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Dear parents/carers

Welcome to the first letter of the academic year. I trust that you and your child have had a great break and are looking forward to the new academic year with optimism and hope. This brief letter is to ensure that you are aware of some changes and events in September.

Great news to start the new academic year

On July 14th St Anne's Celebration Evening awarded our pupils for their work, effort and attendance. It was a great night, and I was so proud to be in attendance to watch many of our pupils be recognised. The St Anne's Way is to celebrate our successes, especially those of our pupils. After the evening I received an e-mail from a parent entitled '**Compliments for Celebration Eve on 14/07/22**'.

It thanked both the staff and the pupils stating "*St Anne's has some extremely talented children. The whole event was a real credit to the school*". It is always good for staff morale when we receive such up-lifting emails and makes us more determined to ensure that your children receive at least a good education. Can I thank the many parents who spoke so positively to me about the evening when they were leaving after the event. It is important that, as a school community, we focus on all the good things happening, whilst addressing the issues.

Parental Evenings

To ensure effective and ongoing communication with parents, this year we will be having 'extra' parents' evenings. These are in addition to the formal face-to-face parental meetings and will be specific to each year group. They will be an excellent opportunity to share pertinent information, ask any questions and meet key staff. I ask that you make every effort to attend these. As I have always said, working together is the best and most productive means to ensure a great education for your child. A reminder will be sent nearer the time including a brief overview of some of the 'topics' to be covered.

General updates

- ✓ *GCSE outcomes 2022*: I am pleased to report that pupil GCSE outcomes have improved in many key areas across the school. I will share more about the results in my September correspondence letter but as an example, the % of pupils who achieved passes in English and Maths has increased from 56% [In the last public examinations in 2019] to 68% in 2022. Suffice to say, I am proud of both the pupils and their teachers who worked hard to achieve their results.
- ✓ *Year 11 2022-23*: To ensure we continue to maximise pupils' achievement we are providing all Year 11 pupils with extra intervention classes Monday to Thursday each week starting immediately in September. Pupils are expected to attend, and I ask that parents support this new initiative so that your child achieves their full potential next Summer. From experience, pupils that

embrace focused intervention early achieve well. For avoidance of doubt, my staff and I want to ensure that we maximise all pupils' academic outcomes as these ensure that they are prepared for the next stage of their education.

- ✓ *House system:* In September our new House system will be launched. It is based on our school motto '**To know, love and serve God**'. Over the summer break you will have received details and in the first week in September, all pupils will be gifted a tie that represents their house. As far as possible, we have placed siblings in the same house in order to ease lines of communication for parents.

- ✓ *Headteacher surgery:* Following on from the extra parent evenings I will be holding the first Headteacher surgery of the year on **Tuesday 27th September**. On this day I will be available from **7am until 3pm** to meet parents on an individual basis. This will be a ten-minute meeting and will be an opportunity to raise any issue that you may have. I warmly welcome the opportunity to meet as many parents as possible on the day. To book an appointment please contact my PA, Mrs Bentley, on 0161 432 8162.

- ✓ *Staffing updates:* Following on from the Senior Leadership changes last year, the Governors and I have appointed an **extended senior leadership team**. This team is to strengthen leadership within the school and the focus is on key areas of the school. In the next few weeks a brief overview of who they are and their roles will be put on the website for your perusal. In my September newsletter I will give an update on the extended leadership team and all the new staff who will be starting the school in September.

- ✓ *Attendance:* Regular attendance at school is vital to ensure that your child achieves their potential, allows for personal development and ensures that they are safe. There is a definite correlation between **attendance and pupil progress**. I ask that parents support the school and ensure that pupils are punctual to school and attend regularly.

- ✓ *School meals:* We announced before the summer that we have absorbed the latest price increase for school meals rather than pass onto parents and carers. We have also moved to **online payments only via ParentPay** and cash collection machines in school will no longer be used. We only sell bottled water in school and would ask you to consider buying a clear, refillable water bottle that can be topped up at various times during the day. This will reduce costs to you over the year. All parents and carers that have not already signed up to ParentPay have been sent a letter in the post this week with log-in details.

- ✓ *Communications:* We ask all parents and carers to regularly monitor the progress of their child through using **Class Charts**. This keeps you informed of behaviour, detentions, attendance and homework in real time. This is also the system we use to send messages. We ask that all parents and carers sign up to Class Charts using the log in details provided.

Rules from September 2022

This is a reminder about the rules of St Anne's from September 2022. These rules, alongside our SACRED values, underpin how St Anne's is run on a daily basis. Rules are needed to ensure a calm, safe and purposeful learning environment. Importantly, these rules are *fair, transparent and will be consistently enforced*. These rules are as follows:

1. **Engage** in learning in lessons
2. Correct **uniform** which includes appropriate hair style and no jewellery/piercing

3. No phones out in school at any time: if **seen/heard** they will be confiscated
4. No **eating/drinking** on corridor or classrooms other than water
5. **Basic Kit:** every item, every lesson, every day
6. Be **punctual** to school and to lessons
7. **Underpinned by our SACRED values**

These rules will be clearly displayed around school and repeatedly referred to throughout the year, for example in assemblies. I ask that parents support the school in upholding these. Thanks in advance for your support.

NB. Parents will have to collect phones that are confiscated.

Finally...

I started with a positive parent e-mail and I will finish this brief letter with another positive email. This email was from Mrs Bowden, Headteacher of St Mary's RC Primary school and was a direct result of 2 of our Yr10 pupils who participated in a weeks' work experience at the primary school. The following is some extracts from the email.

"We have been pleased to welcome back two of your students and past pupils of St Mary's this week on work experience. They have been a credit to your school in their conduct and in their enthusiasm for the work they have done. I wanted to email as they deserve credit for their positive attitude towards the work they have done and engagement with the children they have worked with and it has been a pleasure welcoming them both back to St Mary's this week. I have told them they are welcome back at any point".

As Executive Headteacher it is always pleasing to hear about our great pupils.

I look forward to working with all stakeholders, pupils, parents, staff and governors this academic year to ensure that we build upon the successes of last year. As always, thanks for your support.

Mr Logue

Executive Headteacher