



ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Be it known...

13th December 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

Monday morning began with the lighting of the second 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 for 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. Referencing 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.'*

On Tuesday & Wednesday students in Key Stages 3 & 4 enjoyed a Christmas lunch in Aquinas hall, whilst the Sixth Form were served yesterday in the Anne Line café. The pervading Christmas cheer is one of the many joys of working in education.

Yesterday and today's Art exam concludes a demanding period for our Year 11 students, during which invigilators noted their responsibility and maturity. I am sure receiving their results in January will provide much cause for encouragement, and a foundation upon which to build in next summer's public exams.

I extend my appreciation for the support of recent appeals for consideration when parking at and nearby the school site. The problem has been greatly alleviated, with recent days seeing congestion reduced, sight lines cleared, and greater ease of access for vehicles entering and leaving. This supports our efforts to maintain positive relations with neighbouring residents; most importantly, students are afforded greater safety as they arrive and leave.

We look forward to Monday's Certificate Evening, 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. The spirit of Christmas is eminent as we see and hear students rehearse what is sure to be a blessed and joyous anticipation of Christ. We would love you to join us.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher

Events & Notices

16.12: Certificate evening 6.00 p.m.

19.12: Advent Service 6.00 p.m. We will be grateful for donations of mince pies to serve guests.

20.12: End of Term - Non Uniform & Christmas jumper day. School closes at 1.30 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	4626
BENEDICTINES	4109
CARMELITES	4288
DOMINICANS	4112
FRANCISCANS	5026
SERVITES	5303



Well done to Year 11 throughout your practice examinations. We look forward to celebrating with you next Wednesday with Christmas lunch and an afternoon of festive cheer.

We need musicians, singers and budding karaoke Kings & Queens, so step forward and let your tutors know what you can do -

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

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.

