



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Next month we enter the season of Advent. Students and staff have been preparing, through our actions and deeds, for the birth of Our Lord. Students continue to demonstrate our commitment to fundraise for various charities, including our annual Christmas hampers and Shoe Box Appeal. Our RE department's theme this year will be 'the real meaning of Christmas for Christians — the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a message of hope, love, light, and salvation'. I am very proud of all our students for their efforts and thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Events

Music Concert – this year, our Music Teacher, Mr Chapman, will be organising a music concert on Tuesday 2nd December at 5pm where students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their musical talents.

Student Christmas lunch – our traditional Christmas Lunch will take place on Thursday 11th December. Please note that this will be the only cooked food option available on this day.

Christmas Jumper Day – We will be holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 11th December in aid of Save the Children. Students wishing to take part can wear a Christmas jumper under their blazers and donate £1. Please note this is **not** a non-uniform day.

Non-Uniform Day – Tuesday 16th December will be a non-uniform day and students will be asked to donate £1, which will be collected by the students' form tutors. Students who do not bring £1 should attend in full uniform. All monies received will be in aid of our chosen advent charities. 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.

Christmas Carol Service – We warmly invite you to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service on Wednesday 17th December at 5.00pm. This is a real family occasion and light refreshments will be available after the service. There will be no charge for refreshments, however, should you wish to make a donation, any monies raised will go to our chosen Advent charities. As always, there will be an appearance from a 'special guest' for our younger visitors.

Staff Update

Miss Morrow will be going on maternity leave at Christmas and Miss Nelligan will be returning from maternity leave at the start of the new Spring term.

Diary Dates

Please note the following:

- Friday 19th December – last day of term and the academy will close at 12.30pm.
- Monday 5th January 2026 – Staff inset day – the academy will be closed to students.
- Tuesday 6th January 2026 – All students will be expected to return to the academy by 8.40am, prepared and ready to start the Spring term.

I wish you and all your family a very happy, holy Christmas.

With every best wish for the season

Mr P Downey
Headteacher