



St. Mary's Catholic College

"Specialists in Maths & Computing"



We Come Here to Learn

**Being a Happy and Successful Member of St. Mary's
Community**

Parents' update with effect from 1st September 2008

UNIFORM AND APPEARANCE

St. Mary's students show a very high standard of uniform. Uniform gives a sense of belonging and identity to our students. It is an outward sign of the high standards they expect of themselves. We believe that the individuality of our young people is reflected in the richness and depth of their characters and personalities and not in their clothes or hairstyles. For this reason the College expects all students to wear our uniform correctly and in full. Parents and staff are expected to ensure our uniform code is adhered to.

Our uniform and additional notes on appearance are distributed at least once a year to parents and copied into homework diaries. The College monitors the quality of students' uniform continuously and audits the quality of every child's uniform at least annually. In this way we aim to help young people develop a sense of pride in themselves and a growing self-worth.

ATTENDANCE and PUNCTUALITY

For students to learn and make significant progress they need to attend college. Our most successful students always have very high attendance. We have a number of staff, Form Tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of School, Lay-Chaplains and Education Social Workers, who support young people to maintain full attendance. We expect students to copy up any work missed due to absence. The college actively discourages students from taking holidays during term-time.

College starts promptly at 8.35 a.m. and we ask for parents' support in ensuring young people arrive in good time for the college day.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning is an important part of the learning process at St. Mary's. We see it as an entitlement for all students. Students are responsible for completing their home learning. Parents can help by providing a quiet place to work and looking at the work when completed.



Each student has a home learning diary that must be used to record the work set. It is a useful tool in helping young people organise the work they do at home.

WE COME HERE TO LEARN

St. Mary's is a place for learning. This simple truth is recognised and supported by parents, students and staff. Parents chose St. Mary's because they wanted their children "to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God". For young people to be able to learn effectively they must be able to study in a calm, orderly and well-disciplined environment. When home and College work together, sharing the same values and insisting on high standards in all things, young people feel safe, secure and ready to learn.



PROMOTING POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

The College's rules are simple and fair. They are based on a respect for self, others and the environment. The College's rules and disciplinary system works to ensure that good behaviour is acknowledged and reinforced and poor behaviour is challenged and changed. Our aim is to ensure that St. Mary's is a calm, orderly and disciplined environment, with strong and enriching relationships, in which all students can learn and develop.



At St. Mary's we wish to recognise and actively affirm students in their positive behaviour, work and contribution to the life of the College. The College has developed a range of rewards for students including stickers (Lower School), Postcards of Praise (Upper School) and Certificates and Letters of Commendation that are presented at termly Achievement Assemblies. At these assemblies a number of special "tokens" are presented for outstanding service, achievement or standards.

When young people choose to break rules or behave unacceptably at St. Mary's, then they must understand that there will be consequences. The college strives to apply these consequences in a consistent way and in proportion to the offence. Some parents can find it distressing or worrying when their child is punished for some wrong-doing. Our experience tells us that by supporting the college the matter is more rapidly resolved and the young person is less likely to misbehave in the future.

The range of sanctions open to all staff include: a verbal reprimand, additional written work and detentions. After-College detentions, with due notice afforded to parents, are not optional. In accepting a place for your child at St. Mary's you are agreeing to support us in ensuring attendance at any after college detention issued.

For repeated poor behaviour or a serious one-off offence the Headteacher is permitted, and will, use fixed-term exclusions to ensure St. Mary's remains a calm, orderly and well disciplined community.

MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's Catholic College is a caring faith community.

Our mission is to provide an outstanding whole-person education through which all are challenged to grow in wisdom, understanding, self-esteem and closeness to God.

"I have come that you may have life and have it to the full"

John 10¹⁰

This short publication is the first in a series of information leaflets for parents and students to give them an insight into St. Mary's community. Over the coming months a full range of leaflets will be produced that will ensure St. Mary's remains a secure, caring community with "a clear focus on learning".

At the heart of our Catholic College community are the high quality and enriching relationships that exist between our students and between students and staff. Our Mission statement is clear that "Tolerance and valuing of others are key points of daily life".

The quality of relationships was commented on by Ofsted and Section 23 (Diocesan) inspectors who wrote:

"Relationships are good and pupils get on well with each other the College is an orderly and harmonious community. Pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is good and nurtured by the College's faith dimension."

"St. Mary's is a close-knit community and a significant strength is the excellent relationships throughout the school. "

Building and maintaining these relationships is fundamental to our College's success and high regard throughout Blackpool. Much of society is obsessed with its rights. Living in a Christian Community requires you to focus on your responsibilities – to yourself, to others and to the wider community. We all share the very important responsibility of ensuring that a student's right to learn is never compromised.

