



17 April 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had a lovely Easter break and that you had some great 'family time'. Please remember we open tomorrow as normal, ready for your child to return for the summer term.

School uniform in the summer

As we move into warmer weather, I would like to remind you that I do allow adjustments to uniform when the weather gets hot to make things more comfortable during this period. This is usually done on a day-by-day basis because our weather is so changeable. Other than this, students are expected to wear the full school uniform (including ties and blazers). Tights remain obligatory if students wish to wear the kilt, but they can wear trousers instead if they wish, and remember, jumpers are optional.

Appropriate use of the school internet

We have seen a rise in students downloading/accessing proxy websites. These allow students access to sites banned by our firewall and so this action is a safeguarding issue. Fortunately, these students can be easily traced by the IT network team.

As our Policy for the acceptable use of computers states for students:

"The work or activity you undertake on the Internet must be directly related to your schoolwork. Private use of the Internet is forbidden."

and

"A ban, either temporary or permanent, from the use of Internet facilities at school. Sanctions and restrictions placed upon you to restrict your access to School facilities"

Therefore, students accessing any non-work-related websites will receive an immediate one-week ban (irrespective of subject needs so please bear in mind this could affect coursework). This will increase to two weeks for a second offence, then three etc.

Staff will be reminding students of this, and it would be helpful if you did too.

Website

The school website has been updated, with fresher photographs, newer look and is easier to navigate round. This will go live at some point today, so from tomorrow, please check in and have a look. Feedback is welcome and please send your comments to head@st-maryshigh.herts.sch.uk

WE BELIEVE EVERYONE IS EQUAL: EVERYONE DESERVES THE BEST

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Headteacher: Mr Nicholas Simms B.Sc. (Hons), NPQH

'Students feel happy and safe at school' OFSTED 2019

'An exceptionally inclusive and caring community' SIAMS Inspection 2020

Finally...

I want to let you know that I will be retiring and leaving St Mary's later this year. Depending on whether the Governors recruit my successor to start in September 2023 or January 2024, I will be leaving either in August or December 2023.

I have been in education as a professional for 29 years this year. For 21 of these years, I have been in senior leadership, with 14 years as deputy head teacher or head teacher. I have especially enjoyed the last four of these years, serving as Head Teacher at St Mary's CE High School; it is a wonderful school, of which I am very proud and fond.

When I leave, I will very much miss seeing your children every day, as I will miss the frequent contact I have with a number of you, but I continue to be committed to the school until my last day to secure the best for your child.

Yours sincerely



Nicholas Simms
Head Teacher

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