



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

3RD JULY 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

SJP is a proud Teacher Training Partnership School to Billericay Education Consortium and West Essex Teacher Training School Alliance. Please contact us if you are interested in a career in teaching and/or work experience.

SUNDAY 5TH GOSPEL, MATTHEW 11: 25-30

Monday marked the Feast of Saints Peter & Paul, men who both demonstrated great frailty and imperfection. We know of Saul's life as a persecutor of Christians prior to his Damascene conversion, and are familiar with Peter's many shortcomings. Asked by Christ to watch and pray on the eve of his Passion, Peter slept. When centurions arrived to arrest Christ, Peter impulsively drew his sword and sliced off Malchus' ear. Identified as a friend of Christ, Peter denied him three times. As the cock crowed, fulfilling Christ's prophecy, he wept in shame and despair.

Unreliable, impetuous, violent, cowardly, and duplicitous, Peter & Paul seem unlikely champions. And yet Christ chose them, saying of Peter in Matthew's Gospel, *'And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.'*

As churches continue to reopen, we welcome being able to again attend Mass, to witness alongside others, and to receive the Eucharist. We do so emboldened in spirit, newly awakened to our individual and collective entity as the Church. Whilst our church buildings are dear to us, we are the true, living foundations; we are Christ's tabernacles; we are Peter's inheritors. We are the rocks upon which Christ builds his Church.

We were due last week to host Year 5 taster days, which usually see students from up to forty primary schools attend for what always prove to be exciting experiences for all concerned. Wednesday was due to be our Year 11 ball, an occasion always eagerly anticipated by students and staff alike. We await confirmation of whether an event will be possible either in the summer or in the Autumn term.

Yesterday we would have welcomed parents & carers of Year 8 students to discuss their children's progress. We always enjoy these opportunities to strengthen the partnerships that are so central to our support of the young people in our care.

Circumstances have seen us forego evenings for parents & carers of students in Years 7, 10 & 12. Whilst next year's calendar offers ample opportunity for us to provide feedback for Year 10 & 12 students when they are in Year 11 & 13, we are conscious that with the Year 8 evening calendared in March, this would leave almost two full academic years before parents & carers have the opportunity to meet with teachers. We therefore plan to host an additional Year 8 evening in November.

We continue to enjoy seeing students from Years 10 & 12 in larger numbers, and have been able to enhance our offer for Year 12 in these final weeks of term. We will continue to advise you of our plans for the return of all students on a full time basis in September.

**Thomas Coen, Headteacher**

Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest.



At the end of term we will bid a fond farewell to Mr Parks, Mrs Brennan, and Mrs Lloyd-Jones, three members of our community who have always epitomised the SJP spirit. Collectively they have devoted well over sixty years of fantastic service, and are regarded with admiration, affection and respect by all who know them.

START OF YEAR 2020-21

FRIDAY 4TH SEPTEMBER: YEAR 7 & 12

MONDAY 7TH SEPTEMBER: ALL YEARS

Stephenson's of Essex confirm their intention is for their services to be fully operational in September.

The Full Governing Body has voted in favour of the motion that St. John Payne Catholic School will engage in discussion with the Diocese of Brentwood and members of the proposed Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) to influence the final structure and determine whether in the view of the Full Governing Body it is in the best interests of the school to join the MAT. Governors continue to assure parents and carers that no MAT decision involving SJP will be taken without consultation with all parties.



*...to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.*

