

Christmas 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

It seems a long time since the start of term, when the weather was much warmer than it is today! Our students have been working hard throughout the term and the commitment to their learning has continued, being recognised by Ofsted, during the visit in October.

Students have been able to partake in a range of activities. Whilst our Year 11 and 13 students have been preparing and sitting mock exams, our Key Stage 3 students have enjoyed a 'No Pen Day' in order to encourage oracy skills. In November the school led a wonderfully poignant Remembrance Service, showing a real reverence and understanding about why it is important to remember those who died in service for our country.

The school has also been forging stronger links with the local parishes and sixth form students spoke about the 'Role of Young People in the Catholic church', at both St Hugh's and St Peter and St Paul's church. Students also read bidding prayers and did the offertory collection. The parish community welcomed our students and I hope that this is something which we can continue to grow.

Chaplaincy is an important part of what we do at school and our chaplaincy team has been busy with charity events. We have supported Young Minds, through our #helloyellow day and we have been able to donate to Save the Children, as well as provide much needed supplies for those in need, within our community; our foodbank has grown through the generous donations of both a school and church communities. Charity is at the heart of any Catholic school and I am thrilled that the school is able to do so much to help others.

Even in the very busy period at the end of term, our choir and musicians have had a number of performances, taking part in both the Catholic Schools Joint Advent Service and also the Annual Awards Evening. If you were lucky enough to attend either of these events, then I know that you will have been just as impressed as I am by the quality of our students; such talent!

As ever, these activities are a wonderful representation of how our student grow and flourish whilst at St Peter and St Paul's Catholic Academy. We are grateful for their contribution to our school life and also recognise that this is only possible because of the dedicated staff we have here, in school.

Christmas is the season when we celebrate the birth of Christ. We remember the simplicity of his birth, in a stable, with only a manger for a crib. This is a time to reflect on the things which are most precious to us; take time to celebrate with friends and family. Christmas is about giving but it doesn't always have to be an object; some of the greatest gifts are those which cost nothing. God gave us his most precious gift and it is this gift which we celebrate.

'Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:11)

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a safe, peaceful and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C F Hewerdine

(Headteacher)