



Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form



Headteacher: Mrs C Laws BA Hons

ASPIRE TO THE HOLY FAMILY WAY

'Aspire not to have more, but to be more.' Oscar Romero

9th Dec 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the final week of term I am just writing to update you on some key matters and to let you know the arrangements for our final day on Friday 16th December.

Condolences

As a school community we have received some very sad news in the last couple of weeks.

A fortnight ago we learned that ex-student Marnie Malone had passed away following illness. Staff will be attending her funeral at Our Lady and St George's Church next week. Our thoughts and prayers are with Marnie's family.

We also received the shocking news last weekend that one of our ex-students, Moyra Whelan, was killed in a car crash last Friday. Moyra is the sister of two current staff members, Mrs Gaynor and Mrs Wilbraham; she was also Head of History at Woodbridge High School.

Also injured in the crash was Nicola Thorogood, whose mother Mrs Thorogood is one of the receptionists at Holy Family. Nicola is currently receiving treatment in intensive care.

Please join us in praying for the repose of the souls of Marnie and Moyra, and for a full recovery for Nicola. Please keep their families and loved ones in your thoughts at this very sad time so close to Christmas.

Year 11 mock results

Year 11 students sat mock examinations in all GCSE subjects in November. These papers have now been marked and moderated and the students will receive their results in an envelope on Friday 16th December in their final assembly of the term. Please take time to look through your child's examination results with them and discuss any issues. Based on the data we have from these examinations, we will be putting in place academic support and interventions from January.

Walthamstow House Site

1 Shernhall Street, London E17 3EA

Mr P Murphy BSc Hons

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Wiseman House Site

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Mr J Gharu BA Hons

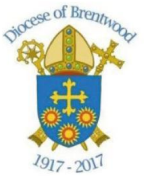
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Some students have already been invited and are attending extra sessions. It is extremely important that your child attends any sessions they have been allocated and you will receive notification of non-attendance from their teachers.

A small number of students who are experiencing barriers to their success have been identified by senior staff and we will be contacting the parents of those students to meet with us and look at how we can work with you and your child to ensure that they reach their potential in the summer examinations.

Year 13 mock examinations and UCAS entries

Year 13 students are currently sitting mock examinations for their A-level and vocational courses and will receive their results in the new term.

The Sixth Form team and students have been working together to ensure that all UCAS entries are ready and sent off in good time. UCAS is the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service and all students wishing to access Higher Education must apply to their chosen institutions by January.

We are delighted that the highest number ever of our Year 13 students have been invited to interview at Oxford and Cambridge. The Sixth Form team and senior staff have helped them prepare by conducting "Moxbridge" interviews and we wish them the very best of luck!

Assessments

Students in Years 7,8,9, and 12 have also sat assessments in all curriculum subjects and reports will be shared with parents/carers shortly. We will be contacting the parents/carers of students causing concern after the Christmas break and will be looking at how we can work with you and your child to give them the best chance to succeed.

If you have concerns about your child's progress in any of their subjects, please contact their Year Leader in the first instance.

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Information about Strep A infection

The local authority has sent a letter for schools to share with all parents and carers, which you can read here: [Strep A letter](#)

It is also available to read on our website.

Advent and Christmas celebrations

We are extremely grateful to you for your generous donations to our Christmas charity drive, which has been to collect food and clothing for local homeless people via Christian Kitchen.

We are very aware that some of you and your families may be facing difficulties this Christmas. Please do reach out to the school if you or a family or student that you know is experiencing financial difficulties - we are able to provide food vouchers, school uniforms and equipment through our hardship fund.

Christmas Lunch

Upper Site: Tuesday 13th December

Lower Site: Wednesday 14th December

Please note that this will be the only meal available on these days in the dining halls on each site and if your child does not wish to have Christmas lunch they will need to bring a packed lunch with them to school.

Carol Service

Our Annual Carol Service takes place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 13th December at the parish church of our Lady and St George in Walthamstow. This is a wonderful opportunity to come and get into

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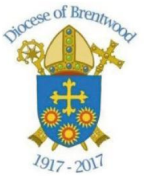
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the Christmas spirit with our children and staff, and enjoy the beautiful carols and readings. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

Arrangements for the last day of term

Friday 16th December is the last day of term. Students on both sites will attend a liturgical assembly and will then be dismissed at 12.00 noon.

Due to the shorter day, students will be able to purchase food to take with them before leaving the site.

The first day of the Spring term is **Tuesday 3rd January**. Students are expected on site as usual by 8.30 a.m.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Holy Family - staff, students and parents - for making me feel extremely welcome during my first term as Headteacher. I feel very privileged to lead this wonderful faith and learning community. On behalf of all the staff, I wish you and your loved ones a happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful start to the New Year.

God bless.

Mrs. Carolyn Laws
Headteacher

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