

2 September 2014

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that we welcome your son or daughter back to St John Plessington Catholic College. We extend a warm welcome to our new intake in Year 7 and those who are joining us from other schools in our Sixth Form. Demand for places here at SJP has never been greater and one of the reasons for our success is the rock solid support we receive from our parents and carers.

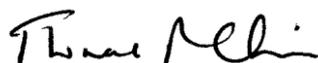
Our results over the summer have been outstanding again. As you will be aware, all schools have had to cope with significant changes to the curriculum and to examination format at both A-Level and GCSE. This has undoubtedly put more pressure on pupils who have had a lot to cope with as a result. At SJP our staff have worked tremendously hard, as you would expect, to minimize as far as possible the impact on our pupils. At GCSE we have achieved 68% 5A\*-C including English and Mathematics with 91% of pupils achieving 3 Levels of Progress in English (Nat. average 73%) and 84% in Mathematics (Nat. average 72%). They have significantly increased from last year. We also know that locally and nationally, results have significantly fallen for many schools as a result of the changes and therefore in that context our results are even more impressive.

A Level results for our leavers were also highly impressive with nearly all pupils off to the university of their choice. Again this is testimony not only to the high academic standards we set, but the care, guidance and support they receive through Sixth Form which is truly second to none. We send them off with our best wishes and prayers for the next exciting stage of their journeys.

We were hoping that our new Sixth Form Centre build would be underway at this point. Delays have put the start date back to the middle of October, but we are still hoping that completion date will be shortly into the summer term. The facilities will give us much needed breathing space and provide first class opportunities for our Sixth Form who are such an important dimension of our community. We will continue to fight hard behind the scenes for even better facilities for all at SJP and ensure that we continue to go from strength to strength. As of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014, we are now officially a 'Teaching School,' another national accolade as a result of our sustained performance and reputation. We will keep you regularly informed as to the exciting new developments and opportunities this will bring to our College.

Please take time to read through the Parent Handbook which is an important form of communication. (My apologies for the obvious typing error on Page 3 which was beyond our control). We never take our support from you our parents and carers for granted and it is really important that we continue to work in partnership for the benefit of the children. Please do let the staff here at SJP know if there are ever any concerns that need to be addressed.

Yours sincerely



Mr T Quinn  
Executive Head Teacher



Mr S Rylance  
Head Teacher