

# The Newman Catholic Collegiate



83, Little Chell Lane  
Tunstall  
Stoke on Trent  
ST6 6LZ  
Telephone: 01782 821995  
Email: [ibeardmore@newmancc.co.uk](mailto:ibeardmore@newmancc.co.uk)

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Catholic Senior Executive Leader: Mr Ian Beardmore

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Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have had a wonderful break and enjoyed some precious time together.

I am pleased to share that our plans to join *St Gabriel the Archangel Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (CMAT)* are progressing well, and we remain on track to become full members on 1st November. We are already working closely with the Trust and hope our school community begins to feel part of this wider family even before that date.

As we begin the new term, I want to emphasise once again the importance of regular and punctual school attendance. Research consistently shows that children who attend school every day not only achieve better academically, but also feel happier, more confident, and healthier. Good attendance habits, especially in the first weeks of term, have a lasting impact and help prevent future patterns of absence.

From September 2024, the Government has updated its rules and increased fines for unauthorised absence. This includes absences such as holidays taken during term time, lateness, or any time away from school that has not been agreed with the Principal. If a child misses five school days (10 sessions) without permission, this will result in a fine from the Local Authority. Please note: fines are issued and collected by the Local Authority, not by the school or the Collegiate.

As a reminder, the current penalty notices are:

- **First offence:** £80 per parent, per child (if paid within 28 days).
- **Second offence (within 3 years):** £160 per parent, per child.
- **Third offence (within 3 years):** referral to the Magistrates' Court, which may result in a criminal record and a fine of up to £2,500 per parent, per child. A conviction would also appear on a DBS certificate as 'failure to safeguard a child's education.'

In line with Government guidance, the school may also carry out a home visit if a child is absent. Please do not be alarmed if this happens; our priority is always to check on your child's wellbeing and to offer support if needed.

We know that good attendance is one of the most powerful ways to give your child the best possible chance to succeed. Thank you for working with us to ensure that your child is in school every day, on time, and ready to learn.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Beardmore  
Catholic Senior Executive Leader  
The Newman Catholic Collegiate

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