



**THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY**  
Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

December 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

This month we have entered the season of Advent. Students and staff have been preparing through our actions and deeds for the birth of Our Lord. Advent is our time of joyful waiting for the real present that awaits us. Students continue to demonstrate our commitment to fundraise for various charities, including our annual 'Shoe Box' appeal, having delivered over 150 shoe boxes to the Samaritans. I am very proud of all our students for their efforts. Thank you for your continued support.

Christmas Events

We will be holding a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December in support of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society 'Take a Minute' Appeal. 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.

We warmly invite you to join us for our annual Christmas Carol Service on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in Palmer Hall. This is a real family occasion and after the service we will be serving mince pies and festive cookies, all baked by our students, and mulled wine. There will be no charge for refreshments, however, should you wish to make a donation, any monies raised will go towards the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society 'Take a Minute' Appeal. As always, there will be an appearance from a special guest dressed in red for our younger visitors.

To finish the term, Christmas Services will be held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at St Cedd's Church as follows:

Years 7, 8, 12 and 13 @ 8.40am (students to meet at the Church)

Years 9, 10 and 11 @ 2.15pm (students will be escorted to the Church by staff and dismissed from Church)

Certificate Collection

To enable students from last year's Year 11 and Year 13 to collect their certificates, we have set aside Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December from 5pm-6pm to allow for this to take place. Staff will be in the atrium of Mother Teresa Building to welcome them.

Non-Uniform Day

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Staff Update

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

Ms Fernandes – Science  
Ms Pountney – Art  
Ms Joseph – RE

We welcome the following staff who join us in the New Year:

Mr Sidhu – Maths  
Mrs Robinson – Science  
Mrs Mazid – Science  
Ms Martinez-Garcia – Spanish

### School Fund

As mentioned in the Headteacher's September 2019 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. 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 Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December is the last day of term and the academy will close at 12.00pm. There will be a staff inset day on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and the academy will be closed to students. All students will be expected to return to the academy at 8.40am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 to start the Spring term.

### Term Dates

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2020 to July 2021. These are also available on the website. Please ensure you study these carefully to avoid booking holidays during term time.

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.

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

With every best wish for the season,



Mr P Downey  
Headteacher