

Our Ref : SPP/JET  
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Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this spring term letter we have all returned from what, I hope for our whole school community, was a relaxing and enjoyable two week break. We return to Holy Week and the lead up to the great celebration of Easter and I do feel that the message of new life and new beginnings is wholly relevant for our students as they embark upon their final term of this academic year.

Prior to the two week break I delivered assemblies to every House and highlighted the importance of the principles of RUAH that we are developing across school. RUAH stands for **Respect, Understanding, Affection and Humour**, which are the fundamental attitudes staff and students should aim to demonstrate both in their working relationships but also out in the wider community. These principles were developed by Don Bosco, founder of the Salesian order, and a man who devoted his life to working with the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children. He is a perfect role model for what we aim to achieve for our young people here at All Saints.

In those assemblies I focused on the importance of Respect and how students and staff need to demonstrate this both within school and out in our communities. I did focus on some aspects of our Behaviour for Learning policy that I feel need tightening up and, indeed, we will be having a renewed push on expectations throughout this summer term and beyond. As I reminded all our students, the sole reason we demand the highest expectations of them is because we are committed to ensuring every student at All Saints has the best education possible in the best environment possible. As I reflected on behaviour in our school, I was able to remind myself and our school community that behaviour is overwhelmingly positive and something we are extremely proud about. Over 50% of our students have never had a single negative behaviour referral in their time at school and 20% of our students currently have a 100% attendance record – not one day absent from school. These are exemplary achievements by the majority of our student population.

This letter is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements and contribution so many of our students make to the life of the school beyond their academic rigour in lessons, positive behaviour or excellent attendance and punctuality. Throughout this spring term, there has been so much enrichment and showcasing of talent and dedication that I can't include it all in this correspondence but allow me to present some of the highlights.

This year's Music Showcase proved to be even bigger and better than ever before, with more than 90 students from Year 7-Year 13 performing to a sell-out audience. A huge variety of acts wowed the audience including the Year 7 African Drumming Ensemble, A Level student's band, many vocal soloists and the 40+ members of All Saints Voices who both opened and closed the show. Some students even performed their own compositions making the evening the most diverse and exciting Music Showcase to date. Well done to all students involved.



Earlier in this academic year a group of our students were winners of the regional Subsea STEM challenge. As a result, they travelled up to Aberdeen to compete against other regional winning schools from Plymouth, Newcastle, Southampton and Glasgow. The tasks involved in this national competition included the design and production of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and teams carried out extensive research into the benefits for the environment such as reduction in waste from the oceans. The students worked exceptionally hard throughout the day, but it wasn't just the technical skills of our students that impressed the judging panel, it was how they worked together



as a group and how they interacted with each other throughout the day. So much so, that we were immensely proud to hear that our team was crowned national winners in the competition. They are a credit to themselves, their families and the school.

For the third year running, students and staff attended the Inspiring Youth Awards night to celebrate a number of All Saints' students completing the Inspiring Youth Level 1 and Level 2. The Inspiring Youth project is led by South Yorkshire Police, who come into school and work alongside Year 9 and 10 students to build a portfolio to evidence extra work and responsibilities the students take on. The project covers different aspects of education, home life and work experience. We currently have around 60 students involved with the project. This year 18 of our students were invited to the awards ceremony and every one of them went on to receive an award. Thanks to all of the students who have taken part and devoted their spare time to work on this project and to our student support team who work with them towards the award.



On Tuesday 26 March the annual dance show was once again a sell-out performance! We had almost 100 students Year 8 – Year 13 participating in the show, performing in a range of dance styles contemporary, street, lyrical and freestyle. The dancers have all worked exceptionally hard this year in dance. The sixth form students have had the opportunity to work with some of the dancers from Matthew Bourne's New Adventures company and they performed some of his choreography in the show. The show was an outstanding evening that showcased the talent of many students within the school. Well done to all students who performed in the show.

All Saints' sporting success continued this term with not one but two of our football teams being cup winners in the Sheffield City finals in March. The Year 8 footballers were tremendous in their victory. A close first half saw Meadowhead enter the break with a 1-0 lead. All Saints showed their grit and determination and started to play some lovely football and took the game to their opposition. The game ended 6-2 in favour of All Saints.



The Year 10 students, who were also cup winners last year, were involved in an intriguing match against Birley. An absolute battle from start to finish. Both teams gave everything throughout the game. Birley entered the break with a 1-0 lead. All Saints managed to level the game 1-1 before going on to take the lead. Birley then threw the kitchen sink at the All Saints' defence and got what they deserved (2-2). They then rode the wave and poked themselves into the lead (3-2) with a few minutes to go. But All Saints, known for their ability to dig deep, clawed their way back with an unbelievable strike just before the final whistle, making it all square going (3-3) into extra time. After a stalemate first half, the pressure began to show but All Saints were able to find the extra gear where it mattered by finding a winner 5 minutes before the end. Final score 4-3.



This has also been a very successful year for both U13 and U12 Netball teams. The U12s were undefeated throughout the season and went on to win the U12 Pool B League. Their attendance and commitment to every training session has been exemplary and we have a really talented team coming through. The U13 team went on to win the Sheffield Schools' Netball tournament with some exceptional individual performances.

We have an extensive Duke of Edinburgh programme with large numbers of students participating each year. On 6 March, twenty-seven of our past and current pupils attended a ceremony at Sheffield Town Hall where they were presented with their Duke of Edinburgh award certificates. Congratulations to all of them. Between the 26 and 28 April, sixty-eight pupils will be undertaking the practice expedition for their award in the Bakewell area of the Peak District. This will be supported by a number of staff and both they and the students will be praying that the weather stays fine for all of them.



The summer examinations are nearly upon us and our students and staff have been working extremely hard to prepare fully for this. The students in Year 11 are in the process of revising content and practicing exam techniques. To support this they are utilising a variety of different revision strategies which have been developed with their teachers. During the Easter holiday period the school building was busy with many students attending additional revision days for specific subjects. This is an indication of the commitment to learning many of our students display on a daily basis.

On Friday 10 May our Year 11 students will attend an Examination Mass which is an opportunity to celebrate their time with us at All Saints and to wish our students good luck for their examinations. The Mass will start at 2:00 pm and parents/carers of Year 11 students are welcome to attend.

Life in our Sixth Form remains as active as ever with much to celebrate. Year 12 have had an excellent first year in the Sixth Form and they are working hard for their second set of mock examinations in May. Students are currently investigating their Post 18 options

with their form tutors and they will start to complete university application forms in the summer term. We have also had a speaker in school to introduce Higher Level Apprenticeships. A good number of students continue to work with the University of Sheffield on a range of outreach programmes and several have been successful in gaining summer school placements across the country. Over the last few weeks, Year 12 students have met with prospective Year 11 sixth form applicants and they will also be meeting parents and students who are joining the Sixth Form in September from other schools.

With the majority of our Year 13 students holding university and apprenticeship offers, we are heading towards the final set of A Level and BTEC examinations. They have worked incredibly hard over the last two years and many students made good use of the recent two-week holiday by using the school as a quiet place to revise. We will be celebrating the Year 13 students' time with us during a Mass on Thursday 9 May and we hope that many parents/carers will join us.

As part of the Lenten fundraising in school, the whole of the Sixth Form took part in a RAG week just before the Easter holidays. Students brought in tins and clothes to support the homeless and needy in Sheffield, they participated in the 'Big Quiz' and they gave their time to support younger students in school. On the last day of term, the sixth form students hosted a big Food Fair in the Hall at break. Food from over 12 countries was sold and they raised over £500 for Charity – a superb effort!



This academic year we have used Student Voice with our Year 11 Prefects to review our supported causes for local, national and international charities. This information was

shared with students in assemblies to give them an overview of our annual charitable events and remind them of the wonderful work that they do. Students were able to see what each month looks like with their continuous generosity and who benefits from the vast range of excellent, creative and committed activities that they undertake. When we broke up for the holidays at the end of March students had so far raised over £9650. Every penny that students raise is donated to our supported causes and donations so far have been made to (locally) St Wilfrid's Day Centre, St Vincent de Paul Furniture Store, Weston Park Hospital, Sheffield Children's Hospital and Hallam Caring Services through the Good Shepherd Lenten appeal, (nationally) British Legion and British Heart Foundation (internationally) Mary's Meals, Toilet Twinning scheme with Tearfund and Cafod via their crisis appeals and World Gifts Programme.

On Saturday 2 March, eighteen students and staff joined a group of 150 from all the schools across the Diocese to attend Flame 2019, the country's largest gathering of Catholic youth, at Wembley Arena. The theme of the event was Significance, and they were challenged to think about how they determine whether they are significant or not and how they value their worth.



Our retreats continue to Savio House with our Year 9 students. The theme of water was used to stimulate reflections on what goes on beneath the surface of our lives. There was an opportunity for reconciliation and the celebration of Mass before their final evening's celebration.



Wednesday of Holy Week saw students who will be making their confirmation this year, or who have recently been confirmed, attend the Chrism Mass at St Marie's Cathedral.

Today, Maundy Thursday, a group of students took part in the Stations of the Cross, in which Jesus is inviting us to take up the cross and journey with him.

I hope this Easter letter serves as a reminder about what a credit our students are 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 we continue our learning journey together. We will, as always, continue to develop an ethos based on mutual respect and, ultimately, love, in keeping with Jesus' instructions. As I regularly tell our students, it is because we love and respect each and every one of them that we have the highest expectations of them, day in day out.

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



God Bless



S P Pender  
Headteacher