



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

7th December 2018

## Dear Parents & Carers

We began Monday morning with the lighting of our Advent wreath in Aquinas foyer prior to staff prayer and briefing. It was lovely to be joined in prayer and reflection by many students as they arrived at school. We will continue this gathering for our final two weeks.

Each week during Bible reflection students consider how sacred scripture can inform our lives. Throughout Advent the reflections will focus upon the symbolism of the wreath and its candles. This week was the theme of Hope.

Last week I reflected upon the joy of Advent, with the anticipation of Christ's birth, and the pleasure of giving and receiving gifts. Christmas is of course the birth of our faith and of our salvation in Christ's service and sacrifice. Looking to the solemnity of Easter may seem to jar with the joy of Christmas, yet we know that in Christ's Passion and resurrection is the gift of eternal life, granted by Mary's answer to the Lord, and by Christ's own, **"thy will be done."**

On Tuesday we hosted the Ten:Ten Theatre Company, whose name derives from scripture passage John 10:10, **"I have come that you may have life, life to the full."** Year 8 students watched *The Trouble With Max*; Year 9 *Love, Honour*; and Year 10 *Babies*. I was struck by the message of *Love, Honour*, and am assured that the other sessions were similarly powerful.

Yesterday we hosted the All In Festival. Our Year 7 Sports Leaders supported hundreds of primary school students from across Chelmsford in a carousel of sport and fitness activities. The sports hall thronged with fun and energy. Elsewhere, I was inspired to hear our student choir rehearse yesterday lunchtime, Sixth Form students Olivia, Adeola, Jodie, Holly, Reachel, Clarissa & Miracle leading more than forty of their younger peers. It was a lovely atmosphere.

Year 11 practice exams conclude next week. It is pleasing to see groups of students revising at break and lunch times and attending the support sessions offered by teachers. They can be proud of their efforts, and are assured of our prayers.

I am pleased to confirm that Mrs Iciek, Head of English, joins the School Leadership Team from January as Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Iciek has served our community for many years, and we are excited at the contribution she will make to our continued progress.

We look forward to our Certificate Evening on Monday 17th where we will affirm former and current students' achievements in last summer's examinations. We also extend a warm invitation to our Advent Service in Aquinas hall at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday 20th for what is sure to be a joyous and blessed celebration. It will be lovely to see you.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher

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.

**Following recent press reports, Governors assure parents & carers that no MAT decision involving SJP will be taken without proper process, involving consultation with all parties.**

## Events & Notices

17/12: Y10 Business trip to Chelsea FC  
17/12: Certificate evening 6.00 p.m.  
20/12: Advent Service 6.00 p.m.

Please see the following link regarding governor vacancies: [www.sjp.essex.sch.uk/about-us/governors](http://www.sjp.essex.sch.uk/about-us/governors)

**Please be familiar with Mr Coen's recent letter regarding arrangements for the final day of term, Friday 21st December.**

**We will be grateful for donations of mince pies to offer guests at our Advent Service on Thursday 20th December.**



## Celebrations & Successes

Well done to Hannah Y10 for being selected for the Aspire Programme.

We thank our Year 7 sports leaders for helping to ensure such a fantastic celebration of sport and fitness at yesterday's All In Festival; and our student choir - we look forward to hearing them at the Advent Service: two wonderful demonstrations of the SJP spirit.



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





**Well done to our Y7 Leaders for helping with the All In Festival today.**

**Little superstars!**