



In all things hope

September 2025

St Damian's RC Science College

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Headteacher

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Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome to my first monthly newsletter of the year. These newsletters are to not only share important information but also to celebrate this fiercely proud Catholic community each month. I am delighted to say that we start this academic year with great confidence and optimism.

Outstanding GCSE results ... AGAIN

Yet again, we are celebrating fantastic GCSE results for our great students in the 'class of 2025'. Based upon previous information, I can confidently state that the students have **smashed** every national indicator and that they are **well above the National Average in every measure**. I am delighted for the overwhelming majority of students who worked hard and achieved their potential. When national indicators are known I will share and compare these with St Damian's results. Watch this space! These outstanding results do not just happen, they are the direct result of quality teaching, high expectations and exceptional pastoral care. St Damian's has these in abundance, and I would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all staff; support staff, teachers and leaders, for their commitment to the children of St Damian's.

Attendance

At the start of an academic year, it is crucial that I highlight the importance of attendance. Last year, St Damian's attendance was above the national average for every week of the academic year. This is great news and should be celebrated. It reflects the fact that children want to be here, being educated and cared for. However, 'poor' or 'erratic' attendance is becoming an issue. Can I take this opportunity to remind parents of the 3 major reasons why attendance is vital for your child.

1. *Safeguarding*. If they are in school, they are safe
2. *Learning*. If they are not in school, they miss out on learning. Rarely, do children 'catch-up'
3. *Personal development*. At school they are socialising with their friends helping their well-being

Last year many parents took their children out of school during term time to go on holiday and some parents chose not to inform us. For clarity, I will **not authorise** any holidays and last year 54 parents were fined. This consisted of 10 parents in Yr7, 14 parents in Yr8, 13 parents in Yr9, 15 parents in Yr10 and 2 parents in Yr11.

Safeguarding and Contact Details

Please can you ensure that school has the correct contact details for your child. Not only is this important in case of an emergency but also because we send out vital information via post, email and text message. Please make sure that we have your correct email, mobile, landline and address. It is advised that we have 3 emergency contacts on the school system. If you feel we need to update our records, please contact the school office.

St Damian's Rules and Expectations

For clarity, and to maintain our high expectations from day 1, I will outline our simple rules. These rules set the tone, ensuring we are a strong and united community. As Headteacher, I can confidently say that the behaviour of our students is outstanding and they are true ambassadors for our community. Below are our **5 [FIVE] simple rules** that all students must adhere to.

St. Damian's RC Science College

1. **Correct Uniform:** Our students are proud to attend St Damian's and wearing the correct uniform is the most outwardly sign of this. This includes no jewellery, no earrings [inc plastic studs], no make-up, no fake tan, false nails or nail varnish. Girls' skirts should be a decent length. Extreme hair styles are also not permitted. Hair should be natural looking and not too short. This is not an exhaustive list.
2. **Mobile Phones:** These are NOT allowed in school at any time of the day. Students MUST not use their phones until they exit the green gate. If caught using them, which is rare, they will be confiscated, and parents can collect them from reception. If students are unwell, they can go to the office and a member of staff will phone home.
3. **Chewing Gum:** NOT allowed in school as we want a clean and tidy environment. Chewing gum will be confiscated and a detention will be issued.
4. **Eating 'Zones':** To keep the environment tidy for your children there are areas in school where no eating is permitted: these are clearly sign-posted and food will be confiscated when this happens.
5. **Respect:** This means respecting your peers, adults and the environment. This is our core value.

I ask parents to ensure that their child support these rules. They are non-negotiable and apply to all children. Can I also remind all parents to **speak respectfully** to the hardworking staff at St Damian's. This is the very least they deserve. If a problem or issue is solvable, the great staff here will fix it. But please be polite and respectful.

For avoidance of doubt, if your child brings drugs or weapons into the school, it is highly likely that they will be **permanently excluded**. This message will be shared with all students, and through this letter, with all parents.

I sent a text earlier this week regarding the use of the school car park. This, as you will be aware, is very small. Concerns have been raised by bus drivers and a number of parents regarding safety. This includes parking inappropriately, using the bus lane, parking on double yellow lines or where cones are placed and driving through red lights. Unless you are collecting a child with mobility issues, I believe it is selfish to use the car park. You are putting your child and other children at risk. It is very busy and dangerous. I ask, politely, that you **DO NOT** use the car park.

Staffing Updates

As we start the new academic year, I would like to inform you of some staffing updates.

- I am delighted to report that Miss Joyce and Mrs Kelly are both the new **Deputy Headteachers** at St Damian's. I have no doubt that they will be successful, and I wish them all the best in their new roles.
- A warm welcome to our new teachers, Mr Wheeler who will be teaching English and Mrs Fletchman who will be teaching Drama. Both are starting their teaching careers at St Damian's. Good luck to both!
- Mrs Gerschler will be acting **Assistant Headteacher** with the responsibility for safeguarding. This is a crucial whole school role and her experience leading on whole school liturgies and events previously will stand her in good stead.
- Mr Willerton will be **acting Subject Leader for Maths** and Mrs Allmand will be **acting Subject Leader for RE**. They will gain lots of experience in leading highly successful departments and have hard acts to follow.

- A warm welcome back to ex-student Mollie Wood, who has been appointed as a **Learning Support Assistant**.

Yr11 Update

I will be sending a letter to the parents of all children in Yr11. This letter contains vital information but at the heart of it is that exam preparation starts now, will require hard work and that working with the school is the best way for your child to maximise their GCSE outcomes.

General Update

- Yr10: Good luck to all Yr10 students as you embark your GCSE courses!
- Yr9: A big year for Yr9 as they choose their options for GCSE courses!
- Yr8: Welcome back! A reminder for parents to ensure that you are 'checking' social media
- Yr7: A warm welcome to St Damian's. From past year groups I can confidently say that they will love it here!

Fundraising Share Day July 2025

One of my favourite days of the year is 'Share Day'. This is an annual tradition at St Damian's and celebrates another successful year for our community whilst raising money for charity. This year's Share Day was a resounding success, students and staff alike immersed themselves in the theme of 'Legends'. Share day is also one of our major fund-raising activities and we raised an incredible **£8,200** for a range of charities.

A special mention to **9LGY**, the form managed to raise an incredible **£845.86**. This form had the novel idea to have a darts competition which was well supported by the children. The winner of the staff darts was a proud Mr McCardle! PS. I think he's played darts before 😊. I have no doubt staff will be practicing for next year! An all-round amazing effort showing the generosity of our community. On behalf of all at St Damian's, a **massive thanks** for all your support.

Important Dates for the first Half Term

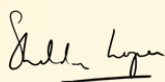
Each month I will highlight important dates and below is a list of upcoming dates for your perusal. As a school we have made the decision to have a parents' evening AND a parental information evening for each year group. These are different. The parents' evening is a formal opportunity to meet your child's teachers to discuss their progress whereas the parental information evenings are to highlight key messages pertinent to that year group. I ask that parents, where relevant, attend these events/evenings.

- *Monday 15th Sept. Yr11 parental information evening. 6pm start*
- *Thursday 18th Sept. Yr9 parental information evening inc: info on options. 6pm start*
- *Friday 26th Sept. Macmillan Coffee Morning. All invited! Details to follow. Always a busy event!*
- *Monday 29th Sept. Open Evening. School shuts at 1.30 for all students*
- *Wednesday 8th Oct. Yr10 parental information evening inc: info on work experience. 6pm start*
- *Thursday 9th Oct: Yr8 parental information evening. 6pm start*
- *Friday 24th Oct: School closes for half term*

NB: A Yr7 parental information evening has been arranged for the next half term on **Wednesday 5th November at 6pm.**

I am looking forward to another very successful year for the St Damian's community.

Yours sincerely



Mr Logue
Headteacher