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SOAR
SERVICE OPPORTUNITY ASPIRATION REWARD

24th November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

ADVENT GIVING CALENDAR

"God's joy is not loud, but it truly changes history and brings us closer to one another."
Pope Leo XIV

As we begin the season of Advent, we are inviting our Cardinal Pole community to take part in our annual Advent Giving Appeal. Advent is a time when we are reminded that Christ is present in those who are most in need. Through our collective efforts, we have an opportunity to offer practical support to families and individuals in our local community who may be facing hardship this Christmas.

We are collecting donations for Hackney Foodbank, a local charity we proudly support each year that provides emergency food and support to people across our borough. Their work has become increasingly important in recent years as many households continue to face financial pressures.

Across the UK, food banks in the Trussell network provide millions of emergency food parcels a year to families struggling with the cost of everyday essentials. The need within our local community remains significant. Recent figures show that around half of all children in Hackney are living in poverty after housing costs are taken into account, making it one of the areas of highest child poverty in England.

If you would like to contribute, students are invited to bring any of the following items to school over the coming weeks:

- Long Life Milk (UHT)
- Tinned Fish
- Dry Pasta
- Rice
- Tinned Vegetables and Pulses
- Tins of Spaghetti Hoops
- Tinned Fruit (excluding strawberries)
- Breakfast Cereal
- Jam
- Teabags and Instant Coffee
- Nappies (sizes 4, 5 and 6)
- Period Products
- Shower Gel
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste

Donations may be brought in on any day and placed in the collection containers by the front gate. As always, all donations are entirely voluntary, and families should only give what they are able to.

Students from across the school will help collect and organise the donations, with the final delivery being made to Hackney Foodbank on 14th December. You can find out more about the food bank's work by visiting: https://www.hackney.foodbank.org.uk/

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and kindness. During this Advent season, may our actions help bring hope to those who need it most.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Johnston
Chaplain

