



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

22nd November 2019

Dear Parents & Carers

On Tuesday we welcomed Aid to the Church in Need, a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, to promote next week's Red Wednesday, when significant buildings around the world will illuminate red in solidarity with the world's persecuted Christians. Students are invited to wear red items to demonstrate support. These can include socks; tights; hairbands, bows & clips; belts; scarves; and trainers. As with all donations, the suggested £2 is voluntary.

Having recently reflected upon the sacrifice of the servicemen and women who fought to free us from tyranny during the twentieth century's conflicts, Red Wednesday sees us reflect upon the freedom we enjoy to witness our faith, and is a further demonstration of the school's long tradition of charitable giving, service and sacrifice.

During assemblies this week students heard speeches from Year 12 Head Boy & Head Girl candidates. All spoke with great poise and confidence, detailing the ways in which they would represent the study body. Our students are our greatest ambassadors, and we are proud of the fantastic contribution their service and commitment makes to our community.

Having written last week of the kindness that characterises our community, I was recently touched by an example whilst at lunch with three Year 9 girls. A Year 7 girl approached, greeting the girls with familiarity and warmth, clearly comfortable in their company. They ate together, and as the elder girls left each made a point of bidding her goodbye.

I asked the girl did she know the girls from primary school. She explained that she had got to know them as not many Year 7 students come to Aquinas for their lunch, and that the girls had noticed her and made her welcome - the SJP spirit at its best.

Yesterday evening we welcomed parents and carers of Year 13 students to our parents' evening - for some families the final such occasion of what have been long and supportive associations. As the young adults who joined us as a new intake six years earlier continue their final months with us in preparation for the next stage in their lives, we reflect upon the responsibility and privilege of supporting young people as they grow to fulfil their potential.

Year 11 practice exams begin on Monday. These will offer much cause for encouragement, demonstrating students' progress towards their potential, and confirming where further effort and support is required. To familiarise students with the experience of collecting their results in August, results will be issued in the Anne Line building during PSHE on Friday 10th January. No results or papers will be issued prior to this date.

I offer a reflection I have shared with students in assembly. During their career a teacher may teach forty Year 11 classes, whereas each student is in Year 11 only once. Students are not defined by their exam results, and we know that education amounts to so much more than grades. However, the coming months are an important period in students' lifelong formation, and their efforts now will aid their future hopes and aspirations.

We look forward to continuing to work with parents and carers to support students to become the best versions of themselves: the people God created them to be.

The Governing Body has a vacancy which they are looking to fill with a candidate who has finance skills. For further information please email Vice Chair Anne Rushton [gov-aru@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:gov-aru@sjp.essex.sch.uk) Governors are keen to increase the diversity of the Governing Body and welcome applications from all sections of the school community.

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.

## Events & Notices

25.11 - 13.12: Y11 exams

27.11: Red Wednesday

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.

Thank you for the continued donation of books to build our Form libraries.

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.



We thank our Rosary group for helping to forge our friendship with The Legion of Mary. All are welcome to attend the Chapel each Wednesday for this special prayer that reflects upon the primary events in the history of our salvation.



AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED  
RED WEDNESDAY 2018



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

