to announce that as a school community we raised £703.00 for Cartias St Joseph's Penny. Thank you for your generosity.

### **GL Assessments:**

Next term, Key Stage 3 students will complete Progress Tests in Maths, English and **Science - Year 9 only**. These are formal assessments created by GL Assessment, and they will be marked externally. They are used in secondary schools across the Trust. These are not tests that can be specifically revised for. However, they will give the school and the Trust valuable information regarding the progress of students in these key subject areas.

In Years 7 and 8, students will complete the tests in lessons (**Maths and English**). This will happen between Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. The timetable will be as follows:

### YEAR 7 GL ASSESSMENTS

	MONDAY A 27th April	TUESDAY A 28th April	WEDNESDAY A 29th April	THURSDAY A 30th April
L1	7A/ Ma2 MM		7B/ Ma1 MM 7B/En3 REL	7B/ Ma2 GL
L2	7B/ Ma3 GL	7A/ En3 JD	7A/ Ma3 MM	7A/ Ma2 GL 7A/En4 REL
L3			7b/En2 SS	7A/En2 KHS
L4			7A/ Ma1 MM 7B/ Ma2 MM	7B/En1 KHS
L5	7B/ Ma1 GL		7A/ Ma4 MM 7B/ Ma3 MM	7A/ Ma1 GL 7A/ Ma3 GL 7A/ Ma4 GL

### YEAR 8 GL ASSESSMENTS

	MONDAY A 27th April	TUESDAY A 28th April	WEDNESDAY A 29th April	THURSDAY A 30th April
L1	8B/En1 SS		8B/ Ma1 MM 8B/ Ma3 MM 8a/En4 SS	8A/En1 REL 8A/En3 KHS
L2		8A/En2 CKE 8B/En2 MW	8A/ Ma1 MM 8A/ Ma2 MM 8A/ Ma3 MM	
L3	8A/ Ma4 GL 7a/En1 MW		8B/ Ma4 MM	
L4	8B/ Ma1 GL 8B/ Ma2 GL 8B/ Ma3 GL 8B/ Ma4 GL	8A/ Ma2 GL 8b3 /En3 VK	8B/ Ma2 MM 8B/ Ma4 MM	
L5	8A/ Ma1 GL 8A/ Ma3 GL 8b/En4 SS			

**In Year 9**, the tests (**Maths, English and Science**) will be done under exam conditions in the Hall. This will give students valuable experience of this environment before they begin their externally assessed Key Stage 4 courses. The students will complete the tests in half year groups. The timetable for the Year 9 tests will be as follows:

<b>Monday 27/4</b>	<b>Tuesday 28/4</b>	<b>Wednesday 29/4</b>	<b>Thursday 30/4</b>
Reg, L1&2 <b>9B Maths</b>	Reg, L1&2 <b>9A English</b>	Reg, L1&2 <b>9A Maths</b>	Reg, L1&2 <b>9B English</b>
L3&4 <b>9A Science</b>		L3&4 <b>9B Science</b>	

### **Year 7 Parent’s Evening**

Year 7 Parent’s evening will be held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 3:45 – 6:45 pm. An e-mail has been sent to all parents/carers with information on how to book your appointments.

### **Blackpool Trip**

The criteria for the annual rewards trip to Blackpoll will begin on Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April and finish on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June.

This is 33 school days.

Any student who wishes to attend the rewards trip must have 95% and above attendance between these dates, more mission points than sanctions and no suspensions. Having 2 days absence between 27/04/26 and 18/06/26 would mean attendance is 94%, therefore be mindful of absences as more than 1 day off between 27/04/26 and 18/06/26 may jeopardise your chance of attending the trip.

Heads of Year reserve to right to make decisions about the trip outside of this criteria. Further information will be sent at later date.

### **Uniform**

Thank you for continuing to uphold our uniform standards as the weather becomes warmer. To keep you updated the school is meeting with school uniform suppliers on Mon 27<sup>th</sup> April to begin to finalise any changes that may take place. We will keep you updated. Until then, please may I gently remind you tights are still expected to be worn with pinafores. If school feel that this needs adapting, we will notify you and inform you. Until then let’s keep our standards high.

Another gentle reminder that caps, hats and hoodies are not part of the school uniform. These will be addressed in the same way as mobile phones/technology. Students will be asked to hand the cap/hat/hoodie into the staff member. No sanction will be given, and the student can collect it from the school office at the end of the day. If a student refuses to hand in the item, then staff will follow the procedure of issuing a Red Card and the student will be placed in the Reflections Room, the school’s isolation.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Braithwaite  
Headteacher