



12<sup>th</sup> April 2024

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**Acting Principal:** Kate Crawford

Dear Parent/Carer

I can't believe I am writing to you with only a few weeks left before your child begins their GCSE exams and then leaves St. Bernard's to begin the new chapter of their educational journey. This is always a time when students and staff feel the pressure of the exams most acutely but also when we prepare for celebrating not only their achievements but also the wonderful young people they have become.

May I take this opportunity to say that we are incredibly proud of our Year 11s who have faced extreme challenges in their five years with us and been very resilient in the process. This leaves me with no doubt that our Year 11s will make every effort to do their very best and achieve their potential; what they have achieved so far not only academically but also in terms of their personal development and growth is remarkable given the disruption their education has faced over the past few years.

I thought it would be useful for you to have a reminder of and further information about some key dates around the Year 11 examinations which begin on **7<sup>th</sup> May** and end on **21<sup>st</sup> June** and our planned events to celebrate the St. Bernard's journey that our Year 11s have been on.

**Tuesday 21st May – 3-4.30pm – Students vs. staff rounders tournament**

This will take place on the school field and is optional for students. I have no doubt that lots of them will enjoy some fun and competition against the staff!

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May – 2-3pm – Year 11 students' and parents' mass**

The Leavers' Mass will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Herringthorpe and be delivered by Father Des. It will be a lovely opportunity for students to reflect on their last five years with us, give thanks for all that they have experienced and to offer prayers for their examinations. We would like to extend the invite to you as parents to attend the mass along with the students. Could I ask that you complete the RSVP at the end of the letter by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, should you wish to attend.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May – Final day in school for Year 11**

From this date, the students will no longer be required to attend school, unless they have a revision session or an examination. The revision and exam calendar will be sent out to the students shortly. Our students



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often like to have a 'shirt signing event' as part of their leaving arrangements. This will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> May from 2-3pm. We do recognise that some students may wish to continue to work in school from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June in order to prepare for their exams. They are welcome to do so and The Rock has been designated for them from the 3<sup>rd</sup> June until 21<sup>st</sup> June in order to support them. We kindly ask that students who wish to access The Rock enter school through reception and sign in.

### **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Year 11 Prom**

The Prom will be taking place at the Mowbray in Sheffield from 7pm – 11pm. Separate letters and arrangements have been sent out but if students wish to discuss the Prom, they should contact Mrs Hague.

### **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August – Results day**

Students will be able to attend school to collect their GCSE results from 9am to 11am. This will be a chance not only for results collection but also to celebrate with them and say our final goodbyes before they embark on their post-16 journeys. All of the information that the students require for their examinations is in the Exams Handbook that your child will be given in form time. Please do read this with your son/daughter so that the general expectations for the exams are understood. There are several important documents that students and yourselves need to be aware of. These can be found on our website by using the following link <https://tinyurl.com/rr796j8m>

As a school we are required to track students' education destinations until they reach 18 years old but more importantly we also like to keep in touch to see how students are getting on with their post-16 education, as we are always here to support if needed. Please can you complete this short permission form by using this link <https://forms.gle/Bu2S2LYiGEVct8a87>

During these last few weeks of Year 11, we shall, of course, be working closely with our students to support them through this period, which we know can be one of stress and anxiety, not only for them but also for you, as parents and carers. Should you have any queries or require any further support, please don't hesitate to contact us. As always, we are only too happy to help. We wish our students all the best for their exams and a fun filled summer afterwards; we look forward to celebrating their wonderful achievements with them and you in August.

God bless,

Kate Crawford  
Acting Principal



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**Return slip**

I would like to reserve a parental place at the Year 11 Mass on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 2pm.

Name of student \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Parent/Carer) \_\_\_\_\_

**Please RSVP to Reception by Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.**



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