

Dear Parents and Carers

Just three weeks to go as we count down to the excitement of Christmas!

Please don't forget we are **closed to students on Thursday 12th December**. Staff will have an INSET day but as we are being forced to be a polling station I cannot guarantee the safety of the children so regretfully have taken the decision to close. After the sickening events of last Friday on London Bridge, one never knows what dangers are around the corner and taking risks is not worth it ...even for democracy!

On the final day of term **Friday 20th December**, we will celebrate with our whole school Christmas assembly and will have an **early finish at 12.30pm**. The Academy will be closed for two whole weeks re-opening to staff and students on **Monday 6th January**.

What do I wish for us all this Christmas? I hope we can all focus on what we do have and not dwell on what we feel is missing. As I was listening to the dreadful news of two young students from Cambridge University being murdered, I couldn't help but think of the sad time those families have ahead of them, and how blessed I am to have my own three student children coming home for precious family time over the next few weeks. Members of the public are still reporting our students riding bikes in a dangerous manner so please remind your children of the dangers of icy roads and dark nights when visibility is poor.

With best wishes

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

~ REMINDER ~

The Academy is closed to students on
Thursday 12th December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

The coming month of December is significant for a number of reasons. Apart from being the final month of the year, it marks the beginning of meteorological winter, contains the shortest day and, as if we need reminding, marks the period of Christmas celebrations. This year there is, of course, the added distraction of a General Election. Whatever the outcome of that process, we will continue to push our elected representatives for the best possible deal for our Academy and its students.

Very recently, one of our political leaders referred to someone's comments as 'humbug', thus stealing a word most commonly associated with Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol. Dickens' classic is often featured at this time of year and gives us a very good guide as to how we might treat one another, not just during the festive period, but all the year round. There is one particular quote that I think will resonate with many people, when Scrooge observes his nephew's party:

"It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."

So, whatever our feelings about the cold weather, the dark nights, the pressures of an increasingly commercialised Christmas or, dare I say the outcome of the General Election, we should all perhaps pause for a moment and try to view life with a little more laughter and good humour.

I end with a couple more quotes from this timeless book:

For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself.

God bless us, every one!

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

What is self-esteem and self-worth?

We all begin life with a simple view of the world. As young children we trust easily and freely, we are full of adventure and life is full of possibilities. As we grow up, we learn to listen to what others think of us and what society tells us we should be like. As we grow up we look to the people closest to us to confirm or reject these ideas of ourselves. This all goes a long way to shaping our self-worth.

When you are positive with your children, encouraging them to feel good about themselves, you are building the foundations for a person who will be resilient later in life. They'll be better able to cope with life's ups and downs, trust their own judgement, see their potential and be more confident.

Building self-worth in your teenagers

Encourage your young person to develop a sense of who they are. Find out what they believe in. What are their values in life? What qualities do they think are important and why? What does it mean to be trustworthy, honest, loyal, and courageous or compassionate, for example?

Most teenagers welcome a bit of healthy debate – they may hold very different views from yours but encourage them to think things through for themselves. Difference is ok; understanding that we can have different views to others can help them build necessary skills in accessing situations, making judgements and being tolerant.

Having healthy relationships is also an important part of your self-worth, so talk to your children about their friendships, relationships with teachers and family friends. What kind of qualities do they look for in a friend? What kind of friend are they? What is difficult and what works to resolve difficulties? Feelings can be powerful and overwhelming for many young people particularly in adolescence, but talk about how they can express their feelings appropriately and safely.

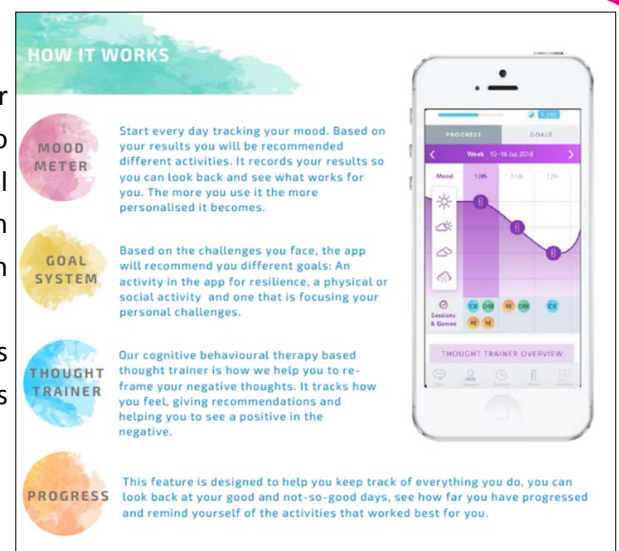
Nicola Norton
School Counselor

Last day of term
Friday
20th December

Thrive App

As part of our commitment to supporting Mental Well Being, all students can access the Thrive App on their iPads.

Any information that is shared on the app is private and confidential.



Year 7/8 Games Club

We are aware that some of our students need a quiet space at lunchtime. We open our Games Club to Year 7/8 students every day and they are welcome to chat quietly, play board games or play on their iPads. All are welcome in Room 0037 and the sessions are supported by Mr Gould and Mrs Oxley. Students are reminded that they are not permitted to eat their lunch in the Games Club.

Reading Support

We have a full programme of reading support for students who need to close the gap between their current reading age and their chronological age. All parents/carers have been contacted recently and we have adjusted timetables where needed.

Many thanks to our parent reading partners and our Sixth Form reading mentors for offering this support. Please ensure that your child attends their session.

Reading ages will be retested after the Christmas break and the programme will be adjusted when we have the results.

Pencil Cases

Our recent equipment checks show that some students are coming into the Academy without charging their iPad ready for the day ahead. Please make this part of their daily routine as students use these valuable learning resources in the majority of lessons. A few students need to replace equipment in the pencil cases which we provided free of charge at the start of the year. There will be a charge of £1.00 which represents excellent value for the pencil case and students can purchase their replacements at Student Reception at any break or lunchtime.

500 Words Challenge

The English Curriculum Area is running the 500 Word writing challenge this term. All details are on the Year 7 (C2PCL) and Year 8 (LPNCW) Showbie noticeboards and there is an opportunity to work on this writing at lunchtime with staff in the English department.

Assessment Point One

Assessment point one (AP1) has now been completed and Flight Plans will be sent home with students. There will be set changes in the majority of subjects as a result of these assessments.

Attendance Rewards

Every week, we award a bag of Celebrations to every form group who achieve over 95% attendance. We are delighted that we have had to issue **30** bags of chocolates since half term. Well done to every form group who has attended well and regularly. We currently have **90** students with 100% attendance and **113** students with 95%+ attendance.

Students with 100% attendance will receive a £25 gift voucher and those with 95%+ will receive a £10 gift voucher.

Panto—Peter Pan—11th December

All tickets for our reward trip are now booked and we are excited that 140 of our students will be attending the matinee performance on 11th December. We will be sharing plans for walking to the theatre with students nearer the time.

Please be aware that students can only make their own way home from the theatre if you have given your consent. Everyone else will be walking back to the Academy.

Christian Union and Year 7 Service

On Monday 25th November, Year 7 students attended an act of worship planned and led members of our Christian Union. This was our first formal service in our new Reflection Centre.



Students participated well and it was an excellent opportunity to bring them together for this worship.

Elaine Boyd
Assistant Principal—KS3

Key Stage 3 Christmas Party
Tuesday 17th December
Tickets £3.00

Electives

Thank you to all of our Key Stage 3 students for their involvement in Electives this term. The Wednesday P5 slot gives a real chance to learn new skills and it was great to see our students really getting involved. A big well done to Callum Adams-Mulligan who helped with the Cake Sale for Children in Need. Unfortunately, the cakes disappeared so quickly, we didn't even get a photo.

Christmas Parcels



Many thanks to Mrs Oxley for organising the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox collection this year. We have donated a record number of filled shoeboxes this year to provide a Christmas gift for children in parts of the world where this is not always possible.

Spring Term SMSC

During the first half of the Spring Term 2020, our Wednesday P5 focus returns to SMSC in form groups. Year 7 will have an SRE (Sex and Relationships Education) focus and there will be a briefing for parents/carers so that you are aware of the content covered. Year 8 will be focusing on Careers Education to support the options process.

Homework

Students in Years 7 and 8 have a homework timetable which tells them when homework will be set for each subject. Homework should be visible to parents/carers and students via the Edulink One app.

Box Clever Theatre Production – A Christmas Carol.

Our friends from Box Clever Theatre returned to All Saints to perform an interpretation of Charles Dickens A Christmas Carol for our Year 11 students. The event was fantastic and students were thrilled to receive such a high quality production. This was followed by a workshop with the cast, where our students worked with the actors to learn about key themes, characters and significant quotes from the play.

We look forward to welcoming Box Clever back in March 2020 when they will perform Macbeth for both the Year 11s and the Year 10s.



Andrew O'Rourke
Assistant Principal—KS4

New Period 6 Personalised Timetables – January 2020.

Students and families will be receiving the latest version of the personalised 'Period 6' timetable imminently. We have used the Year 11 students AP1 data to analyse exactly who would benefit from this additional support provision as we now enter a really crucial phase in the year. New timetables will be sent out in the new year and all Period 6 sessions have recommenced since the November mock exams have finished. As has always been the case, all Period 6 sessions have an open-door policy, meaning any student is welcome to attend. We do respectfully request that if a student has been targeted i.e. it is on their personalised timetable, that they do attend that session.

Pinpoint Learning – GCSE Maths Tool investment

I am thrilled to announce that All Saints has made a significant investment in an outstanding online resource that analyses GCSE Maths outcomes and provides fantastic personalised and easily accessible resources for each and every student. The tool is called 'Pinpoint Learning' and our GCSE Maths students, starting with our current Year 11 cohort, will each be given an induction into using the system imminently. Essentially this tool allows staff to input real exam results, which are then in turn converted into targeted resources, such as printable work booklets and other online resources that focus on the student's particular areas that require improvement. Students will all receive login details soon.

Sixth Form 2020

We have started our application process for Sixth Form 2020. Now that we have had our open evening, we will be carrying out interviews with students about a possible return to Sixth Form. If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to Mr Miller or Mr Lee and they will be happy to talk to you about the options.

Attendance

Well Done to all students with 100% attendance:

Lauren Adkin
Jenna Booth
Connor Braddon
Lauren Corr
Adam Denny
Paula Fischer-Fodor
Dionne Machingauta
Sam Markham
Turaya Moore
Ronnie Wilkerson
Rhiannon Bennett
Summer-Louise Lacey
Liam Lindgren
Amy Mead
Felicity Moore



November Mock Exams

Our Sixth Form students completed their first set of mock exams in November and I was so pleased with the effort our students have put into them. We now have a good idea of what the students need to do to improve and will be working on this over the coming months.

PWC

As part of our commitment to ensuring that our students are well prepared for life after Sixth Form, it was fantastic to have PricewaterhouseCoopers accountancy firm come in and speak to our students about potential job opportunities. It was good to see how enthused our students were and to see the future options available to them when they have finished their studies.

Remembrance Service

At All Saints Academy, we take great pride in our Remembrance Service and it is one of the major events in our school calendar. In the week running up to Remembrance, students in Years 7 and 8 had a special Remembrance lesson, as part of their Character Education programme, linked into the theme of the week which was Courage. The lesson considered how soldiers on the front line would have had to have shown courage in order to perform their duties.

On the morning of our Remembrance Service, all students in the school had a special Remembrance Day house assembly that looked at what, and why, we remember on that day. Our service involved students in their organisational uniforms laying wreaths, readings celebrating those we remember and the scattering of poppies



bearing the names of loved ones. Once again we were joined by our bugle player, Raymond who celebrated his 82nd birthday the day before. Overall, it was a moving and thoughtful ceremony and it was lovely to see our students so engaged.

Simon Miller

Assistant Principal - KS5

Students will finish at 12.30pm on the last day of term

Lost Property

We have a large number of items in Lost Property and these will be on display outside Student Reception until the end of term. Any named items will be returned direct to students.


Please encourage your children to check for any items they may have lost as all unclaimed lost property will be disposed of on Friday 20th December.


Remembering in the Community


On Sunday 10th November, members of our Student Leadership Team joined services in the local community, including the service at All Saints Church, Houghton Regis. Students were a credit to the Academy.



Academic Calendar 2019/2020

School Holiday 

Bank Holiday 

Pupil Day 

Training Day 

September 2019							October 2019							November 2019							December 2019						
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24		Tue		1	8	15	22	29	Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		2	9	16	23	30	Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		3	10	17	24	31	Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		4	11	18	25		Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		5	12	19	26		Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	6	13	20	27			Sun	3	10	17	24			Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

January 2020							February 2020							March 2020							April 2020						
Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	
Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	
Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		1	8	15	22	29
Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		2	9	16	23	30
Fri		3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		3	10	17	24	
Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat		1	8	15	22	29	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25	
Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23			Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun	5	12	19	26		

May 2020							June 2020							July 2020							August 2020						
Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue		2	9	16	23	30	Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed		3	10	17	24		Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu		4	11	18	25		Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		1	8	15	22	29	Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri		3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat		2	9	16	23	30	Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat		1	8	15	22	29
Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	5	12	19	26			Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Reminder that May Day has moved to Friday 8th May next year

Looking Ahead

**Thursday 5th
December**
Year 11 Parents' Evening

**Wednesday 11th
December**
Rewards Trips

**Thursday 12th
December**
Academy closed to students

**Wednesday 18th
December**
Christmas Showcase

**Friday 20th
December**
Last Day of Term

**Monday 6th
January**
First Day of Term

Please label all uniform items and coats so that we can return them should they be lost



All Saints Academy Dunstable Ongoing Vacancies for Exam Invigilators (Bank)

We are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working and reliable colleagues to assist with the examinations provision within the Academy. The role involves working closely with the Examinations Manager to invigilate exams, including mock exams and end of year exams, in addition to all public exam sessions.

This post is an excellent opportunity for someone who enjoys flexible hours and may have previous experience in a similar role; however this is not essential as full training will be given.

Salary: £9.29 per hour (including holiday accrual) paid for hours worked only and these will be at specific times in the Academic year, in line with examination timetables.

How to apply

Please see our website for additional details on this vacancy and how to apply or contact Tammy Jones, HR Manager on 01582 691700 for an application form. CVs will not be accepted.

The Academy is committed to the safeguarding and promotion of children's welfare and all job offers are subject to Disclosure and Barring Service checks.

Mark O'Loughlin
Examinations Manager
December 2019