



10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS/IMPORTANT NOTICES

As we come to the end of a long term and we look back at the past few months, we have such a lot to celebrate at the school.

Our rating in the top 1% of schools in the country for A Level progress and the highly positive results at GCSE are certainly one measure of success. We were also visited by Sir Michael Wilshaw (ex-Head of OFSTED and now working with St Mary's University) who praised the school for providing challenge to students to succeed and to have very high aspirations. He also commented on the very warm relationships between all those in the school community. Although I am incredibly proud of all of these achievements, what is of the greatest pleasure is the way in which young people take to their hearts the real meaning of Advent. They truly live out the values of the school, embedded in the Advent Candle of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy in a world often overwhelmed by the commercialism of Christmas.

This Christmas we have been campaigning to raise awareness of the very real poverty that exists in our midst and have raised funds for our local food banks as well and the homeless charity, The Passage. As ever I am amazed at the generosity of the school community in raising funds for these and other charities such as Hackney Foodbank, St Vincent De Paul shop in Dalston, CAFOD, Catholic Children's Society, Caritas Westminster, St Joseph's Hospice and Mary's Meals. This demonstrates the commitment of the school to ensuring that learning is not always about taking exams and progress, important though these are, but also the importance of nurturing commitment to social justice and their part in securing that for all.

### Welcomes & Goodbyes

Welcome to our new staff this half term - David Allaker, Data Manager, Alex Tate and Adela Anuforah both Teaching Assistants and Audra Hill an English and RE Teacher. We say goodbye this term to Ms Pace, one of our Science Teachers and Mr Bradley one of our Design & Technology Teachers. I hope you will join me in wishing them well in their new adventures.

### Key Dates

Please see below details of the important dates for the remainder of the term, I would be grateful if you and your child(ren) could support these.

DATES	EVENT
W/c Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	AP1 Examination Week for Years 7-10 & Year 12
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Our Children's' Voice - Parental Engagement Event 6pm in the Library
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Rewards and Trips Week
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Year 7 Carol Service at St Dominic's Catholic Church 4.15pm-5.15pm
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Non-Uniform Day
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2018	Student Christmas Lunch
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2018	School Closes at 12.30pm

### Return To School

Students will return to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at the usual time of 8.30am.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Ms J Heffernan

**EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER**