



St Benedict's Catholic High School

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Campus Whitehaven, Red Lonning, Whitehaven, CA28 8UG

Headteacher: Mr JP Morrison

www.st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk

3 September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Meet the New Headteacher

Welcome back.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our students back to school for the new academic year. It is also a very exciting time for me as I begin my headship here at St Benedict's. Before looking ahead I would also like to recognise and acknowledge the fantastic work of our previous Headteacher, Emma Jackson and thank her for everything she has done for the school making a significant contribution to the life and successes of St Benedict's, alongside her commitment and dedication supporting our staff, students, and families.

I am delighted to be joining such a wonderful school and really excited to begin my journey with the St Benedict's community. I look forward to getting to know our students, parents, carers, and staff, and to working together to build on the many strengths of this great school.

As part of my need to get to know the school community I am taking this opportunity to invite you to a 'Meet the new Headteacher' session to hear a little about myself and share my vision for St Benedict's. It is also an opportunity to listen to your thoughts and ideas for the school as we enter a new chapter.

To help me get to know parents I will initially be holding two informal meet and greet sessions.

- **Thursday 17 September 4:30pm – 5:30pm**
- **Saturday 19 September 10:00am – 11:00am**

You are invited to join us at either of these sessions. Please let me know by replying to this message.

I look forward to meeting you and I am very honoured to have the responsibility to lead the best school in Cumbria.

Are there any new changes at the school?

Start of the Day

Yes, students from Year 7 to Year 10 are now expected to line up in the playground at 08:30am before entering the school with their Tutor. Year 11 students are directed to the canteen. This new policy is to ensure staff are able to check appearance, equipment, and pass on messages before entering the building silently, respectfully and in a manageable order. So far this is working well. Sixth Form are to wait in the Winter Garden before going to their Tutor rooms.



admin@st-benedicts.cumbria.sch.uk



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Mobile Phones

As you are aware the Government has made it statutory that mobile phones are banned in schools. Our new mobile phone policy is published on our website to reflect these changes and clarify our position so you can read details there. For our students, the message is simple, 'if we see it, hear it, you lose it'. Thank you for your understanding and support for our renewed policy.

The overwhelming majority of students comply and we intend to keep it that way.

Uniform Reminders

Thank you for ensuring your child has come to school in full school uniform. They are all looking so smart. Our expectations will always be high in regard to appearance and uniform. This includes girls wearing appropriate length skirts and following the school policy on jewellery. We welcome parents support in ensuring they do.

Finally we have five new members of staff who have joined this term and they are:-

Mr Cavan Donnelly	Geography Teacher
Mr Ben Jackson	RE Teacher
Mrs Lucy Johnston	Subject Leader - Art and Design
Ms Rebecca McGrady	Senior Teaching Assistant
Mr Adam Ryam	Computer Science Teacher

We wish them every success and happiness here as we strive to serve your child to become the best version of themselves.

I look forward to meeting you. I can assure you that the charism of St Benedict's will continue to flourish. I am honoured to be serving our wonderful community for many years to come.

Yours sincerely



JP Morrison
Headteacher

