



THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Part of The Good Shepherd Catholic Trust

January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to all our families. As we enter our new academy term, I wish to give you some updates and reminders:

Year 11 and Year 13 Master Classes

The Year 11 and Year 13 Master Class timetables commence on Monday 20th January 2020. These are in place to give our students the best chance of attaining the grades they deserve. We know that students benefit immensely from these additional lessons and I ask that you encourage your child to attend as many relevant sessions as possible. Further information will be sent to the parents/carers of those students who are targeted, however, should students wish to attend of their own choice then they should speak to the teachers concerned before they attend.

Uniform

I ask parents/carers to consult with the website with regards to uniform information, before you spend good money on incorrect items and on expenses such as piercings and haircuts.

As the winter weather turns colder, I would like to remind you that students should be wearing their winter uniform (full details can be found on the academy's website). All coats should be plain navy or black and need to cover the blazer. (A top coat is optional but strongly recommended in this cold weather). A plain black or navy scarf and gloves are optional but should not to be worn without a top coat. A plain black or navy hat may also be worn during the Autumn and Spring terms. Please note that short, thin blouson-type jackets, hooded jumpers and leather jackets are not allowed.

There has been a growing trend of boys wearing white socks, and girls wearing multi-coloured hair clips, these are not permitted. Boys' socks should be black or grey and any hair accessories (clips, bands, scrunchies etc.) should be black or navy. I thank parents and carers for their continued support to uphold our uniform code.

Academy Policies

I remind parents/carers of the website which has all our key documents and policies, and in particular of the Attendance Policy and the Behaviour and Discipline Policy. We aim to uphold the highest standards of both attendance and behaviour and look to your full support to maintain these. To this end, appointments during the course of the day and absences from the academy should be avoided where possible. Students are expected to uphold good conduct on the way to the academy, at the academy and going home from the academy.

Students are not permitted to enter local shops or loiter along the local streets, students are to go straight home upon leaving the academy. We have built a great reputation within the community and this is in part due to students respecting the local area.

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 entitled to free school meals have an additional £1.00 added to their accounts.

Contact Details

Can parents/carers please ensure that if your contact details change, you inform the academy immediately. For health and safety reasons it is vital that the academy has up to date contact details for all parents/carers.

Staff Update

We welcome back the following staff who returned from maternity leave at the beginning of the new term:

Mrs Eghan, Head of RE

Mrs Malik-Brown, Head of Media

Mrs Sharma (Head of Maths) left at the end of last term to start her maternity leave. Mr Bhakar will be Acting Head of Department in her absence.

We also welcome back, Sister Ann-Maris, who left us in 2014 to work abroad, but has now returned to join our RE department.

School Fund

As mentioned in the September 2019 letter, we are 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. These contributions make a huge difference to what we can provide. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Helpline

I would also like to remind both parents/carers and students that the academy has a Helpline email which is linked directly to myself and offers the opportunity to report any confidential issues/concerns such as bullying, child protection or safeguarding concerns. The email address is helpline@tpc.academy. Please note that this email address should not be used for general issues/work related concerns. These should go through the office email at office@tpc.academy.

Diary Dates

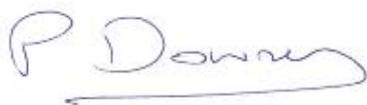
Important diary dates for this academic year can be found on the academy's website. Please note the academy half-term and end of term dates as they may differ if you have siblings in other schools.

Term Dates for Academic Year 2020-2021

I enclose the term dates for the next academic year from September 2020 to July 2021. These are also available on the website. Please note that students do not attend the academy on staff inset days.

With my best wishes for 2020.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Downey
Headteacher