

14 December 2018

Dear Parents,

Our Carol Service at the Cathedral on Monday night was a delight to all the senses. The splendour and beauty of our great Cathedral, the sound of the College Choristers and the Orchestra ringing through the aisles left us all feeling that the Christmas spirit had descended upon our community. We thank the Chaplain, Music Staff, Choir, Orchestra and Readers for all their hard work and efforts in making our celebration of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ an event to remember.

### **Mock Examinations**

On Wednesday our Year 13 embarked on their Mock Examinations. Congratulations in completing this arduous task. We hope that their efforts will pay dividends as we approach the final lap of their secondary education. The results will not be available until we return after the holidays.

Christmas will provide a much-needed opportunity to recharge and maybe rethink how we re-engage with our studies in January.

### **Rugby**

After a fantastic season of rugby I was disappointed to hear about our lack-lustre performance against St Anselm's on Saturday. This was out of character from a squad that has demonstrated resilience and flair throughout the term. Many may have been fatigued from the fantastic victory on Wednesday in our Semi Final against AKS.

Our final is set against St Mary's on the 30th January 2019 at Preston Grasshoppers 4G stadium. I know Mr Heeley will be employing a rigorous programme to ensure that our 1st XV return with silverware.

### **UCAS/Workshop**

We have only 12 students who have yet to complete their UCAS applications. Mr Leeder is undertaking a two hour workshop on Monday to help all those students to complete these applications. It is essential that they attend this gathering as applications that reach Universities before Christmas have a better chance of receiving offers than those who wait to the New Year.

## **Final Assembly**

On Wednesday the Sixth Form will have their final assembly in which we will make presentations to pupils and staff for all their exceptional efforts this term. The celebration assembly will take place in the MV Hall at 12 pm and will be completed by lunchtime in which the Sixth Form will be free to commence their holiday.

## **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**

In January the EPQ will begin in earnest for our Year 12. Before the end of term all students should have set in place their Tutor and begun the task of researching and formulating titles. It is up to each individual student to seek out a tutor to work with them. The first formal meeting with their tutors will be completed by the 14th January. Mr McAlea will release a timetable for the next two terms in January. Completion date is set for July.

## **Uniform Policy**

I have been disappointed with the flagrant infringement of our uniform policy by our girls. I would hope that you would support us in addressing this and advise your daughters of what our policy states for both girls and boys. I have included the Policy in this newsletter so that you can help us enforce it.

### **Dress and Appearance Code: Sixth Form Uniform:**

Sixth Form students are expected to dress professionally.

#### **Uniform L**

Students should wear dark grey, dark blue or black suits, collared white shirts and the Sixth Form tie.

#### **Uniform C**

Students should wear a black skirt or black trousers, a white shirt or blouse, a black jacket.

Tights and socks should be black or grey.

Shoes should be black and flat.

No boots.

No trainers or trainer style shoes allowed.

Overcoats should be black or dark blue with no logos.

#### **Personal Appearance:**

Hair should be a natural colour.

No number one cuts.

No patterns shaven in.

Pupils must be clean shaven, side burns may not extend below the level of the ear.

Necklaces should be worn inside the shirt or blouse.

Make up must be discreet as determined by the Head of Sixth Form.

If we cannot improve the dress code there are those within the College Leadership Team who advocate an official uniform. I am reluctant to endorse such ideas as I know how much our young men and women enjoy the fact that they are differentiated from the rest of the College and other neighbouring Schools.

## **Year 13 Morning Registration & House Mentor**

In the reinforcement of the House system the House Mentor role has changed. We felt that the students are better served with daily contact with a member of staff. As a result the school is re-introducing morning registration with a House Mentor for Year 13. This will be under the leadership of the Senior Leadership Team who will, for the next term and a half, be the Year 13 House Mentors.

Mr Brady – Brook's

Mr Broekman – Butler's

Mrs Haynes - Howard's

Mr Griffith – Howson's

Mrs Lines - School

Mrs Cassidy – Selwyn's

### **Litter**

We have received a complaint from a resident of Greenbank Road about littering. Many of our students who enjoy the freedom of lunching out seem to find it difficult to use the multiple bins provided to dispose of the packaging from their lunchtime purchases. I would be obliged if you could remind your son or daughter of their civic duty to dispose of their litter responsibly.

### **Merry Christmas**

On Thursday I undertook an LC cover period for Year 8. I asked the pupils what was their favourite Christmas song. (What is yours?) The overwhelming response from Miss Knoop's Form was Mariah Carey's 'All I want for Christmas'. I informed them that I preferred the song 'Driving Home For Christmas'. This was based upon a desperate attempt I made to get home for Christmas and New Year in 1999. I was leaving my home in Kenya which involved changing flights in Uganda. On arrival in Entebbe airport my connection flight was grounded due to conflict in the region and I had to wait 48 hours in the airport before our flight could depart. Eventually our flight departed on Christmas Eve and landed in the early hours of Christmas morning with music blaring across the intercom 'Driving Home For Christmas'. After over a year of not being with my family I was overwhelmed and delighted to be able to spend time with those nearest and dearest to me.

Though this may seem indulgent using this platform to share this reminiscence, I feel that it is the spirit of Christmas that unites family and friends together as we never know when we shall meet again.

I wish you and your family a joyous Christmas.

Stephen Brady

**Head of Sixth Form**