



St Benedict's Catholic High School

1971

Campus Whitehaven, Red Lonning, Whitehaven, CA28 8UG

Headteacher: Mr JP Morrison

www.st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk

21 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Attendance and Punctuality Update

A big thank you to all our community for supporting the school in getting our students into school on time and helping reduce the level of lateness we have been experiencing. I am delighted to inform you we have seen a significant reduction in lateness to school. This is good news and allows the start of the school day to begin smoothly and effectively.

I fully appreciate this has brought with it some challenges and difficulties. Following consultation with staff and a group of parents I seek to design a **long-term transport plan for the school** to try to address the long-standing issues relating to traffic congestion. Some are within our control, and some are not. This will have at its heart child safety and hopefully improve the access to the school in the morning. The wider consultation will involve every family along with Mayfield School, the Local Authority, bus companies, the police, and political representatives at all levels. Together we will improve the access and safety in the morning to our site.

In the first instance **we have freed up the lay by parking area on the left-hand side of the school access road on entry to be a drop off zone only up until 9.15am**. We ask all drivers to pull into this space in a similar way we would use an airport drop off zone. It will allow for a smoother flow through the school and also give space for the buses to stop without delaying the cars behind them. We would be grateful that drivers who have arrived early do not use this space to temporarily park to allow their child to wait in the car. We need all the space we can get. As you are aware some cars are immediately stopping without warning and it instantly causes a hold up. Please use the lay by.

We also ask all drivers to be mindful of child safety on the roads around the school site. It has been brought to our attention that some drivers are taking unnecessary risks and allowing students to jump out of cars in very congested traffic. No child should be put at risk.

The line ups are working very well and we are conscious that the dry weather we have been experiencing at 8.30am will not last forever. There is a **routine for students in the event of heavy rain**. Year 7 and Year 8 are to be directed to the Sports Hall; Year 9 and Year 10 are to be directed to the Canteen; and Year 11 and Sixth Form are to go straight to their Tutor Rooms. No child will be left in the rain.

Together we will improve the access and safety in the morning to our site. Thank for your understanding and support.

Yours sincerely,

JP Morrison
Headteacher



admin@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk



01946 692275

