

Our Ref : SPP/JET  
29 March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As another term flies by I wanted to make contact once again to share reflections on life at All Saints during this Spring term and give you notice of some of the key events in our calendar after Easter.

Our students continue to impress me with their positivity and I am often humbled by the continued support they offer me as their new Headteacher. I meet regularly with groups of students to listen to their views on our school, both the strengths and the areas they feel we can improve. Their opinions and advice have been extremely helpful.

The behaviour of our students, the vast majority of the time, makes them a credit to the school and we do remind them that they are ambassadors for the school at all times, especially when in their uniform and on the way to and from school. It is important that our students remember to act with courtesy on public trams and buses. Although we do occasionally receive complaints about student behaviour on public transport we also receive positive feedback and praise from members of the public which is always a real boost.

You will remember that, earlier this term, I wrote to all parents outlining my concerns over student punctuality to school and requested your support in improving the picture. The student response to this push on punctuality to school has been most encouraging and I would like to thank parents and carers for the contribution you have made to ensuring we have a much more positive punctuality picture. To give you some perspective on this, in the half term prior to our renewed focus on punctuality the average weekly number of late arrivals to school was 154. This half term, thus far, the average weekly number has reduced to 73. Although there is still room for improvement I am extremely pleased with the improvement our students have shown. On the whole, school attendance across year groups has been good although will continue to be a priority area of improvement for the school. Excellent attendance and excellent achievement go hand in hand. Thank you once again for your continued support.

I visit as many lessons as possible each week and I am always encouraged by students' engagement in learning and the fact that they come equipped for learning and in correct uniform. On that note, a reminder that after Easter students will be allowed to wear polo shirts for the summer term so let's pray for some summer weather!

Our extensive extra-curricular provision has been as fruitful as ever this term and this week we were captivated by the wealth of talent being showcased at our annual Dance Show. There was such a variety of dance styles presented involving 75 students from Y7 all the way through to Y13. It was an uplifting evening and a wonderful end to our spring term. Another fine example of what a dedicated and immensely talented group of young people we are blessed to have as part our school community.



All Saints has enjoyed another term of sporting success. The Y9 boys football team was crowned Sheffield champions by winning the league and cup double. Football teams in years 7 – 13 have competed in Sheffield, regional and national competitions, participating in over 50 football matches.

Netball has been very popular this term with all our teams completing their fixture allocation. We have hosted Sheffield festivals and competitions where our students have performed fantastically well. The students have benefited from the excellent attendance at the KS3 netball club this term.

Our Level 3 BTEC sport students have worked with the Sheffield Steeldogs Ice Hockey team this term to develop their analysis of sports performance. The students had a number of tutorials with the coaching staff and attended a game where they analysed the performance and provided feedback for the team.

The sports leadership group has been working hard organising and delivering a range of competitions for primary schools. This group of students volunteer their time on a weekly basis to increase the sporting opportunities for the young people in our area.



Next term we will be moving onto our summer sports programme. We will be focussing on cricket, rounders, athletics and rugby league in lessons and through our extracurricular programme. Any students wishing to represent the school in any of these sports should speak to their PE teacher.

Over Easter some GCSE PE students will be enriching their curriculum knowledge by attending a skiing trip to Folgarida, Italy. We wish them all an excellent time on the slopes!

We continue to maintain our focus on fundraising events which are vital in raising awareness of social justice. Again, I am so proud of how actively our students engage in such events. This term we have focussed on the Toilet Twinning campaign and we have donated 10 toilets as a result of raising almost £700. There have been donations to British Heart Foundation through a 6<sup>th</sup> form cake sale and a non uniform day as well as Bluebell Wood Hospice. On 16 March a number of our 6<sup>th</sup> form students and Mr Chadburn took part in the sponsored Sleep Out at Abbeydale Picture House along with students and staff from Notre Dame in aid of St Wilfrid's Centre. We had a large number of staff attend the event and anticipate raising somewhere in the region of £600. Our Lenten fundraising focus is Hallam Caring Services in aid of their Good Shepherd appeal.

We were fortunate to be able to have a voluntary lunchtime Mass with Fr Geoff Bottoms to start Lent. Mass was very well attended by both students and staff. A soup lunch was provided for those that stayed afterwards. Lenten Liturgies are currently running through Holy Week allowing all our students the opportunity to reflect on Lenten promises and prepare for Easter. Easter masses will take place during the first week of our summer term.

Due to large number of students wishing to attend the Y9 retreat this term at Savio House we were fortunate to book a second retreat in the same week so as not to disappoint the students. Next term will see retreats in April for Y8 and then in June for Y7. During this

academic year, every year group from Y7-11 will have had the opportunity to go on retreat which is testament to the great work of our Chaplaincy team.

Henry Woodhouse, a seminarian for the Hallam Diocese, who is staying at St William's for a long pastoral placement, has joined us in school since January to experience a taste of chaplaincy. He was able to join the Y9 retreat which he said was a wonderful experience. Henry will be with us until June/July.

Each year the Catholic primary schools in Sheffield gather together for the Big Sing led by a group called CJM. We hosted the Big Sing in February and 480 pupils attended a feast of music, song, prayer, sign language dance and Liturgy with the aim of bringing Liturgy to life for young people. The day was split into a morning of lively music and song and an afternoon of reflection and prayer. It was a wonderful occasion, full of youthful energy and exuberance and a really positive part of other transition work for students from our Catholic primary schools to come together in a secondary school setting, supported by students from All Saints and Notre Dame, and create such a joyous atmosphere.

In terms of academic study and continued focus on student progress and achievement, school life has been as busy and productive as ever this term for both students and staff. The Y8 Options process is now underway for students with Options Forms to be handed in by 18 April. Students will learn of their confirmed choices by Spring Bank holiday.

Our Y11 students are currently preparing for their GCSE examinations. This is a crucial period of time for all our Y11 students as they have offers from further education establishments through the UCAS progress system.

Students have been preparing for examinations by attending additional revision sessions with staff before and after school, 'how to revise' sessions and ensuring they have the best exam strategies possible for each subject. Over Easter we are supporting our Y11 students by offering additional revision sessions for students who have been invited to attend specific sessions by individual teachers.

You don't need me to emphasise to you just how important these final examinations are for our students and the importance of them organising their revision timetables and preparing fully. However, we have emphasised to all our students that although these exams are immensely important, they are not the most important things in their life. The most important things are the students' health, happiness and well being. We have encouraged our Y11 students to find the balance between revising and preparing for their GCSE examinations and getting some rest and recuperation over the Easter holiday.

In the Sixth Form, our Year 13 students are preparing for their final A Level and BTEC examinations and assessments. This is a very important time for our most senior students as many of them hold university offers and apprenticeship places that require an excellent set of A Level and BTEC results. During tutorial sessions, we have provided additional subject revision sessions and this Easter we are supporting our sixth form students by opening up the sixth form area for quiet, private study. Students are able to come into school from Tuesday 3 April to Thursday 5 April and Monday 9 April to Thursday 12 April between 10.00am and 2.00pm.

In Year 12, the students are preparing for a second set of mock examinations in May and some AS level examinations. The results from these assessments will help to provide the

students with predicted grades for their university applications and they will help them to focus on appropriate Post 18 choices.

We wish the very best to all of our sixth form students involved in examinations over the next few months.

This half term, Year 12 students have helped with Year 11 applicant meetings for students wishing to start in the Sixth Form in September. Their professionalism, care and enthusiasm during the meetings was exemplary and they were a fantastic example of how the whole school community works together.

The extra-curricular programme in the Sixth Form is thriving and just this week, students taking the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) held an excellent EPQ Presentation Fair for staff, students and governors. The atmosphere in the Hall was busy and vibrant as students explained their projects to visitors at their stands.

As I mentioned in my previous end of term letter, teachers have been asked not to set homework during holiday times for students in non-examination years, primarily Years 7 and 8. This is to ensure that children have the opportunity to spend quality time with family during Easter and have a deserved rest from the demands of school work.

I would like to reiterate how supported I have felt by the whole school community during the first two terms of my Headship. At the heart of this caring community are our students whose smiles and welcomes each morning provide me with a real boost. They are a credit to you and our school. I assure you that every member of staff at All Saints will continue to support each and every one of our students to be the very best that they can be. As I keep reminding them, much to their embarrassment, "We love them".



Thank you once again for your continued support and, as we approach such special time of year in the Church's calendar may I wish you a Happy and Holy Easter time.

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S P Pender".

S P Pender  
Headteacher