

Dear Parents and Carers

We are coming towards the end of a very successful first term and have received positive feedback from students and parents regarding the further changes we have made this year.

### **Advent at St Mary's**

We have been helping our students to focus on the real Christmas message through our Advent reflections, services and assemblies and to be active in raising monies for those less fortunate than ourselves.

We have supported our local community Wallasey Village Christmas Fair with our musicians and dancers making well-received contributions.

Our Community Christmas tree with its nativity scene banner and thought provoking #GODISNOWHERE hashtag has stimulated significant interest and helped the wider community think about what we are really celebrating at Christmas.

Our students were invited to stage an Art Exhibition at St Catherine's hospital in Birkenhead and our musicians entertained the Guests of Honour, including the Mayor and her husband, at the switching on of the Christmas lights in the hospital as the exhibition was unveiled.

Our Chapel was burgeoning with our annual Shoebox collection that was collected this week with close to 600 boxes. Thank you for your support and generosity. Each form has collected items for a hamper that we distribute to elderly people in our local community with the help of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society and we are also collecting for the local charity Toiletries for Teenagers.

Our Pensioners' Christmas Party, where our students will provide the entertainment and serve the refreshments, is a further highlight before Christmas.

Our students have supported Amnesty International in sending cards and letters to prisoners of conscience.

Our Annual Carol Service will take place at Holy Apostles and Martyrs Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Please join us, if you can, for what promises to be a wonderful preparation for our celebration of Christ's birth.

### **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December – End of term arrangements**

On the last day of term we will be holding our Annual Christmas Mass for the whole College after break which is a great way to finish the term. Students will be dismissed from College at 12.30pm. Lunch will be available for those students who would like it.

As many parents are aware from previous years the bus companies will not promise that they can change the times of the scheduled buses and so we would ask that students make their own way home on that day. We will, however, ensure that any student who cannot make alternative arrangements is supervised in College until the normal end of the day at 2.50pm.

## **Monday 8th January 2018 – Students' return and single entry point**

All students return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January at 8.30am for an 8.35am start.

As you would expect, we continually review our arrangements which focus on ensuring safe entry and exit for our students. In light of our most recent review we have decided that it would be better for all our students to enter the College site through the gates close to the crossing outside the front of College on Wallasey Village. From the start of the spring term in January there will be no entry through the gates on St George's Road which will be locked.

## **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – Year 8 and 9 Review Day**

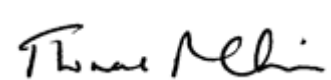
The Year 8 and 9 Review Day is to be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January and the College will be closed on that day for students from other year groups with work being set in English and maths.

Can I finish by thanking you for all your help and support in 2017 and wish you a happy and holy Christmas with your children, family and friends and every blessing on you all in 2018.

Yours sincerely



**Mr A Boyle**  
Headteacher



**Mr T Quinn**  
Executive Head Teacher