



## St. Ninian's HIGH SCHOOL

Scoil Ard Noo Ninian

Our Ref: JWC/SSM

12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Dear Students & Parents/Guardians

### Re: End of Year 9

As we approach the end of Year 9 and the conclusion of Key Stage 3, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on what has been a truly memorable journey.

It feels like only yesterday that I was visiting primary schools in late 2022, meeting many of you for the very first time. Over the months that followed, I enjoyed visiting your schools, answering questions and helping you prepare for the exciting step into secondary school. Since September 2023, we have shared three fantastic years together as a Year Group.

From day one, I asked us all to embrace three simple values: **Think Positively, Be Kind and Never Give Up**. I genuinely believe that you have lived those values every day. Together, we have built a culture that has made our Year Group one of the most respected, successful and relationally positive in the school.

You have consistently set high standards in your uniform, conduct, kindness, charitable work, sporting participation and success, creative opportunities and wider school life. Most importantly, you have learnt that this is *our* school and that we should be proud of it.

None of this happens by accident, particularly in a Year Group of over 220 students. High school can be challenging, and being a teenager is not always easy. Many of you have faced difficulties over the last three years and have shown resilience, determination and courage in overcoming them. I hope that throughout your time in Year 9 you have felt heard, supported and encouraged by the staff around you.

The success of our Year Group has always been a team effort. It belongs to our students, families, subject teachers and pastoral team. I would also like to thank parents & guardians for your ongoing support throughout these three years. It makes a real difference and is greatly appreciated. As I often remind you in assembly, when we achieve success and top the charts, we should be proud but also remain humble, aware and determined to keep improving. Ultimately, we win together and we lose together. We are always strongest when students, families and school work in partnership.

I want to thank every one of you for the part you have played in making our Year Group so special. I am incredibly proud of how far you have come and the young people you are becoming. Whilst this is my job, it has always been much more than that to me. I have invested a great deal into ensuring that we became the very best Year Group we could be, and I care about each of you.

As you move into Key Stage 4 and begin your GCSE studies, I believe the foundations are firmly in place for success. Whilst I will be welcoming a new Year Group to Lower School in September and starting that journey again, I will still be around Upper School regularly as I continue to teach a GCSE IT class. I will always be available should you ever need advice, support or simply a chat.

Continued.....

*Live to Learn*  
*Learn to Live*

LOWER SCHOOL (Years 7 – 9)

Heywood Avenue, Onchan

Isle of Man, IM3 3AR

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UPPER SCHOOL (Years 10 – 13)

Ballaquayle Road, Douglas

Isle of Man, IM2 5RA

+44 (0) 1624 648800

HEAD TEACHER Mr C. J. Coole

Before we finish, we still have some events ahead:

- **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 3pm**– Our annual Charity Football Competition on the Astro, raising money for Isle Stand Up to Suicide. Parents are welcome to come along and support. Our prefects will also be running a few stalls throughout the event and would greatly appreciate any donations of cakes or sweets to help raise additional funds for our chosen charity.
- **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – Whole School Sports Day for students after lunch.
- **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – Our Dodgeball Fundraiser after school. Throughout our three years together, our Year Group has consistently been one of the school's leading fundraisers and I would love to see us finish as we started by once again raising a fantastic amount for our chosen charity. I hope as many students as possible will get involved.
- **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – This is your final day at Lower School. We will celebrate our time together with our final Rewards Assembly, where we will recognise achievements, present certificates, award prizes and celebrate the successes of our Year Group. Please remember to check ePraise and spend your points, as there are a whole host of fantastic prizes available in the Prize Draw section. In the afternoon, we will finish our time together with an ice cream van visit and some time on the field enjoying sport, games and each other's company.
- **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2026** – The timetable will officially roll up, and you will begin your Year 10 GCSE timetable at Upper School. This is an exciting next step as you begin the next chapter of your journey.

Thank you for all the effort, conversations, laughter and memories. I will always value them.

However, as I often say to you, the final whistle has not yet blown. We are only in the 85<sup>th</sup> minute. Please continue to uphold the high standards and reputation we have built together. Finish strongly, meet expectations and continue to make us proud as we look ahead to an exciting new chapter.

Have a wonderful summer when it arrives. Thank you for being such a fantastic Year Group.

Your faithfully



Mr Cretney  
Head of Year 9