NEWSLETTER

Dignity, Faith and Hope

Issue 4—December 2022



Dear Parents and Carers

First of all, a big thankyou for your support during the recent Ofsted inspection. I will hopefully be able to tell you more about the outcome in the New Year but, for now, I am grateful for the overwhelmingly positive responses you shared with the inspectors. You know that we will work on anything that was less than positive and feed back to you any improvements we decide to introduce.

We now have an exciting last few weeks until we finish this calendar year. The students will all be offered a reward trip which will be fully paid for by the Academy since we aim to ensure as much funding as possible goes directly to our students. Years 7 and 8 are going to the pantomime in Aylesbury to see Aladdin, and Years 9, 10 and 11 will be going to the cinema to watch Elf. Sixth formers will have a Go Bowling Christmas party.

Next Thursday we will have a cultural enrichment day where we will consider the way Christmas is celebrated around the world. Students can wear their own clothes for this day and Christmas jumpers if they have them. Christmas jumpers can then be worn again on Friday with normal school uniform as we finish with a half day as usual at 12.10pm.

The temperature is about to plummet to below zero so please make sure the students wear a warm coat to the Academy.

Nine days to go –almost there!

Take care all

Liz Furber Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

The horrific events surrounding the stabbings in Houghton Regis last month have had a significant effect on the school and wider community. We hear and read about these tragedies happening elsewhere, but when it impacts on our own community, it brings home the senseless nature of such actions, where lives can be snuffed out so quickly. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who have been affected by this incident.

I recently spent some time talking with students about whether they felt safe within the Academy. They all said that they did, which was good to hear. They also said they knew who to talk to if they ever felt unsafe.

The world is a very troubled place at the moment what with wars, famine, extreme weather and the economic crisis. Whether directly or indirectly, these are having an impact on everyone. It is a natural instinct to want protect our children from such things and, as parents and carers, we try to do this as best we can.

Apart from our students feeling the Academy is a safe place to be, they also should feel able to share any concerns they have, either through talking to their teachers/Heads of Year, or to our specialist support team, who have specific training in discussing complex issues. The last thing any of us want is for our students to feel anxious or worried.

The run up to Christmas is going to be challenging for many people, but we should try to hold on to the overarching message of peace and good will to everyone, being there to offer support when needed. Best wishes

> **David Fraser** Chair of Governors

~ Friday 16th December ~

Last day of term—students finish at 12.10pm

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From the Chaplain

This month's focus verse:

For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

I wonder what you think of when you hear those words; "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace? Some sort of peace loving, empathic, superhero judge? Maybe some of those characterises, something different – or even nothing at all! During this advent season, as we wait in hopeful

anticipation of the birth of Jesus, we are reminded that great and wonderful things can grow and develop from desperately weak, fragile, and vulnerable beginnings. As we reflect on the Christmas story we learn of Mary who travelled about 70 miles on a donkey whilst heavily pregnant. I wonder how safe she felt? She had nowhere to give birth except for an unhygienic barn. No hand sanitiser or personal protective equipment there! That must have felt like she



was endangering this special new life she had been entrusted with. And then we also learn about baby Jesus' life being threatened thus fleeing, as a refugee, to Egypt, and that's to say nothing about the general needs of any baby who is totally dependent on the care of others in order to make it through those delicate, yet crucial, first months and years of life. The point being that God chose to become incredibly vulnerable by coming to earth in human form - and even more so by starting life as a baby. If God had wanted He could have just made Himself appear from nothing as a powerful warrior king. Instead He chose humility and to become at risk with all the concerns that a newly born brings. And yet Jesus, irrespective of what you believe about Him, has probably had more impact on the world than anyone else. Any historian worth their salt acknowledges the existence of a bloke called Jesus living in the Middle East circa 2000 years ago, the question is what do we make



of him or, who do we say he is? So, if God in all His power, knowledge, and wisdom chose to become as helpless as a baby and yet was able to become arguably the best person who has ever lived, doesn't that encourage you? He may well have amazing titles to His name, but He certainly didn't lord it over others in some pious and oppressive way. The point is that we need

to fulfil our potential. But that potential will be different for each one of us as we are all different. That's why comparing ourselves with others isn't always very helpful. For example, there's no point comparing ourselves to someone who's a great musician, if our strength is in sport. And if you are struggling to think about what you are good at, ask yourself what do you like doing? That may not be anything academic, but it might be a practical skill, a character trait, or something else. I wonder what it is for you?

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for identifying with us by coming to earth as a baby in all its vulnerability. Please help me to discover what things I am good at and help me to be the best at something positive. Sorry for taking my learning, skills, abilities and experiences for granted.



Amen

Revd. Tim Davis; School Chaplain

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ALL SAINTS

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 7th December
Christmas Showcase

Friday 9th December
House Charity Day

Wednesday 14th December
Year 11/12/13
Parents' Evening

Friday 16th December
Last Day of Term

Tuesday 3rd January

INSET Day

(Academy closed to students)

Wednesday 4th January
First Day of Term

Parent Apps for Children's Phones

Every parent/carer wants to know that their child is using their mobile phone safely and we have attached a flyer from ParentShield separately to the newsletter email which outlines some of the top recommended parent apps.

The Academy does not endorse any of these apps, we are only informing you that apps with this type of functionality are available in the marketplace. As with any app you download onto your phone, you should ensure that you have fully researched how they work and how much they will cost.

We have also attached some information about how to pair your child's TikTok account to your own account and apply parental controls.

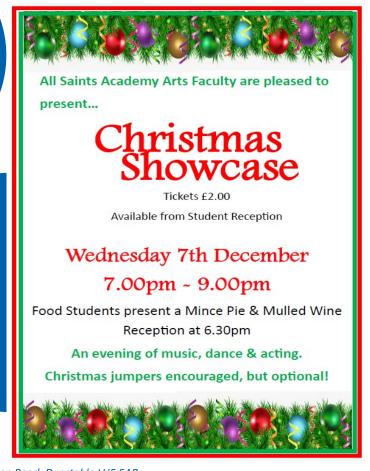
If you are concerned in any way about how your child is using their mobile phone, please feel free to contact the Academy.

Christmas Specials in the Canteen

The canteen are running a Christmas special each day until the end of term. The treat for 1st December was cinnamon buns and trifle. There have also been cupcakes with candy canes.







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Festive Craft Workshops from Central **Beds Council**

Looking to create the shining start for the top of your Christmas tree, or construct snowflakes to decorate your windows?



Come along for some festive fun at our Christmas Craft workshops! We are adding a bit of Christmas magic to our Multiply maths courses this December.

These workshops are aimed at parents and carers looking to build confidence with basic maths skills, whilst enjoying some lighthearted festive craft activities. These activities are great for having a go at home with children.

Children aged 5 and over are welcome to join too!

The council have courses running in Shefford and Houghton Regis, so book your place today! Please complete their online www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/ form: **BESA-contact-us** or contact Academy@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk for support.

Priory House, Shefford, SG17 5TQ-4pm to 6pm

Wednesday 14 December 2022, or Tuesday 20 December 2022, or Thursday 22 December 2022

Kingsland Employment & Skills Hub, Parkside Drive, Houghton Regis, LU5 5PY-4pm to 6pm

> Tuesday 13 December 2022, or Friday 16 December 2022, or Wednesday 21 December 2022



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	School Holiday						Bank Holiday							Pupil Day												
September 2022						October 2022							November 2022							December 2022						
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