



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We welcome everyone back to the summer term of the academic year. I hope you all had a lovely Easter break. This is a busy term and an important one for those students in Years 11 and 13 who will be sitting their examinations. Nevertheless, this term is also important for Years 7-10 and 12 in ensuring that they are making the progress that is expected in preparation for next year.

Year 11 and Year 13 Booster Classes

These continue to run and I have attached the timetables again for your information. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions as this will give them the best chance of attaining the grades they deserve.

Summer Uniform Years 7-11

Students are now able to wear their summer uniform as set out below:

A plain white, short sleeved, school shirt/blouse is permitted for summer. All other uniform expectations, are as per winter uniform. Ties and blazers must be worn with the short sleeved shirt.

Students can continue to wear their winter uniform in summer.

Staffing

We welcome the following members of staff this term:

Mr Larkin – Science and Head of Year

Mr Waterhouse – Business and Economics and ICT

Curriculum

As an academy, we continue to review and improve the subjects that we offer our students to ensure that they receive a broad, balanced and holistic educational experience.

This academic year we introduced Photography, Ceramics and Spanish, which the students have really enjoyed. We also offered Psychology as a GCSE option, this was previously only available as an A Level subject. Our Sixth Form provision also develops as we introduce Business Studies as an A Level subject.

Attendance and Punctuality

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm the importance of good attendance and punctuality. Attendance and punctuality are key to educational achievement. This term we will continue to enforce both our attendance and punctuality policies. Please be aware that attendance that is less than 95% is considered to be poor attendance and could have a detrimental effect on your child's progress.

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Headteacher: Mr P Downey

Students must leave in enough time to get to the academy. We will accept exceptional circumstances but persistent lateness is unacceptable. Students will receive a same day 1 hour detention for lateness to the academy that is not supported by information provided from bus/train companies as the academy requests.

Social Media

In addition to the website, the academy has a number of social media accounts we welcome you to follow. We publish information and reminders about academy events and pass on useful pieces of information to parents/carers and students. And of course we publicise the achievements of students and staff.

Twitter@Palmer_Catholic

www.facebook.com/PalmerCatholic/

<https://linkedin.com/company/palmer-catholic>

In addition the Sixth Form has Instagram and Twitter accounts @palmer6th. Social media is particularly worthwhile for Sixth Form students as many organisations including universities and apprenticeship organisations use this method of communicating with young people.

Parent App

Please remember to download our Parent App as it provides a more convenient and accessible method for the academy to communicate with parents/carers on all aspects of academy life. Whether it's sharing information on attendance, homework and timetables or reports and conduct, parents/carers will be able to stay on top of their child's progress.

The Parent App has replaced Show My Homework as the tool used to record homework so you will still be able to keep track of all homework set.

Set up instructions can be found by either scanning the QR Code or at: <https://bit.ly/2HGDo29>



Academy Updates

We were delighted to welcome award winning teenage fiction writer Teri Terry to officially open our newly refurbished library on World Book Day. The library is now a bright and vibrant space where students can come and do silent study on the new colourful chairs and tables, or just chill out on a beanbag or sofa and read a good book in the new reading corner. And, of course, there are many more books available for the students to read.

The library is available to students every day and the opening hours are as follows:

8.15am to 8.40am

11.00am to 11.20am

1.00pm to 1.40pm

3.20pm to 4.30pm (Monday to Thursday only)

This term we have also installed an outside 'Catering Kiosk' located on the patio area by the Music rooms. This will cater for those students who just want to 'eat and go!' We will also be creating an outdoor eating area, where students can choose to sit and eat their lunch, weather permitting.

Term Dates for Academic Year 2019-2020

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2019 to July 2020. These are also available on the website.

Diary Dates

The academy will be closed on Monday 6th May for the May Day Bank Holiday. The academy will re-open on Tuesday 7th May at 8.30am.

The next HSA Quiz Night will take place on Friday 17th May from 7pm in Palmer Hall. This is a fantastic event and all family and friends are welcome to attend. Further details will be sent out nearer the date.

The academy will close early at 2.00pm on Wednesday 22nd May as the academy will be celebrating our Founder's Day, Canon Patrick Palmer, with various events throughout the day. Further details will be sent to parents/carers nearer the time.

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

Yours sincerely

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

Mr P Downey
Headteacher