



# ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Principal: Mr. D. McKenna B.Soc.Sc. MA. PGCE. NPQH.

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I3A/YI | Leavers Letter/KVM/LB

27<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

## Arrangements for the end of the academic year for Year 11 students

In what has been a highly challenging twelve months, we have now reached the point in the academic year where I am writing with information about Year 11 transitioning from St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy.

Given the challenges with COVID-19 and lockdowns over the last year, we are incredibly impressed with the way the Year 11's have shown resilience, determination and motivation to do their best and make the most of this academic year. This brilliant dedication to make the best out of a very disrupted year is testimony to them all as young adults.

**If your child borrowed a laptop from the school during any lockdown or other device such as a Wi-Fi router, please could you ensure that all devices are returned to school by FRIDAY 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 at the very latest.**

Year 11 will finish their continuous assessments on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May**. For the remainder of that week, we will be providing a broad and creative curriculum to start the process of preparing the students for their next steps and we are currently finalising these arrangements.

We intend to hold a Year Group assembly on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, taking into account as much social distancing as we can and also having more than adequate ventilation spaces when we are inside the school buildings. Because we want to have the Year Group together, we would like to say goodbye to Year 11 in the traditional way and in order to facilitate this, we would request that students perform a COVID-19 lateral flow test on the **evening of Thursday 27<sup>th</sup>/morning of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May**. This will allow us to gather together safely and in a COVID-19 secure way on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May.

We will be celebrating their time with us with a 'Leavers' Morning', beginning at 8.40 am in the Science courtyard. We will be reflecting and reminiscing about their time with us with both a liturgy and an assembly, a buffet lunch will also be provided.

We are asking that all Year 11 students should attend 'dressed to impress' in smart clothes (for example a suit and tie for boys and a smart, appropriate dress for girls) and go directly to the Year 11 zone on arrival as usual.

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**If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.**



Throughout the morning, students will be involved in four main activities:

- a) Time with their Form Tutor.
- b) A formal leavers' liturgy.
- c) A leavers' assembly.
- d) A buffet lunch and dismissal from the school.

At the end of the leavers' assembly, there will be some time for students to sign a school shirt. We must stress that our clear expectation for this is that students must bring in their own spare shirt in order to do this. Students must not and should not ask anyone to sign any item of clothing that they are wearing. Needless to say, we expect exemplary behaviour at all times from every student on this very special day. Where there is any issue connected to poor behaviour, we will simply phone you and ask for you to come and collect your son/daughter and they will take no further part in the day.

The school day for Year 11 students will end from 12.30pm and students will have the opportunity to say goodbye to friends and school staff. All Year 11 students will be expected to be off site by 12.55 pm at the latest. If you do not wish for your child to be dismissed from 12.30pm onwards on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May, please contact me and I will arrange for them to be supervised until the end of the school day.

In terms of hoodies, we are still waiting for the order to be fulfilled and delivered at this time and we will communicate with the students directly when they will be available. In addition, we would appreciate it if you could ensure that your son/daughter's canteen account is settled by the Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

For those students joining us at the Trinity Sixth form, we will be holding a transition fortnight, which will start on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June which will run for two weeks, during this time the students will gain experience of sixth form life, they will be treated as Post 16 students in terms of their school day and dress code. They will **not** be allowed, however, to leave the school site during the day. They will have lessons in their Post 16 subjects where they will complete work that they will build on at the start of Year 12. There will also be sessions in study skills, General RE, other Post 16 courses and virtual university open days. Students will be given transition work to complete over the summer to ensure that they get off to the best start in September. This work will be assessed at the start of Year 12. Mrs Rhodes (Head of Sixth Form) is organising this schedule and timetable; this will be made available in due course.

For those students who will be continuing their education elsewhere in September, it is important to note that we have a statutory responsibility to continue educational opportunities until Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Therefore, each subject area will be setting the students enrichment activities via MS Teams where there will be a variety of online activities set for them to engage in starting from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

If you have any queries or questions about any aspect of the final few weeks in school for Year 11, please do get in touch with your child's form tutor or myself. I would like to take the opportunity, on behalf of the whole staff at St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, to thank you for your support over the past five years. We feel extremely proud of our Year 11 students and wish them all the success in the future.

Yours faithfully



Mrs K van der Mijl  
Head of Year 11

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