

# All Saints Catholic College

## A Voluntary Academy

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**Headteacher: Gus Diamond**

**Be inspired. Be excellent. Succeed.**

Dear Parents /Carers,

As we come to the end of this school year, as ever, my letter is one of thanks and gratitude for all of the collective support and the collective drive for our young people. The last school year has been challenging. We have seen large amounts of absence from both pupils and staff, and we have been challenged by making sure that every class has had an effective teacher in front of them ensuring that they are learning. To assure parents and carers, we are fully staffed for September 2022, and looking forward to welcoming some new teachers into our All Saints family, as well as a large group of new Year 7s.

Thank you for the responses to the parent survey. Sadly, this year we haven't been able to hold our usual curriculum evenings and support events for parents, but these will return in the next academic year so that you can have a greater understanding of all we do in terms of your child's learning, as well as having support strategies to use at home. Feedback from the majority of parents remains in favour of online 'virtual' parents' evenings. They seem to be more efficient and allow you to see more teachers. Therefore, these will remain. We are, though, looking at better ways to ensure you are given more opportunities to see the progress of your child, and these will roll out across 2022-23. Again, your feedback on these would be very gratefully received.

I am also conscious that some of you may not always get the opportunity to raise concerns with senior staff members. Therefore, we will be hosting termly drop in sessions for parents across the course of the next academic year. These will be an opportunity to discuss curriculum matters, individual children's needs, pastoral concerns or in fact any concerns you may have. The dates for these will also be confirmed in September 2022.

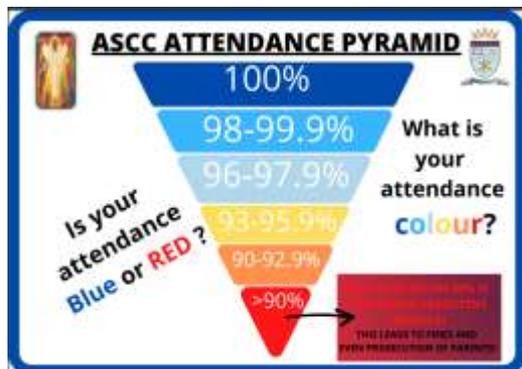
This has been a very busy year for building work in the school. We have had a £2 million grant to improve facilities within the school, and the work which has now started should be ready for September 2022. We will see refurbished labs in science, as well as new labs which are being built. We will have a new performing arts teaching room, and a new performing arts suite with dance studio. Our changing facilities have been upgraded, as has the gym, and we have installed a new fitness suite. This is about half way through the work. More improvements are planned for next year. We do try to ensure that the work has minimal disruption, but there is always an element of this with all such work. The children, though, have been exceptionally good about all of these things, and have really coped very well with the work so far. They are a true credit to themselves.

Next year, we will move to a two-week timetable, with Week A and Week B. This will allow us to deliver what we feel is a truly broad and balanced curriculum. Year 9 will continue with Key Stage Three. In January 2023, the options process will begin, although pupils will not start either their GCSE studies, or Key Stage Four, until September 2024. This will then become the model for all future year groups. Information on our new curriculum can be found on the College website.

The new two-week timetable will take some getting used to for our young people, and some organisation at home. We will try to support this with texts and reminders. If you can make sure your child arrives at school every day properly dressed, with the appropriate equipment (that is, a pen, pencil, ruler, planner and a calculator for maths), as well as their PE kit on the days they have PE, then everything else can be fixed!

We have also launched a new rewards strategy. Linked to our core values, we are now launching rewards for children being given achievement points.

As we, please God, see the end of Covid-19, we must turn our attention to making sure all of our children are in school every day. We will continue with our attendance strategies. The national rhetoric from the DfE is very much centred on making sure children are attending school. We all know the greater benefit of children being in school, and Covid-19 very much showed us this. As a school, we expect all of our children to be in school, on time, every single day – thank you to all those parents and carers who make that happen. In September 2022, our initiative on attendance will continue (please see below), in addition to which we will be launching a new punctuality drive.



This year, we are bidding farewell to a small number of staff who are moving onto pastures new. Mr Riley, Head of Year 10, is retiring. Ms Saavedra, our MFL teacher, is returning to Spain (not jealous). Mrs Arshad is moving to a new post nearer to home. We also bid a very fond and sad farewell to Mrs Leigh, the Headteacher's PA. Many, many of you will have chatted with Mrs Leigh during transition, or if you have had any need to meet with me. Mrs Leigh is retiring in September 2022, after over 20 years with All Saints. Mrs Leigh has truly embodied the school value of service and lives that out every day. She will be truly missed by our community, and we wish her a long and happy retirement. We also wish all those colleagues who are leaving us the very best of luck for the future.

I also need to let you know that, due to the increases in inflation, our catering company will need to increase their prices in the canteen. This is the first price rise we have had in the canteen for a number of years, but sadly it is inevitable. I also know that for some of you the cost of living crisis is becoming quite hard. As a school, we are here to help where we can. We can certainly help with uniform, so please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school if you find yourself in a position where the school uniform would be too costly.

Finally, our wonderful young people return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Please make sure that they return fully dressed in the school uniform (jumpers are not needed until the October half term), with all of their equipment (that is, a pen, pencil, ruler and a calculator for maths), and with no additional piercings (these will need to be removed), no jewellery, and natural make-up. Please do not allow your child to get false nails or eyelashes before they return. Can I also ask that hair is of a natural colour.

In the meantime, may I wish you all a very happy summer break. I hope that, if you do get away, your journey is a smooth and safe one and that for us all, the sun shines and we have a truly blessed summer break.

Yours sincerely,

Gus Diamond  
Headteacher