



Dear Parent/Carer

December 2020

As we approach the end of the Autumn term, I am writing with some key information.

This term has been like no other. We have been driven by our priorities of Health, Wellbeing and Education, so that we could continue to improve our standards whilst minimising the transmission of Covid-19. These priorities have served us well, and will continue in January.

I would like to pay particular tribute to the work of our staff, and thank them for the way they have responded to Covid related challenges in a child-centred manner. I would like to thank our students who have continued to respect their learning, and met our expectations around keeping safe. Finally, I would like to thank you, for your ongoing support and patience, as we have worked together this term. I know that we have asked you to respond to decisions that will have impacted on family life. As a parent, I really do understand the pressures of managing remote learning, whilst working myself.

From January, our expectations will not change. We will continue to drive up standards around the school, whilst managing Covid-19. There will be an added emphasis on our standards of uniform, including correct PE kit, and we will be asking all students to meet homework expectations that their teachers ask of them. Our staff will continue to work with you, to ensure these standards improve.

May I draw your attention to our Edulink app, and ask that you sign up if you have not already done so, to ensure we can keep you well informed at all times.

You will be aware, that throughout Advent our staff and students have been preparing for Christmas via our annual Christmas appeal. This year, each form group have filled shoe boxes with presents for members of our wider community, and have collected food and other gifts that will be sent to our local food bank. As always, this has been a fantastic effort from everyone, and has been a true reflection of our Catholic mission in action. Thank you for your support with this.

Another annual tradition for the school, is the Christmas concert, where we celebrate the many gifts and talents of our students – and our staff! We did not want this to be cancelled, so our Music and RE departments have been filming a virtual event, that we warmly invite you all to watch. The details for this will be sent out to you all.

Finally, you may have seen the DfE announcement earlier in the week, regarding end of term arrangements for schools. We will be taking Friday 18th December as a Staff Inset day, in order to further minimise any transmission of Covid-19. Our planned Inset day for February will become a student day.

School will close to students on **Thursday 17th December**, and there will be an earlier finish time that will be confirmed with you. School will re-open to students on Monday 4th January 2021.

Thank you all once again for working in partnership with us this term. We are proud of the work we are doing, as we continue to improve standards towards Catholic excellence.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas, and very Best Wishes for 2021.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Murden