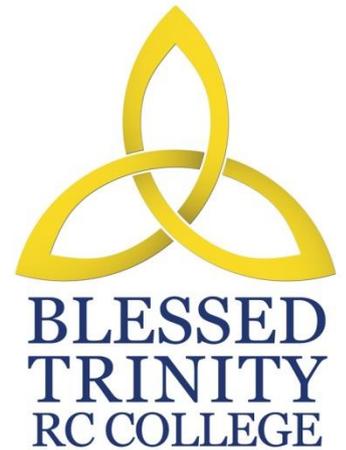


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17 May 2017

Dear Parent



I am writing to you to keep you up to date with several recent developments in school. Firstly, our Year 11 pupils have started their final public examination season. They are working very hard and we wish them the very best in the coming weeks. The Year 11 Leavers Mass will be on Thursday 8 June 2017, following the Maths exams in the morning. Normal timetables will apply up to this date and full attendance is expected. It is important that as well as putting in the hours of revision needed that they make time for some rest and leisure activity. With this in mind, their Leavers Prom is on Monday 26 June 2017.

#### **Senior Prefects**

Following an intensive selection procedure, I am proud to announce the names of our new senior prefects. Our new Head Girl is Alice Watson, our new Head Boy is Jack Chambers, our new Deputy Head Boy is Aaron Walker and our new Deputy Head Girl is Danielle Baxter. I am sure that they will do an excellent job. There were many excellent applicants and I know that many of them would have made excellent senior prefects too.

#### **Uniform**

On behalf of staff may I thank you for your support in ensuring that pupils wear the correct school uniform. I enclose a copy of our updated Uniform Policy for your information. Please ensure that you take note of all changes, particularly changes regarding footwear.

#### **Retreats**

Our RE team have continued to develop the retreat programme this year. Over 150 pupils have attended four residential retreats in various centres around the country. The retreats have been very successful and have been over-subscribed. It is great to see this important part of our faith life flourishing.

#### **Appointments**

I am excited by the number of strong appointments we have made, across a range of subjects, for the next academic year. I would particularly like to congratulate two members of staff who have moved into pastoral roles. Mrs Arcangelo will be Head of Year 11 for the next academic year. Miss Murray has taken over the current Year 7 with immediate effect and will be following them in to Year 8 next year. We wish them every success in their posts.

Next year the school will be exploring the possibility of becoming a Teaching School. This will be an opportunity for us to focus on developing our approach to teaching and learning, training our own newly qualified teachers and working more collaboratively with other schools to share good practice.

Headteacher: Mr R Varey BEd (Hons) MA  
Ormerod Road, Burnley BB10 3AA  
Tel: 01282 506200  
Email: [office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:office@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk)

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This will invigorate our teaching and will have a positive impact on the learning experience of our youngsters. In addition, the Diocese have actively encouraged all the schools in the Diocese to consider forming and joining Catholic Multi-Academy Trusts. We have begun looking carefully at these two significant developments and I am sure you will appreciate the volume of work involved.

With this in mind, the Governing Body have decided to build capacity within the leadership team in order to ensure that your child's education is not adversely affected during this period. Therefore, they have appointed Mr Thompson, our current Deputy Head, as acting Headteacher, on a temporary basis. I will retain legal responsibility for the school but Mr Thompson will assume responsibility for all aspects of the day to day running of the school. The Governors and I are pleased that Mr Thompson has accepted the role and are confident that he will continue to improve our wonderful school. An internal appointment will be made to cover Mr Thompson's role as Deputy Head.

I am looking forward to providing you with opportunities to be consulted and informed regarding progress in these ongoing developments.

Many thanks for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey  
Headteacher

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