



In all things faithful

#### St Damian's RC Science College

Lees Road  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 8BH

**Tel:** 0161 330 5974

**Fax:** 0161 331 4744

**Email:** [admin@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:admin@stdamians.co.uk)

**Web:** <http://www.stdamians.co.uk/>

**Follow us on Twitter:** @SIDamiansRCSC

**Follow us on Facebook**

#### Headteacher

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), MEd., NPQH, NPQEL

August 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

A warm welcome to my first monthly newsletter of the year. These newsletters hope to share and celebrate this fiercely proud catholic community each month. We start this academic year with great confidence and optimism.

#### Outstanding GCSE Results...again

Yet again, we are celebrating fantastic GCSE results. The 'class of 2024' outcomes were great and all indications, based on previous years, demonstrate that they are **well above the National Average in all indicators**. On the whole, students worked hard, and their results reflect this fact. The high grades gained meant that the vast majority achieved, or surpassed, their ambitious targets. 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 and 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. St Damian's has always had **above** national attendance and we are very proud of this. In essence, it reflects the fact that children love coming to school. However, 'poor' attendance is an increasing issue nationally and, sadly, St Damian's is not immune to this. 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 70 parents were fined who did so. This consisted of 21 parents in Yr7, 17 parents in Yr8, 22 parents in Yr9, 6 parents in Yr10 and 4 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

At the start of the year, I always outline our simple rules and expectations. It is these rules/expectations that set the tone and ensures that we are a strong and united community. As

St. Damian's RC Science College

Headteacher, I can confidently say that the behaviour of our students is outstanding, and our young people are true ambassadors for our community. Below are our **5 [FIVE] simple rules** that students must adhere to.

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, no make-up, no fake tan and no 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 will collect from reception
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. **The 5th rule is respect:** This means respecting your peers, all adults and the environment. This is our core value.

I ask parents to ensure that their child support these rules. They are non-negotiable. Can I also remind all parents to speak respectfully to the hardworking staff at St Damian's. This is the very least they deserve.

#### **Yr11 Update**

I will be sending a letter this week 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 Yr 9 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 state that they will love it here!

#### **Yr10 Work Experience July 2024**

Overall, this was, yet again, highly successful and allowed our students to experience the world of work. This is invaluable and builds confidence and resilience in our students as they prepare for post-16. I hope that experience raises their expectations as they begin their final year at St Damian's. An email I received from one of the placements is indicative of the type of feedback we have received. They described one of our students on placement as *"a very polite and confident young man. He introduced himself at the team meeting very eloquently- no easy thing to do in front of 12 professionals. He is more than welcome back at any time and for a longer period if he wishes"*.

#### **Fundraising Share Day July 2024**

One of my favourite days of the academic 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 'Disney'. Share day is also one of our major fund-raising activities and

we raised an incredible **£5782.57** for charities, including Willow Wood, Reuben's Retreat, Cancer Research and Charcot-Marie-Tooth UK.

A special mention to 8JTS, the form managed to raise an incredible £623.32. 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.

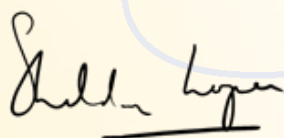
- *Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept. Yr11 parental information evening*
- *Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. Yr9 parental information evening*
- *Friday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept. Macmillan Coffee Morning. All invited!*
- *Monday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. Open Evening. School shuts at 1.30 for all students.*
- *Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Yr10 parental information evening*
- *Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October: Yr8 parental information evening*

NB. A Yr7 parental information evening will be arranged for the next half term. Date to be confirmed.

Finally, a heads-up on a date for your diary! A night not to be missed is our *Performing Arts Extravaganza Evening* which will showcase the talents of this faculty. This is on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**. Further details will be released in due course.

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

Yours sincerely



Mr Logue  
Headteacher