

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE.

WESTMINSTER. LONDON. SW1P 1QJ

23 February 2022

Dear Headteacher

I write to you with two matters in mind.

The first is that I wish to thank you, most sincerely, for your leadership of your school community during these two long years of difficulty. Since the start of the pandemic, you have faced such challenges in providing access to education and support for the children, young people and staff in your care. I thank you for all that you have been doing, for the strong and inspirational leadership that has so often emerged.

Of course, these challenges have not disappeared and much remains to be done, even though many of you will be feeling stretched and tired. This may be particularly so in the months since January in all that is involved in providing face-to-face education, so vital to the formation and development of the pupils in our schools.

I thank you. I thank your staff members and governors, especially for your care of the most vulnerable. I know you will all sustain this effort as we continue to emerge from the pandemic.

The second reason for my writing to you is to ask your assistance in our desire to encourage everyone to make coming to Church an important part of their pattern of life. It is an invitation to be actively part of the family of the Church, to find there so much of the strength and sense of purpose that is ours as children of God. In particular, I ask you to make arrangements, in the coming days, for the pupils in your school to watch a short video. The link to the video is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RtnIGHmQwww>

The video, not surprisingly, is addressed primarily to your Catholic pupils and students. Perhaps this could be made clear when introducing it to a class or assembly. Others, of course, are most welcome to be present too.

In the video, I speak about the importance of our life and faith, expressed in the prayer and actions of the Church. I stress that our churches are open. More importantly, I highlight the coming season of Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, as the ideal time to become part of the journey through the life of our Catholic family, in the company and grace of our Blessed Lord and strengthened by each other. No one should journey through life alone. We are not created for that. I ask those who are watching the video to speak about this invitation when they get home.

If there are additional ways in which you could enhance this simple invitation of mine, I would be most grateful if you would do so. As ever, we act most effectively when we act together. I also attach a copy of the Pastoral Letter to be read in our churches this coming weekend.

I thank you for all you do and I assure you of my full support and prayers.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

+ Vincent Nichols

✠ Cardinal Vincent Nichols  
Archbishop of Westminster

Enc.