

Our Ref : SPP/JET  
21 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my reflections on our first term of the academic year, give you a brief flavour of life at All Saints during this autumn term and celebrate the wonderful contribution our students make to the life of the school. They are the heartbeat of our school community and I am immensely proud of them and grateful to you for the support you provide them and, in turn, the school.

I continue to be impressed by the overall attitude of our students throughout this first term. When I visit lessons and walk the corridors and school site I am always so appreciative of the positive attitude of our students. Like all of us, not all of our young people get things right all the time and they make mistakes on occasion. However, although I regularly remind our whole student cohort of the importance of excellent attendance and punctuality, attitude to learning in lessons and behaviour around school and the highest standards when it comes to school uniform, on the whole it is a very positive picture and in all these areas we continue to strive to be even better. Again, I am most grateful to our parents and carers for supporting the school in maintaining such high standards.

As we end our first term there are 431 students with 100% attendance and 650 students who have excellent attendance at 98%+. A further 100+ students have 96% and above. So I am very pleased that more than three quarters of our students have such a positive attendance picture.

Our House Progress Leaders handed out the first RUAH Awards last week. RUAH speaks of the 'breath of God' and these students have demonstrated their House Patron Saints' qualities, as well as Respect, Understanding, Affection, Humour and loving kindness in their daily lives in school. Well done to the RUAH winners: Ruby, Grace, Joshua, Emmanuel and Olivia. We will continue to promote and embed the principles of RUAH in to the daily life of the school throughout this academic year so you will all become much more familiar with this acronym and our school community will reap the benefits as we all demonstrate these principles of Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour in all that we say and do in our interactions with one another.

Our aim this term has been to help our Year 7 students to settle into life at All Saints, which they have done extremely well. Our transition work was the subject of a double page spread in the Sheffield Star. They are now established as members of the All Saints family and embracing all the opportunities on offer. We have undertaken a transition project with our family of Catholic primary schools who came to look at the progress of our Year 7 students and gain a sense of what life as a Year 7 student is like compared to Year 6. This project is a catalyst for future partnership work with our primary schools throughout this academic year and beyond.

In Year 8 we have started to think about careers and aspirations beyond school with students taking part in a Careers event where they met a range of employers

encouraging students to start think about what they want to do when they leave school and what they need to do to achieve those ambitions. As we move into the spring term students will start to make choices about their GCSE subjects.

In November Year 10 and 11 students took part in a careers event attended by representatives from 18 different occupations. Students had the opportunity to discuss future career aspirations and pathways with professionals who were able to provide valuable advice.

During this term, Year 7- 13 students have received their first set of cycle data so that they can track their progress across their subjects. Students have engaged well in Formal Assessments and the cycle data has been discussed with their Form Tutor in tutorial. We have been thrilled to see that the Form Reps are helping to lead this process, with many older students working with younger members of their form group to set targets for next term. 261 Bronze Awards have been awarded to students in Years 7- 11 this term for superb engagement in learning scores with each of them gaining an extra 10 House Points to go towards the House total this term. The coveted House Point Shield will be awarded to the winning House at the end of the week.



This term has seen the introduction of a new Prefect Team in school with Prefects in Years 11, 12 and 13. They have been supporting parents' evenings and are also helping to monitor breaks and lunchtimes around school. After Christmas, the Prefects will have an afternoon of leadership training with Mr Pender and Mrs Siddall and we will be electing the Prefect Leadership Team.

So many of our students embrace the range of opportunities on offer to them beyond the classroom and their contribution to the life of the school this term has provided so many highlights.

Over 50 of our Year 9 students have signed up to the Inspiring Youth project this term and we hope to achieve a number of Awards at the upcoming celebration in January. Well done to all involved.

On Wednesday 5 December a number of our Year 9 students competed in the Subsea regional STEM Challenge. One of our groups won the challenge and now they get to look forward to competing in the national final, which will be held in Aberdeen in March 2019. Congratulations to them and all our students involved in the regional STEM challenge.

The glorious summer weather continued for our first school retreat of the year in October. For the first time we had a joint retreat with the majority of students in Year 11 and a few joining them from Year 10. Our students were challenged to make the right choices in life.

We look forward in the new year to taking the remainder of our year groups on retreat to Savio House.



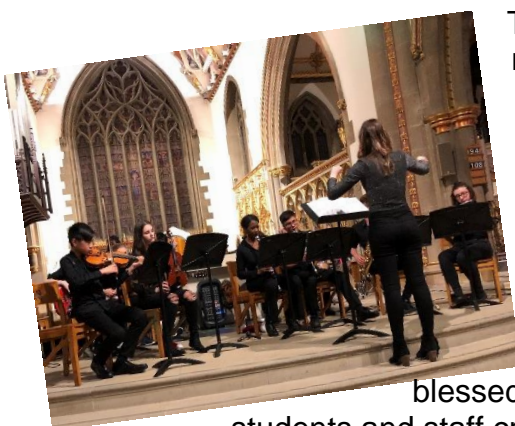
Our charitable fundraising and giving continues through this final week of Advent and students have raised and donated around £6500 to date. During Advent our students have been raising money for Cafod's World Gifts programme which we will boost with our non-uniform and Christmas jumpers event this Friday.

Some of the charities to receive donations from us this term have been: St Wilfrid's Day Centre, MacMillan Cancer Care, the Sheffield Children's Hospital (look for our snowflake on the wall), Toilet Twinning scheme, the British Legion Poppy Appeal and St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store. We also sent away 150 shoeboxes in preparation for Christmas, as well as donating rucksacks to the homeless.

Also in November we welcomed Dan Jarvis MP and Sheffield City Region Mayor in to All Saints to plant a tree commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World War as part of our school's work to remember those who fought so bravely for our freedom. All Saints students have been remembering the fallen through a number of different activities led by the History department.



This year's musical production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' was an amazing success and played to packed audiences over three nights as well as a matinee performance to our Year 6 primary partner students. The quality of the whole production was testament to the large, highly skilled and committed team involved. The way the acting, music and choreography all came together enhanced by superb lighting, sound, costume and set design really did make for an unforgettable evening. Of course, for the students involved, ranging from Year 7 through to Year 13, the whole process will remain one of the highlights of their school experience.



The music department clearly didn't feel a term's rehearsal for the production and a week of performances were quite enough as the following evening we were treated to a wonderful advent concert at the Catholic Cathedral. The quality of the musicians involved really was truly awe inspiring and the acoustics in such a wonderful setting made for an evening that the large congregation will never forget. Again, I am left with such an immense feeling of pride that we are blessed as a school to have such committed and talented students and staff creating magical moments such as these.

It has been a very busy term in the PE department with lots of extra-curricular fixtures being completed. The Year 8 and 10 football teams are worthy of a special mention as they have a 100% winning record so far this season. The Year 8 team is in the semi-finals of the South Yorkshire and Sheffield cups which will be played in the new year.

We have had excellent attendance to extra-curricular activities this term. These include sports such as football, netball, badminton and basketball. The morning fitness club is going strong with some determined students arriving at 7:30 am to work up a sweat before school. The extra-curricular leadership club has continued to flourish; this term they have organised and delivered a range of sporting activities for our feeder primary schools.

The inter-house competition has been a huge success with lots of Year 7-9 students taking part in the weekly competitions. Sixth form students have assisted in officiating the events which has been a fantastic support to the PE department.

Within curriculum time the PE department has offered a range of new sporting activities including lacrosse, Gaelic football and American football. These have been a huge hit with our students during the first term.



Celebrations continue right through to the end of term here. On Wednesday evening we gathered for our Advent Liturgy followed by seasonal refreshments. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together as a school community with seasonal songs, carols and reflections and provides a peaceful and inspiring hour or so in what can be a hectic time of year.

On Thursday evening we celebrated the success of last year's Year 13 students when they joined us in the School Hall for an opportunity, after a term in pastures new, to catch up with familiar faces and allowed us as a school to reflect upon and acknowledge their achievements.

This term has been a busy one for the Sixth Form! Year 12 students are now at the end of term 1 and have settled in really well, making the most of all of the enrichment opportunities and ensuring that they are ready for their first set of mock examinations in January. This term, a group of Year 12 students has started a year-long mentoring project with Year 6 students in our local primary schools which is supported by both of the Sheffield universities. The 'buddies' aim to raise aspirations for the primary pupils and they will also help them to present their journey through Year 6 to parents at the end of the year. In school, Year 12 students are involved with paired reading, supporting lower school lessons and they are helping to run a number of sports sessions with the PE department. The enrichment programme has also enabled students to take part in: driving theory lessons, computer programming, writing a Sixth Form magazine, cooking, the sewing bee, Duke of Edinburgh, beginners Spanish and to be part of the All Saints Voices who have performed recently at a number of events.



Year 13 students have been finalising applications for university and apprenticeships, with many now holding offers. Several of our prospective medics, vets, nurses and Oxford and Cambridge applicants have been out for interviews and we await decisions with anticipation.

In January Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be sitting their mock examinations. Students have been working hard in lessons, utilising a range of different revision strategies and developing their examination technique. Over the festive period it is vitally important that our students find a balance between revision and recuperation so that they are fully prepared and rested for next term. In line with our homework policy teachers have been asked not to set homework during holiday times for students in non-examination years, primarily Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. 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.

When we return to school in January we have Year 9 parents' evening on Monday 14 January and Year 8 parents' evening on Wednesday 23 January. I hope all parents will be able to attend and take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress directly with their teachers.

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.

I realise, at this point, that this is a rather lengthy letter so I will look to conclude. However, the fact that this is just a snapshot of what life at All Saints feels like beyond the day to day Teaching & Learning is testament to our committed and enthusiastic community.

Once again I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the whole school community, staff, parents, Governors and, most importantly our amazing students, for your invaluable contribution to the life of our school. I remain immensely privileged to be a part of such a supportive, dedicated and caring community.

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

God Bless

