



# St. Julie's Catholic High School

Headteacher Mrs Kate McCourt, BSc.(Hons), NPQH

"We must have courage in the century we live in. Great souls are needed, souls having the interest of God at heart."

St. Julie Billiart



**July 2024**

Dear Parent/Carers,

As we approach the end of the academic year 2023-24, I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and carers for your continued support. Strong partnerships between home and school are vital to ensure that your daughter flourishes as she progresses to a new year group, moves on to university, or enters the world of work. Each day, we encourage all students to demonstrate the Notre Dame values of our foundress, Julie Billiart. Through the key principles of love, hope, joy, justice, faith, and truth, this is how we encourage all students to live their lives.

This has been an exceptionally busy but productive year with much to celebrate. From sporting excellence to academic achievements, we have so much to be grateful for. Our weekly newsletters are packed full of students' accomplishments over the last twelve months. This includes work with external projects to tackle violence against women, debating societies, top-level sporting achievements, numerous school trips, adventures abroad, and academic excellence as students progress to higher education at Russell Group universities.

As we move into the new academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who are moving to new schools, promoted posts, or retiring. Miss Davies (Teacher of Psychology), Miss Frear (Teacher of RE), Mrs. Wilson (Teacher of Mathematics), and Mrs. Mason (Teacher of RE) are among those leaving. We wish them the very best of luck in their next steps and new adventures. Mr. Willis (Deputy Headteacher) also leaves after 19 years of service to the school. He has led with great courage, determination, and tenacity during his time at St. Julie's. His dedication to families, staff, and students reflects the outstanding Catholic leader he is, and I know he will continue to excel in his new school.

From September 2024, we will welcome Miss Burke (Teacher of Mathematics), Mrs. Walker (Curriculum Leader of English), Mr. Aspinall (Teacher of Spanish), Miss Brown (Teacher of RE), Miss Badenhop (Teacher of RE), and Miss Wallis (Teacher of RE). Dr McGinn will step up to the position of Deputy Headteacher (acting) and Mrs Gee to Assistant Headteacher (acting).

Students will finish school at 1.15 pm on Thursday 18th July. Summer bridging work will be set for students to complete over the summer holidays. A full copy of the academic calendar for 2024-25 can be accessed via the school website [www.stjulies.org.uk](http://www.stjulies.org.uk) or the MCAS (My Child At School) app.

A Level results day will take place on Thursday, 15th August, followed by GCSE results day on Thursday, 22nd August. A separate letter has been posted home regarding the plans for both days.

All students will return to St. Julie's on Tuesday, 3rd September. Monday, 2nd September, will be an INSET Day for all staff.

Year group	Time to report to school	Venue
7	8.30am	Dining room
8	9:30am	Chapel
9	10:30am	Chapel
10	10:30am	Dorothy Stang Theatre
11	9:30am	Dorothy Stang Theatre
Sixth Form	9:30am	Dining room

Students will receive a copy of their timetable, attend a Notre Dame welcome assembly, and start lessons from 11 a.m. All parents will receive a curriculum, PSHE, and assessment booklet in September. This will provide parents with information regarding curriculum coverage, knowledge development, and the key topics taught in the PSHE/RSE curriculum.

In September, all students will receive a copy of the extra-curricular and enrichment timetable.

This is a vital part of school life at St. Julie's Catholic High School. We encourage as many students as possible to get involved in clubs that run during morning, lunch, and after-school sessions.

#### Key Pastoral Contacts:

Role	Teacher	Contact details
Year 7 Progress Leader	Mrs Navarro (Mon, Wed, Thurs) & Mr Mottram (Tues, Fri)	<a href="mailto:jnavarro@stjulies.org.uk">jnavarro@stjulies.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:mmottram@stjulies.org.uk">mmottram@stjulies.org.uk</a>
Year 8 Progress Leader/Senior Progress Leader	Miss Corrigan	<a href="mailto:ccorrigan@stjulies.org.uk">ccorrigan@stjulies.org.uk</a>
Year 9 Progress Leader	Ms V Homer	<a href="mailto:vhomer@stjulies.org.uk">vhomer@stjulies.org.uk</a>
Year 10 Progress Leader	Mrs K Monks & Miss Gore (Fri only)	<a href="mailto:kmonks@stjulies.org.uk">kmonks@stjulies.org.uk</a> <a href="mailto:bgore@stjulies.org.uk">bgore@stjulies.org.uk</a>
Year 11 Progress Leader	Miss E Murphy	<a href="mailto:emurphy@stjulies.org.uk">emurphy@stjulies.org.uk</a>
Sixth Form Progress Leader	Mrs R Lyons	<a href="mailto:rlyons@stjulies.org.uk">rlyons@stjulies.org.uk</a>

#### Attendance:

The attendance target for all students is 100%. Extensive research has shown a direct correlation between attendance and academic attainment. Analysis of the performance of St Julie's students at GCSE demonstrates a very clear link between attendance and academic success. Students who are never or rarely absent from school significantly outperform those who are frequently late. Students with 98% attendance typically achieve twice as many Grades 9-5 and Grades 9-7 as students with below 90% attendance.

#### Punctuality

We expect students to be on time for school and lessons every day. The school day begins at 08:45, and students arriving after this time will receive a late mark. School opens for all students at 8:00am, with hot or cold breakfast available in the dining room.

All students engage in daily form time reading. Analysis of reading age scores shows that students who arrive late and miss this reading time have significantly lower reading ages than those who arrive on time. There is a clear correlation between higher reading age and stronger academic performance. Students who arrive late are therefore jeopardising their chances of success.

### **Uniform**

It is also important that your daughter attends school in the correct uniform. This sets her up for the day and promotes a good work ethic. When purchasing and sorting uniform for the next academic year:

- Jewellery is not permitted. If your daughter wants her ears or nose pierced, it is best to do it at the start of the summer holidays so the piercings can be removed by the time she returns to school. Students are not permitted to wear any piercings in school. Rings, necklaces, bracelets, and other such items must not be worn in school. This is non-negotiable and part of the uniform policy.
- Shoes must be flat-soled, black, leather, and polishable with a closed toe. Your daughter cannot wear trainers, canvas shoes, plastic shoes (such as Melissa's), or shoes with accessories like bows.
- Hair must always be tied back and a natural colour.
- False nails, acrylic nails, shellac, gel nails, and nail polish are not allowed in school. These must be removed before returning to school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September.
- Students cannot wear make-up or false tan to school.
- If a student wears a coat to school, it must be plain black or navy. Fur, real or fake, is not allowed.
- Mobile phones and all connected devices such as AirPods and smartwatches are prohibited from 8:30am onwards. AirPods and phones will be confiscated if seen or heard. Smartwatches will be confiscated if suspected of being used for communication purposes.

During the summer holidays, email accounts may not be monitored daily. Urgent concerns during non-working hours must go through our website feedback form, accessed via the bottom right section on the main page at [www.stjulies.org.uk](http://www.stjulies.org.uk) or via email to [safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stjulies.org.uk).

My vision for the school will focus on four key areas:

1. **Leadership and service:** Catholic girls' schools foster an environment where girls develop self-confidence, leadership skills, and the belief that they can be leaders, a service to society and innovators.
2. **Ensuring equity in education** by identifying students' talents and enabling them to flourish. This could be through the arts, STEM, sports, academia, or other creative subjects.
3. **Academic excellence for all:** Catholic girls' schools provide an empowering environment where young women can focus on their academic growth and confidently explore diverse fields of study.

Following our most recent Catholic Schools Inspectorate (February 2024), we were recognised for the excellent standards and expectations at St. Julie's Catholic High School. We will continue to build on this and move forward. Inspectors stated:

*"A strong sense of welcome, purpose, and aspiration from all in St. Julie's." "Students truly understand and embrace the charism and mission of St. Julie's. They speak with pride about how they live out the Notre Dame values in their daily lives. Students feel valued, supported, safe, happy, and confident." "Leaders and governors can articulate the school's mission and are strong guardians of the Notre Dame values in the school. They are models of Catholic leadership." "Strong relationships and values underpin the effective pastoral support students receive. There is a tangible sense of mercy and forgiveness through restorative processes and pastoral systems."*

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a restful summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming your daughter back to school on Tuesday 3rd September, ready for an exciting new year ahead. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



**Mrs K McCourt**  
**Headteacher**