

THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mrs. A. Moise-Dixon

December 2018

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This month we have entered the season of Advent. Students and staff have been preparing both the academy environment, our deeds and ourselves for the birth of Our Lord. Advent is our time of joyful waiting for the real present that awaits us.

Christmas Events

We warmly invite you to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 18th December at 7.00pm in Palmer Hall. This is a real family occasion and after the service we will be serving mince pies and mulled wine and, as always, there will be an appearance from a special guest dressed in red for our younger visitors.

We will be holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 14th December in support of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Students wishing to take part can wear a Christmas jumper under their blazers and donate £1. Please note that this is not a non-uniform day.

To finish the term, Christmas Services will be held on Thursday 20th December at St Cedd's Church as follows:

Years 9, 10 and 11 @ 8.40am (students to meet at the Church)

Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 @ 11.00am (students will be escorted to the Church by staff)

Certificate Collection

To enable students from last year's Year 11 and Year 13 to collect their certificates, we have set aside Tuesday 18th December from 5pm-6pm to allow for this to take place. Staff will be in the atrium of Mother Teresa Building to welcome.

Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 19th December will be a non-uniform day and students will be asked to donate £1. Students who do not bring £1 should attend in full uniform. We will also be holding our annual Talent Shows on this day with the Lower School show during period 2 and the Upper School show during period 3.

Breakfast Club

A reminder that supervised Breakfast Club runs every morning, Monday to Friday from 8.00am to 8.40am. Please note that students who are on Pupil Premium have an additional £1.00 added to their accounts.

Online Payment System

A reminder to parents/carers that The Palmer Catholic Academy operates a cashless system and therefore are encouraging parents to pay online for trips/events and other products via our online payment system. If you are not yet registered, please contact Mrs Bovington in the Finance Office.

If you are already registered an event/trip or product will appear on your home page when you login to your online account.

Staff Update

We welcome the following staff who joined us this term:

Colin Reynolds – LSA – 10th September 2018

Fahed Bashir – LSA – 1st October 2018

Claire Devey – Welfare & Admin Assistant – 29th October 2018

School Fund

As mentioned in my September 2018 letter, I am asking for a contribution of £60 per family. Your generosity allows so much to be achieved and adds significantly to the funds directly raised by the Governors. Of course, if you feel that you are in a position to contribute more, this would be very much appreciated. If on the other hand, your financial circumstances are such that you can afford less, then this will still be appreciated as all goes to the greater good of the students. In these austere times for school budgets, these contributions make a huge difference to what we can provide. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Diary Dates

Important diary dates for this academic year can be found on the academy's website. Please note that Thursday 20th December is the last day of term and the academy will close at 12.00pm. There will be a staff inset day on Monday 7th January 2019 so the academy will be closed to students. All students will be expected to return to the academy at 8.40am on Tuesday 8th January 2019 to start the Spring term.

Term Dates

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2019 to July 2020. These are also available on the website. Please ensure you study these carefully to avoid booking holidays during term time.

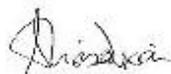
Should you wish to see me regarding any matter pertaining to your child, please contact my PA, Mrs Julie Bolton, to arrange a mutually convenient appointment.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my staff for their hard work and dedication to our students. My thanks also are with the governors of the academy who ensure that the academy runs smoothly.

Finally, as this is my last letter to you all, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support in all that we have achieved in the academy over the last 3 years of my headship. I have been privileged and blessed to have had the honour of serving the community and adding to the legacy of Canon Patrick Palmer's vision. I am confident that the academy will go from strength to strength under Mr Downey's leadership and that the achievement and high expectations set in the academy will continue.

I wish you and all those you love a very happy, holy and safe Christmas and a successful 2019.

With every best wish for the season,



A Moise-Dixon
Headteacher