



All Saints Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr A. McGuinness

25th August 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a peaceful, restful and enjoyable summer break.

As we approach the beginning of a new academic year, I wanted to write to you one final time. Although I officially retired as Headteacher of All Saints Catholic High School at the end of the last academic year, it felt important to share one last significant moment in the life of our school – celebrating the achievements of our young people this summer and wishing everyone well as All Saints prepares to begin a new chapter.

Examination Results

Over the past two weeks, our Year 13 and Year 11 pupils have received their examination results, and once again there have been many individual success stories to celebrate.

I would like to offer my heartfelt congratulations to all of our pupils on their achievements. Examination results are, of course, important, but behind every grade is a young person who has worked hard, overcome challenges and been supported by dedicated teachers, parents and carers.

For our Year 13 students, these results mark the end of their time at All Saints and the beginning of exciting new journeys. Many will now progress to university, while others will begin apprenticeships, employment or other forms of further education and training. Whatever path they have chosen, I hope they leave All Saints with confidence, ambition and a strong sense of the values that have shaped them during their time with us.

Likewise, our Year 11 pupils should be extremely proud of all they have achieved. Many will continue their education in our Sixth Form, while others will progress to local colleges, apprenticeships and other opportunities. I wish every one of them happiness and success as they take that important next step.

I also want to acknowledge our staff, whose commitment to our pupils extends far beyond lessons and examinations. I have seen first-hand, over many years, the extraordinary amount of care, encouragement and additional time that colleagues give to helping young people succeed. To them, and to you as parents and carers for the support you provide at home, I offer my sincere thanks.

Roughwood Drive, Northwood, Kirkby, Merseyside L33 8XF
Main: 0151 477 8740 | Email: info@allsaintschs.org.uk | Website: www.allsaintschs.org.uk
Facebook: All Saints Catholic High School, Kirkby

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Arrangements for September

As communicated before the summer break, the arrangements for the beginning of the new academic year are as follows:

- **Tuesday 1st September** – Staff INSET Day
- **Wednesday 2nd September** – Staff INSET Day
- **Thursday 3rd September** – Phased return for pupils:
 - **Year 7:** 12.00 pm – 2.30 pm
 - **Year 8:** 12.30 pm – 2.30 pm
 - **Year 9:** 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
 - **Year 10:** 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm
 - **Year 11:** 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm
 - **Year 12:** 12.00 pm – 2.00 pm
 - **Year 13:** 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm

A Final Goodbye

For eleven years, being Headteacher of All Saints has been far more than a job to me. It has been an enormous privilege, a responsibility I have never taken for granted, and a very important part of my life.

As September approaches, I am very conscious that, for the first time in many years, I will not be standing at the school gates welcoming pupils back. I will not see our new Year 7 pupils arriving for the first time, some excited and others understandably nervous. I will not experience that familiar first morning when the corridors, classrooms and playgrounds come back to life after the summer holidays.

I know I will miss that enormously.

Schools are remarkable places because every September brings renewal: new pupils, new opportunities, new ambitions and new memories waiting to be made. For eleven years, I have had the privilege of sharing those moments with the All Saints community.

I leave with so many memories, but above all I leave with memories of people.

I will remember pupils finding confidence they did not know they possessed; young people achieving things they once thought were beyond them; families sharing moments of pride and celebration; and staff giving extraordinary amounts of their time and energy because they genuinely care about the children entrusted to us.

There have also been difficult days, because that is part of the life of any school and any community. During those times, I have witnessed tremendous compassion, resilience and faith. Those experiences have reminded me repeatedly that the true measure of a school is not simply

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Main: 0151 477 8740 | Email: info@allsaintschs.org.uk | Website: www.allsaintschs.org.uk | Twitter: @all_saints_chs

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what happens when things are going well, but how a community supports one another when things are difficult.

All Saints has always been a community with heart.

To the parents and carers who have trusted us with the education and care of their children, thank you. I have always understood the enormous responsibility contained within that trust. There can be few greater privileges than being given the opportunity to play a part in shaping the lives and futures of young people.

To our pupils, past and present, thank you for the laughter, the challenges, the conversations, the achievements and the countless moments of joy and pride you have given me. You are the reason schools exist, and you have made being Headteacher of All Saints the greatest privilege of my professional life.

And to the whole All Saints community, thank you for allowing me to be part of something so special.

As All Saints begins its next chapter, I would also like to extend my very best wishes to **Mr Cassidy as he takes up his role as Headteacher**. I hope that you will give him the same warmth, trust and support that you have so generously given to me. He takes on the leadership of a very special school, and I wish him, his staff and the whole All Saints community every success for the future.

So, rather than simply saying goodbye, perhaps it is better to say **thank you**.

Thank you for eleven extraordinary years. Thank you for your trust. Thank you for your support and kindness. And, most importantly, thank you for allowing me the privilege of being Headteacher of All Saints Catholic High School.

It has been an honour that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

I wish every pupil returning in September – particularly those beginning their All Saints journey in Year 7 – a happy and successful year. I wish our staff and families good health, happiness and every success for the future.

All Saints will always hold a very special place in my heart, and I will always be immensely proud to have served this wonderful school and the wider Kirkby community. .

Thank you, All Saints. It has been an absolute privilege. May God bless you all, and may God continue to bless All Saints Catholic High School in the years ahead. **With my warmest wishes and heartfelt thanks,**

Tony McGuinness

Retired Headteacher

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