



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

30th November 2018

## Dear Parents & Carers

Yesterday's Y8 consultation evening was a welcome opportunity to meet with parents and carers to discuss their children's progress. We greatly value these partnerships, and recognise that our success as a school owes much to the love and affirmation students receive at home.

Students supported Red Wednesday with enthusiasm this week, raising close to £400. Aid to the Church in Need, a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, supports persecuted Christians around the world. We are inspired by our students' witness and by the blossoming of their God given graces. It is sobering to think of our oppressed brothers and sisters denied our simple freedoms. We hold them in our prayers.

Year 11 practice exams continue for a further two weeks. Last week I reflected upon the fact that students are not defined by their exam results, and that education amounts to so much more than grades. I now offer a reflection I have previously shared with students.

January 7th, when they will receive their results, will provide an experience close to that of next summer. I encourage students to reflect upon how they want to feel next August 22nd. I am sure they can look forward to much success both in the coming months and beyond. They can be assured that all who work here want to see them celebrating the fruits of their efforts.

Sunday marks the start of Advent, when we anticipate the birth of Christ. It is of course natural and part of the joy of Christmas to look forward to giving and receiving gifts. We also reflect upon the gifts we enjoy that are of infinite value but cannot be bought: time, attention, warmth, affirmation, laughter, friendship, encouragement, understanding, forgiveness and love - gifts that abound throughout our community.

I end with a note of thanks to our PTA. We are blessed with a dedicated team of enthusiastic parents and carers who continue to devote much time and energy in support of the school. Their efforts continue to provide many valuable resources. Following September's photo marathon and October's Y7 & 8 disco, this week has seen members of the team dress our Christmas tree in Aquinas hall, adding to the festive atmosphere, and December will see them support two key events in our calendar.

Firstly, 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

**26/11 - 14/12:** Y11 practice exams  
**04/12:** Ten:Ten drama for Years 8, 10 & 11  
**17/12:** Certificate evening 6.00 p.m.  
**20/12:** Advent Service 6.00 p.m.

Year 11 science sets 1 and 2 GCSE live payment deadline is this Thursday Dec 6th.

**We advise students to bring only equipment necessary for any day. We notice that some bags are extremely heavy. This places students under strain at a time that their bones are still forming.**

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

Payment for Spring term music tuition due 07.12.18. Please see SIMS InTouch letter regarding online registration. Please inform [finance@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:finance@sjp.essex.sch.uk) if lessons are to be discontinued.

Students donated over 100 gift boxes to Operation Christmas Child.



## Celebrations & Successes

We are proud to be ranked among many selective schools in the list of East Anglia's top 20 schools.

We are also pleased to confirm the continued award of Healthy Schools Status, maintaining the proud record we have held for many years.

It was lovely to hear from a member of the public who praised our students' behaviour on the 42 bus last Friday afternoon. She was very impressed that they stood aside to allow passengers to sit down.

We have also received compliments from staff at the local Tesco Express on Broomfield Parade.



Red Wednesday



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

