

Our Ref : SPP/JET
19 December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reach the end of our first term of the academic year I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support and to share some information about life at All Saints during this term and notify you of events this week and in the New Year.

I have been really impressed by the overall attitude of our students throughout this term. Attendance and punctuality have been good and, I am sure, will continue to be even better throughout the academic year. Students have been in correct uniform and their attitude to learning in the classroom has been a pleasure to observe as I have visited many lessons across all year groups. We continue to focus on improving independent learning activities and I hope you are able to view homework set on 'Show My Homework'. If you have any problems with this, then please get in contact with school and we will be happy to set you up.



This year's musical extravaganza, 'We Will Rock You', has just come to an end and has been a huge success, performing to a packed audience over 3 nights as well as a matinee performance for our Year 6 primary partner students. A dedicated team of staff and a large number of students from Year 7 through to Year 13 have all worked tremendously hard over many weeks, including weekends, to create such a high calibre production. It has been a massive success and a real showcase for the immense talent and dedication we have here at All Saints.

In addition to their hard work and commitment to their studies, students have been involved in a wide range of fundraising activities and so far this term have raised in excess of £5,000 for our nominated charities which, this term alone, came to around ten separate charities. Most recently all form groups supported the Shoe Box appeal and gathered 185 shoeboxes of supplies as well as raising around £1,850. In the Spring term we will be organising a Sponsored Sleep Out here in school in conjunction with St Wilfrid's Centre and this will be jointly organised by sixth form students from both All Saints and Notre Dame. Our fundraising activities run throughout the year and, as well as raising a great deal of money for worthy causes, the purpose of our continuous fund raising cycle is to promote Faith in Action and raise students' awareness of Social Justice. We are immensely proud of the commitment our students demonstrate towards helping those less fortunate than themselves.

We offer retreats to students in every year group from Year 7 through to Year 11. So far this year our Year 10 and 11 students have attended their 3 day retreat at Savio

House in October and November, with the theme of Journeys. They were invited to look at life as a journey, and consider the different paths that their lives can take by considering the paths of others.

The experience of being on a retreat allows our students to develop the confidence to be themselves, strengthen self-esteem, understand their gifts and the meaning of faith in their lives.



As we prepare for the great feast of Christmas, you are most cordially invited to our Advent Liturgy in the School Hall on Wednesday 20 December from 7.00 pm to 7.45 pm, followed by seasonal refreshments. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together as a school community with seasonal songs, carols and reflections and I recommend this to you all as a peaceful and inspiring hour or so in what can be a hectic time of year.

On Thursday 21 December we will be celebrating the success of last year's Year 13 students when they join us at 6.00 pm in the School Hall. Invitations have been sent out but this is a further reminder to you (and them!) that we would love to see them again to see how well they have settled into their university courses and working lives. We are delighted that Mrs Scott will be in attendance to present certificates and reacquaint herself with some familiar faces.

In the event of bad weather conditions or any other emergency, if the school has to make a decision to close, we endeavour to inform parents via a text message, but please also check Radio Sheffield and the school website. It is therefore essential that we have accurate telephone details as well as being updated if you have changed your address or any other essential contact information. If you would like us to keep in touch with you via email please contact school with your preferred email address for this purpose.

We are currently consulting on our Admissions Policy for 2019/20 and beyond. Full details can be found on the school website.

Over the Christmas holidays, as well as enjoying a well earned rest, students in examination years (11, 12 and 13) will be focusing on revising for the mock examinations which will take place during the week beginning 15 January 2018. Other year groups will also be having their next Formal Assessment during the spring term and details of this timetable are on the school website.

As part of our review of homework policy, 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 at these times of year and have a deserved rest from the demands of schoolwork.

We have been pleased to see how seriously the students have engaged in their Formal Assessments this term. Following the assessments, students have worked hard with their teachers to respond to feedback and to set targets for further

development. We collect data about the students' progress six times per year and as a parent / carer you can access the data via your login for SIMS. The data is also sent home prior to parents' evenings as part of the interim report. On the 'Parents' section of the website, under the Assessment and Tracking tab, you will find an explanation of the data, a Formal Assessment calendar and a calendar for the cycle data collection. If you need any further information, or have any questions about the data and assessment for your child, please contact your child's Head of House in the first instance.

Parents' Evening for students in Year 10 takes place on Wednesday 10 January 2018 (which is our first week back after the Christmas break) from 4.30 pm. Students should be making appointments for you before they break up for the holidays. Again, this is a really important part of the GCSE journey to make sure they are on the right track early. Feedback from recent Formal Assessments will also be available and there will be the chance to get more information about the new progress measures that the Government has introduced and how these are used in the Progress Tracking system.

Finally, on a personal note I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the whole school community, staff, parents, Governors and, most importantly, our amazing students, for



all the support and encouragement given to me in my first term as Headteacher. I feel immensely privileged to be a part of such a supportive, dedicated and caring community and look forward with real optimism to continuing our positive working relationship and learning journey together in the New Year and beyond.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

God Bless

Sean Pender
Headteacher