



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

6th December 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

Monday morning began with the lighting of the first candle on our Advent wreath prior to staff prayer. It was lovely to be joined by students, and we extend a warm welcome to all who wish to join us next week and the final Monday of term.

Throughout Advent we anticipate Christ's birth and the joy of giving and receiving gifts. The gift of our faith was bequeathed us by Christ's service and Passion. Looking to the solemnity of Easter in the midst of Advent may seem to jar with the joy of Christmas, but the arc of Christ's brief life on earth offered the promise of eternal life in the Father's kingdom: the greatest of all gifts, granted by Mary's answer to the Lord, and by Christ's own, *'Thy will be done.'*

I am delighted today to accompany a party of students and staff to join our friends at Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School as they celebrate their Feast day; following which the visit of our Deanery Priests allows us to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation to all Catholic students; whilst members of our pastoral team are available for students of other denominations, faiths or of no religious belief. We thank Abbot Hugh, Canon Peter, Fr Stephen, Fr Pius & Fr Martin for their continued friendship and support.

Last Saturday a group of Year 9 students visited a Christmas market in Lille for the day, a fantastic cultural experience; while this week has seen Year 10 Business students participate in the Chelmsford market challenge. On Monday we hosted the All In Festival, with Year 7 Sports Leaders supporting hundreds of students from across the county in a carousel of sporting and fitness activities. They demonstrated great leadership, representing the school as fine ambassadors, as did all those who organised the recent Boccia finals. Today a group of Year 7 students will support sports activities at Columbus School & College.

Year 11 practice exams conclude next week. Invigilators have praised their attitude and approach; and it has been pleasing to see students prepare with such diligence. They can be proud of their efforts, and assured of our continuing prayers.

We look forward to our Certificate Evening on Monday 16th when we will affirm former and current students' achievements in last summer's examinations. We also extend the community a warm invitation to our Advent Service in Aquinas hall at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 19th for what is sure to be a blessed and joyous celebration. We would love you to join us.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher

Events & Notices

25.11 - 13.12: Y11 exams

16.12: Certificate evening 6.00 p.m.

19.12: Advent Service 6.00 p.m.

We share an appeal from Columbus College for consideration when dropping children at Merici car park. This shared car park is predominantly allocated to college use.

Please continue to support our appeals for safety when parking before and after school.

We advise students to bring only the equipment needed each day. We notice that some students' bags are extremely heavy, placing them under strain at a time that their bones are still forming.

HOUSE POINTS

AUGUSTINIANS 4346

BENEDICTINES 3919

CARMELITES 3838

DOMINICANS 3796

FRANCISCANS 4652

SERVITES 4975



We thank our PTA for dressing our Christmas trees in reception & Aquinas hall.

Well done Vinnie, Ben, Ryan, George, Manny, Max, Will, Aaron, Freddie, Ralph, Tony, Ryan, Freddie, Abigail, Serenity, Maicie, Samantha, Phoebe, Lucy, Alicia, Keira & Kayleigh for supporting the All In Festival this week;

...and Sam, Phillip, Bradley, Leon, Zach, William, Kai, Harry, Johann, Oscar, Joshua & Alfie for arranging the Boccia finals.

...and Lewis, Harry, Kia, Daniel, George, Joao, William, Thomas, Usisya, Charles & Oliver for supporting at Columbus School & College today - all serving the school as wonderful ambassadors, demonstrating great leadership!

Well done to Year 10 Business students for participating in the Chelmsford market challenge. The organisers praised your fantastic representation of the school.

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 prospective 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.





Day trip to Lille Christmas Market

On 30th November 43 members of Year 9 went to Lille Christmas Market. We had to start off early from school (5.00 am!) and travelled to France by coach and Eurotunnel. On the way to Lille we went to a supermarket and a waffle factory (La Gaufre du Pays Flamand) in Houplines, where we were shown how to make waffles. Of course we got to taste the waffles too! We then had three hours to visit the Christmas Market in Lille. The market was very festive and students were able to do some Christmas shopping, practise their French and try some of the local Christmas food. We all had a lovely time and arrived back in Chelmsford late in the evening, full of Christmas cheer.

Miss Winter

The day started off with an early wakeup call at 3.50 am but it was worth it. Our fun filled day required meeting at school at 4.45 am and driving to Folkestone and getting the Euro-tunnel. Despite the ten hour journey in total we kept ourselves entertained and had some very eventful games of wink murder with Ms Reczniarek.

The Lille Christmas Market was beyond magnificent and by far the best part of the day. They had a variety of stalls from jewellery and candles to crêpes and churros. They had excellent Christmas gifts and wonderful ornaments and decorations. Another amazing thing about the trip was the freedom we had when looking around the market. We were allowed to look around in our groups by ourselves as long as we registered with the teachers every hour.

Another place we stopped off on our trip was the waffle factory. There we were told about the origin of their company and how they made their waffles (which I must say were delicious) and then we were kindly given free waffles each and as you can imagine they didn't last long!

Overall I enjoyed the trip immensely and it was a very fun and exciting day out. I would definitely recommend this trip and hope there will be another one next year. Thank you to all the teachers for taking us and Miss Winter for organising it. It was a great experience and a marvellous trip

Gracie

