

30th April 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are well and looking forward to the Easter break. This letter is to give an update on recent developments in school.

Ofsted update

It gives me great pleasure to enclose the recent Ofsted report. Whilst you read it I hope that you feel as proud as I do of the many, many positive comments about both the great children and the fantastic staff. These 2 key ingredients, children and staff, are what makes St Damian's so special and such a good place to be.

Only a few years ago St Damian's was in Special Measures, we then became a satisfactory school and now is officially a GOOD school. This report is simply the next stage of St Damian's vision to become outstanding !

Can I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the overwhelming number of parents who, through Parent View, supported the school in such large numbers. This follows on from Parental Questionnaire Returns from parent's evenings which are almost 100% fully in support of the school. It reassures my staff and me that you have complete faith and confidence in the school, not only now, but in the future, that promises to be very bright.

Year 11 Revision at Easter

The dedication of my staff continues throughout the Easter Holidays. The following are the planned revision sessions. Your child will know whether they have to attend any of these. Can I ask that you support the school by making sure they attend as this is a crucial time for **all** in Year 11.

Monday 14 th :	English
Tuesday 15 th :	Science
Tuesday 22 nd :	Languages
Wednesday 23 rd :	Languages
Thursday 24 th :	Religious Education

If they are not required to attend any of the above, can I ask you to ensure they have a planned revision schedule to maximise their progress. GCSE exams are the first building block for a great future!

Year 10 and GCSE Summer Exams

It is also vital that parents of Year 10's are ensuring that their children are revising for upcoming GCSE exams in a range of subjects including, for example Science and ICT. All pupils have been given a timetable and should know and understand the importance of these exams. From experience it takes the pressure off pupils when they are in Year 11.

Reminder of our THREE Simple Rules

As you can see from the Ofsted report, our pupils are very well behaved. St Damian's only has 3 rules. These are well established, well known and most importantly well 'respected' by the vast majority of pupils and have been fundamental to our success. These are:-

1. Respect: Respect for each other and our environment
2. Uniform: includes hair/make-up: Wearing the correct uniform is vital and I have to say that our pupils look extremely smart in their uniform showing that they are proud to be here. Hair should be a natural colour and not shaved. Likewise, pupils know that make-up & nail varnish is not permitted
3. Mobile phones: These are not allowed to be used in school. Again, pupils know this. If pupils are seen with a mobile phone it is taken off them and placed at reception for parents to collect. This has been the rule for at least 2 years now. May I add that mobile phone use during the school day is very rare! Thanks for your cooperation. If pupils 'refuse' to hand over their phone to myself, it is likely they will be excluded.

The above rules are **not new nor are they negotiable** and they will be rigorously enforced.

Buses

As it says in the report, the behaviour of our pupils on the buses is excellent. However, I have a few concerns about the poor conduct of a small number of pupils, especially students that use the Droylsden services (864, 863 and 845). Can I make it clear that I have the power and authority to sanction pupils who misbehave on the buses outside school. I will not tolerate the tainting of the great reputation of St Damian's pupils because a few pupils cannot behave on the bus.

Therefore, can I reiterate that any pupil who misbehaves on the bus may be withdrawn from that service. This will affect their ability to get to school and as a consequence they may have to change schools. Can I please ask that you pass this message onto your children, I appreciate your support in this matter.

Collecting/Dropping off Pupils

Again, can I ask parents not to park in the bus lane before or after school. Safety of our children is my highest priority and there are still a small number of parents who park in the bus lane or obstruct the buses. Please be considerate for our children and refrain from doing this. It would be even better if you could let your children out of the car outside the school grounds.

Finally, its official, we are a GOOD school. Now let's work together to make it outstanding! Your children deserve nothing less and I know my staff and the governors are ready to take the school to the next level.

Hoping that you, and your family have a peaceful and holy Easter.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Logue
Headteacher