

Dear Parents and Carers

The last newsletter of the year from me to wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year! The students have had a wonderful time this week with reward trips and enrichment days and ... the snow! The students and staff now need a rest to get over an exciting term so we can return refreshed in January.

Let's hope we get some respite from this very cold weather so we can all safely travel and see our families and loved ones over the Christmas period.

Happy Christmas to you all.

Liz Furber
Executive Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

I am not sure many of us expected a wintry end to the term, but that is what we have experienced. This icy blast has come at a very challenging time for many families as the cost of energy and food keep increasing. It also comes at a very special time of year for most people when there is something of a pause in the usual hustle and bustle to spend time with friends and families. I really do hope that everyone will be able to find some joy and peace during this period.

Just as it is as important to give as receive, it's also a time of year to say thank you, instead of please. On behalf of the governors, I want to express sincere thanks to Liz Furber for the way she continues to lead the school and to her senior leadership team and all staff who support teaching and learning in the Academy.

Thanks also to the students, your children, who continue to work hard because they can see the long-term benefits of the opportunities they are being given, be they the formal ones or those that are less formal, like the ones they experienced in the last week of term. As an Academy, we are determined that all available funding should be utilised for the benefit of our students.

Finally, my thanks to you, the parents and carers, for your continuing support of the Academy. There has been a concerted effort this year to communicate more effectively with you and I hope you appreciate the increased interaction. Can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and, hopefully, a more prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

David Fraser
Chair of Governors

Looking Ahead

Wednesday 11th January
Sixth Form Brunel University
Visit

Wednesday 11th January
Sixth Form Parents' Evening

Friday 3rd February
House Charity Day

Wednesday 8th February
Flu Vaccinations

Monday 13th February
Half Term

~ **Tuesday 3rd January 2023** ~

INSET Day—Academy closed to students

~ **Wednesday 4th January 2023** ~

First Day of Term for all students

From the Chaplain

Focus verse: 'For a child is born to you this day... he is Christ the Lord!' Luke 2:11

I wonder if you've ever thought about why we celebrate Christmas and New Year? Maybe it's just something you've always done and carried on the tradition from wider family and indeed society at large. Talking of which



it's becoming increasingly difficult to see a Christian nativity as part of the celebrations and decorations as opposed to Father Christmas (although that does have links to St Nicholas), big parties, presents, and lots of glitter and sparkle. That's not to say any of those things are wrong or bad. In fact, I also enjoy those celebratory aspects of the season too!

For Christians the hope of Christmas is the hope of the goodness of God entering our hurting and needy world. 2,000 years ago Jesus came into the world as a tiny and vulnerable baby to show us how to live. The Carol Silent Night ends wonderfully with the words, "Jesus, Lord at thy birth!". It's incredible to think that someone who is reliant on a mother and father for food, shelter, and clothing is Lord of all! To me that demonstrates that leadership and governance isn't about bully behaviour or dictatorship but about humility.



Nowadays. Christians celebrate Christmas as we look forward to Jesus returning to earth as a mature person; when the end will occur and everything will be restored to its original perfect intentions. The challenges, struggles, fears and injustices will go as the Lord invites everyone to be part of His kingdom! And a kingdom of perfection away from many of the hardships that so many of us face is a wonderful thing to look forward to – after all, God has demonstrated so often that He keeps His promises. We might not understand how or why things happen but we can be assured that God has it all in hand and wants the very best for us – He is on our side!

And because God is on our side, we sometimes need to reflect that we don't always get things right, need forgiveness and a new start. The New Year is a great opportunity to do just that! Advent, in the Christian calendar, marks the start of the church's New Year and there is nothing particularly Christian about the new calendar year. However, like most things, we can use such occasions to mark a point of turning over a new leaf, starting a new project, a New Year's Resolution, etc.

I don't know where you are at in life, but, over these next few weeks it would be great to take these things on board; God is on our side, He longs to bring us all to Himself to a place of perfection, and He offers opportunities to come back to Him when we mess up or want to start something new which is helpful and positive.



Have a merry Christmas and happy New Year to you all!

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You that You are for us and not against us; that You came to earth to show us the way and give us hope for the future. Please help us to remember You in all our celebrations and remembering that not everyone enjoys this festive season.

Amen.

Rev. Tim Davis
School Chaplain

Academic Calendar - 2022/2023

School Holiday	Bank Holiday	Pupil Day	Training Day
----------------	--------------	-----------	--------------

		September 2022							October 2022							November 2022							December 2022							
Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		3	10	17	24	31		Mon		7	14	21	28		Mon		5	12	19	26			
Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue		1	8	15	22	29		Tue		6	13	20	27			
Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed		2	9	16	23	30		Wed		7	14	21	28			
Thu		1	8	15	22	29	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu		3	10	17	24			Thu		1	8	15	22	29		
Fri		2	9	16	23	30	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri		4	11	18	25			Fri		2	9	16	23	30		
Sat		3	10	17	24		Sat		1	8	15	22	29		Sat		5	12	19	26			Sat		3	10	17	24	31	
Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun		2	9	16	23	30		Sun		6	13	20	27			Sun		4	11	18	25		
		January 2023							February 2023							March 2023							April 2023							
Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27		Mon		6	13	20	27			Mon		3	10	17	24			
Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28		Tue		7	14	21	28			Tue		4	11	18	25			
Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		1	8	15	22		Wed		1	8	15	22	29			Wed		5	12	19	26		
Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		2	9	16	23		Thu		2	9	16	23	30			Thu		6	13	20	27		
Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		3	10	17	24		Fri		3	10	17	24	31			Fri		7	14	21	28		
Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat		4	11	18	25				Sat		1	8	15	22	29	
Sun		1	8	15	22	29	Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun		5	12	19	26				Sun		2	9	16	23	30	
		May 2023							June 2023							July 2023							August 2023							
Mon		1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		3	10	17	24	31			Mon		7	14	21	28		
Tue		2	9	16	23	30	Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		4	11	18	25			Tue		1	8	15	22	29		
Wed		3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		5	12	19	26			Wed		2	9	16	23	30		
Thu		4	11	18	25		Thu		1	8	15	22	29		Thu		6	13	20	27			Thu		3	10	17	24	31	
Fri		5	12	19	26		Fri		2	9	16	23	30		Fri		7	14	21	28			Fri		4	11	18	25		
Sat		6	13	20	27		Sat		3	10	17	24		Sat		1	8	15	22	29			Sat		5	12	19	26		
Sun		7	14	21	28		Sun		4	11	18	25		Sun		2	9	16	23	30			Sun		6	13	20	27		

Academic Calendar - 2023/2024

School Holiday					Bank Holiday					Pupil Day					Training Day										
September 2023					October 2023					November 2023					December 2023										
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon		2	9	16	23	30	Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	Tue		3	10	17	24	31	Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	Wed		4	11	18	25		Wed		1	8	15	22	29	Wed		6	13	20	27
Thu		7	14	21	28	Thu		5	12	19	26		Thu		2	9	16	23	30	Thu		7	14	21	28
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri		6	13	20	27		Fri		3	10	17	24		Fri	1	8	15	22	29
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat		7	14	21	28		Sat		4	11	18	25		Sat	2	9	16	23	30
Sun	3	10	17	24		Sun	1	8	15	22	29		Sun		5	12	19	26		Sun	3	10	17	24	31
January 2024					February 2024					March 2024					April 2024										
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon		5	12	19	26		Mon		4	11	18	25		Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue		6	13	20	27		Tue		5	12	19	26		Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	Wed		7	14	21	28		Wed		6	13	20	27		Wed	3	10	17	24	
Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	1	8	15	22	29		Thu		7	14	21	28		Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	2	9	16	23			Fri	1	8	15	22	29		Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	3	10	17	24			Sat	2	9	16	23	30		Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	4	11	18	25			Sun	3	10	17	24	31		Sun	7	14	21	28	
May 2024					June 2024					July 2024					August 2024										
Mon		6	13	20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24		Mon	1	8	15	22	29		Mon		5	12	19	26
Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		4	11	18	25		Tue	2	9	16	23	30		Tue		6	13	20	27
Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26		Wed	3	10	17	24	31		Wed		7	14	21	28
Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27		Thu	4	11	18	25			Thu	1	8	15	22	29
Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28		Fri	5	12	19	26			Fri	2	9	16	23	30
Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29		Sat	6	13	20	27			Sat	3	10	17	24	31
Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30		Sun	7	14	21	28			Sun	4	11	18	25	