

Our Ref : SPP/JET  
20 December 2019



Dear Parent/Carer

On the final day of our Autumn term I am able, once again, to share with our whole school community many of the highlights and achievements of students and staff here at All Saints. Our curriculum is not purely focused on the range of subjects that students are taught during each school day but their overall experience of school. So much of this provision goes beyond the academic progress and is aimed at ensuring our students' experience of school is enriched by embracing a wealth of opportunities. As I have said on numerous occasions, our students are the heartbeat of our school and this newsletter provides a flavour of the ways in which they contribute to and impact upon the life of our school.

Despite some significant bouts of illness this Autumn amongst both staff and students I remain encouraged by an improving picture with regards punctuality to school and the positive attendance from the vast majority of our students. At the end of our first term there are currently 300 students with 100% attendance and 423 students who have excellent attendance at 98+%. A further 163 students are on 96-97.99% attendance showing  $\frac{3}{4}$  of our students having had very few days absent from school. I would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support in recognising the vital importance of excellent punctuality and attendance.

We have introduced RUAH cards alongside our Star Cards to recognise each week when students have demonstrated respect, understanding, affection and humour towards others and acted with loving kindness – an essential ingredient in a long, busy and challenging term. There continue to be many examples of students living the gospel values inside school and out of it. When we return in the new Year the Houses will issue the RUAH termly award to the student who has most embodied these values and reflected those of their House Patron Saint.



The Bishops of England and Wales called for a Year of the Word under the title, 'The God Who Speaks'. The year was launched in September and began, the 1st Sunday of Advent. Throughout the year we will celebrate, live and share God's Word as we are invited to do. We have a visual reminder in school and hopefully this will prompt us all, to maybe pick up a bible and let 'God speak to us'.

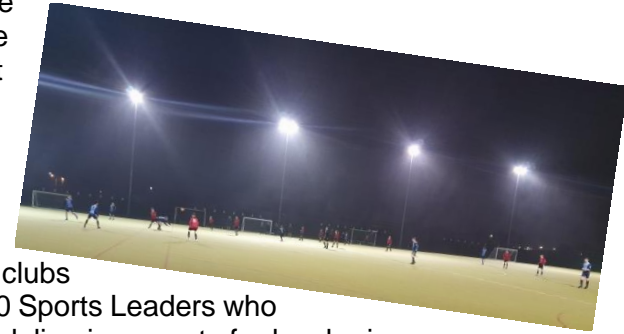


On Wednesday evening we were treated to a wonderful Advent Liturgy followed by seasonal refreshments. It's a wonderful opportunity for us to gather together as a school community with seasonal songs, carols and reflections and provides a peaceful opportunity to reflect on this Advent season. Our liturgy is closely linked to our advent charitable work and Charitable giving continues in to week 15 of the term with our last day being a final push on World Gifts. Fundraising by staff and students has raised over £2000 and we are still to add our donations for Cafod World Gifts and our Shoebox appeal that has focused on local families, children, vulnerable adults and those who may be living in homelessness, isolation and with mental health challenges – supporting the work of the SVP furniture store, Carmel Care and St Wilfrid's day care centre.



Extra-curricular sporting performance this term has been thick and fast with football and netball having had lots of fixtures. The Year 9 boys' football team has continued where it left off last year by keeping a 100% winning record. In doing so, the team has progressed to the 6th round of the National Cup and also the semi finals of the Sheffield Cup. Our Year 10 boys' team has also qualified for the semi-finals of the Sheffield Cup

after an impressive result against Westfield. The Year 11 boys' team has progressed to the Clegg Shield semi-final which is the oldest competition in schools' football history. We are immensely proud to have three year groups in a semi final of Sheffield schools cup competition. All Saints has hosted citywide Year 7 football tournaments for both boys and girls where both our teams performed excellently and in the correct spirit. Our Year 9 girls' netball team has played in a Year 10 netball league and has won every game thus far which is an amazing achievement. Our Year 11 girls' netball team has also won every game played so far.



We have had over 150 students attending extracurricular clubs throughout the week, including an amazing group of Year 10 Sports Leaders who have developed their confidence and organisation skills by delivering events for local 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.



Enrichment opportunities in sport go beyond our school gates as was the case last month when 190 of our students participated in a trip to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester to watch Manchester City in the Champions League.

This last week of term has seen every student in school take part in our annual Christmas country dancing lessons which are designed to learn new skills whilst having a little fun and spreading the Christmas cheer.

A FIFA Tournament has been introduced at lunchtimes to offer some focused and enjoyable activity for our students and give them something to help de-stress from the rigours of their academic day and so far it has been a huge success. The game is played on a league basis and the league winner will come away with the champion's trophy. We currently have four leagues and our students very rarely miss a game. Their enthusiasm for the competition is incredible and all the games are played in good spirit with lots of fun and banter between the students.

Mr Stokes has recently introduced a cup competition starting at the end of January and hopefully the final will be played before we break for Easter. Our students will be playing for the All Saints Cup which we are hoping will be an annual tournament as we move forward and expand the whole competition. With the final we are looking at selling tickets to watch and the money raised will be put back into upgrading the game to the latest version and replacing controllers as they break down. We are looking to make it a big event by playing the final in the school hall and creating a community atmosphere.

In December Dr Mark Slater from the University of Hull delivered a workshop for current and potential A Level Music students. Dr Slater focused on composition techniques and essay

writing skills to help prepare for the exams and for studying music in a higher education establishment.

In October, Year 12 Drama students had the privilege of working with former A Level Drama student Megan Abel in a Combat workshop. Here they learned skills with wooden weapons and choreographed their own Stage combat scene as an ensemble. These invaluable skills and techniques can be now used in the Devised Performances that they are currently working on and will be performed in March 2020.



Former All Saints student John Rwothomach ran a physical theatre workshop for A Level Drama students and selected Year 11 Drama students in October. He also performed a preview of his one-man show *Far Gone* which was performed at the Studio Theatre in October.

This year's school musical in December was *High School Musical on Stage* and was a huge success. With 80 students involved in various roles such as stage crew, band, technical crew and on stage performing it was a fantastic and inclusive event. All students performed their roles with commitment and flair demonstrating a real sense of collaboration throughout the process. All this was rehearsed and performed in a mere 9 weeks! Every single student was a real credit to the school.



During this term, students across all year groups have engaged well in Formal Assessments in most of their subject areas. Students in Years 10-13 have received their cycle data and have engaged in discussions about their progress with their Form Tutor or a senior member of staff in tutorial. Students in Years 7-9 will receive their data after Christmas and will be setting personal targets for improvement. We are delighted that 241 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 been a busy one for the sixth form students. It has been fantastic to see their involvement in the wider life of the school, from participating in the school musical and leading the Music Showcase, to supporting students in the lower school with reading. Form groups have also delivered excellent assemblies to their year group this term.

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. Through the enrichment programme, 46 Year 12 students are supporting pupils in lower school lessons and a number of Year 12 students have started a year-long mentoring project with Year 6 students in our local primary schools; a scheme supported by both of the Sheffield universities. The 'buddies' aim to raise aspirations for the primary pupils and they will help them to present their journey through Year 6 to parents at the end of the year. An impressive number of Year 12 students have also applied to a range of outreach programmes run by universities across the country. Fifteen students have already been successful in gaining places on the outreach programme at The University of Sheffield on a range of courses from Discover Medicine to Discover Law.



Year 13 students have been finalising applications for university and apprenticeships, with many now holding offers. Several of our prospective medics, vets, physiotherapists, nurses and Oxford and Cambridge applicants have been out for interviews and we await decisions with anticipation. Students applying for apprenticeships have engaged with an expert in the field to prepare CVs and to understand the wide range of apprenticeship opportunities available.

Year 11 students are well underway with their Sheffield Progress which we started back in October; many students have completed their profiles and over 140 applications have currently been sent to providers.

In November there were also opportunities for students in Year 10 & Year 11 to attend careers fairs. One held in school, which all students in these year groups were invited to attend, along with sixth form students dropping in throughout the day, and one held in Birmingham where 44 students were able to learn a little bit more about the different jobs that are available to them (this also gave them the chance to have a go at certain activities as well).

The Higher Education Progression Partnership (HEPP) has been out to see three of our year groups so far with two more booked in and the next one as early as the second week back in January.



In November ISD, in partnership with Google, came into school to deliver internet safety workshops for the whole of Year 10. This involved four different workshop activities throughout the day and an assembly at the end for students to present what they had learnt during the day. The event was good fun for the students and very informative. We also invited local MPs to attend the event which Louise Haigh accepted, and she spoke to the students about working as an MP; as per school policy she kept the discussion to her role and not her party politics.

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 Wednesday 15 January and Year 8 parents' evening on Monday 20 January. I hope all parents will be able to attend and take the opportunity to discuss your child's progress directly with their teachers.

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School is now using our parent app as the sole means of keeping in touch with parents and carers. To date we have had 978 downloads making a saving of £520 in paper and SMS that would have otherwise been used. We have 437 parents or carers who we still need to download the app. You can do this via the Apple Store, Google Play, searching for MyEd or by scanning the QR code. Registration is very quick and you can expect to see the full app and its facilities 24 hours after

download. So far we have sent out letters about trips, details of early closure, dates for parents' evenings and messages that relate to attendance. It has links to our website, Show My Homework, Parent Pay and many others areas. Feedback from users tell us that the message service is one of the most helpful applications as it has the ability to allow parents or carers to message our attendance team about known absence. We will be launching a number of new links in the New Year that will make more savings for the school. From the 1 January 2020 we will only be using the app to provide you with all school related information so sign up is imperative in order to ensure successful communication.



Apologies for the length of my termly newsletter but it is testament to the vibrant life of the school that there is so much to share and celebrate with you. Thank you to all our school community for your continued support as we work together with the amazing young people we are privileged to call students of All Saints School.



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

God Bless

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. P. Pencil'.

