



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

This 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, Shoe Box Appeal and Christmas cards and decorations sale. Our RE department's theme this year will be 'a universal Christmas'. I am very proud of all our students for their efforts and thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Events

Student Christmas lunch - our traditional Christmas Lunch will take place on Wednesday 13th 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 Friday 15th December in aid of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. 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 19th 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 Tuesday 19th December at 6.00pm. 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

We say goodbye to the following staff who will be leaving us at Christmas:

Mr Vanstone – English Teacher
Ms Mahmed – Science Teacher
Ms Taylor – Head of English

Mrs Millbery – Student Mentor
Mr Thumber – ICT Technician

We welcome the following staff who will join us in the Spring term:

Mrs Ahmed – Science Teacher
Mrs Khatun – English Teacher

Mr Mukherjee will be taking over as Head of English from 1st January 2024.

Diary Dates

Please note the following:

- Thursday 21st December – last day of term and the academy will close at 12.45pm.
- Friday 5th January 2023 - Staff inset day and the academy will be closed to students.
- Monday 8th January 2024 – All students will be expected to return to the academy by 8.40am, prepared and ready to start the Spring term.

Term Dates

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2024 to July 2025. These are also available on the website.

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

With every best wish for the season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P Downey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mr P Downey
Headteacher