

12th December 2023

RE: FINAL CHRISTMAS LETTER 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope both you and your families are looking forward to a well-earned Christmas holiday. I am delighted to share that one hundred and ten prospective Year 7 pupils (September 2024) sat Banding tests on Saturday, December 9th. This included twenty-four girls which is a first in the long history of the school! We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of our new Aloysians over the coming months.

Please note that the Autumn term ends at 1.00pm on Friday, December 15th and that all pupils return to school on Tuesday, January 2nd at the usual time in full school uniform and fully equipped for lessons.

Fri 15 th Dec 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-school uniform day to raise funds for CAFOD: Gaza. (£1 per pupil) or donate a non-perishable item to the school's foodbank. • Last day of term. Early finish for pupils Years 7-13 at 1pm.
Tue 2 nd Jan 2024	<p>Start of Spring term 2024 for all pupils in Years 7-13. All pupils return to school at the usual time (by 8.30am) in full school uniform and fully equipped for lessons. Boys must wear black school shoes and a belt. Trainers are not allowed except for PE.</p>

Having reviewed guidance from the Department of Education on the use of mobile phones in school, we have decided to collect these from pupils in Years 7-11 at the start of every day, starting Tuesday, Jan 2nd and return them to pupils at the end of each day. Pupils will no longer be distracted by their phones whilst in school and they can focus fully on their learning and on their social activities. All pupils in Years 7-11 will line up in the playground at 8.30 daily and they will place their mobile phone in a plastic wallet with their name on it.

These wallets will be collected and stored in a safe until 2.55pm when phones will be returned to pupils during afternoon registration. Should a boy in Years 7-11 be found with a phone during the school day, it will be confiscated and parents called in. Sixth Formers are allowed their phones in the Common Room only. Quite a few schools are removing the distraction of mobile phones during the school day to give pupils respite from their phones so they can focus on learning more fully.

Boys in Years 11 and 13 taking public examinations in 2024 will be set retrieval revision work for the Christmas holidays. Boys in Years 10 and 12 will sit Mock1 examinations week beginning Jan 22nd, 2024. Please make sure your son spends part of his Christmas holidays studying in preparation for the above examinations. Please note that applications from boys in Year 11 to our highly successful Sixth Form will close on Jan 26th, 2024.

Parents of pupils on free school meals will receive an email from Edenred on December 15th with holiday food vouchers to the value of £30 for each child to spend in a range of supermarkets. These vouchers are valid for 3 months until March 15th, 2024.

Our Christmas holiday food bank is now available to parents from 3.30-4.30pm daily until Fri, December 15th 2023. Please bring your own shopping bags. We are very thankful to FoodBank Aid and to Channing School for sponsoring our December foodbanks.

PARENTS' EVENING DATES NEXT TERM (FACE TO FACE IN THE SCHOOL HALL)

Please add dates to your diary where applicable:

Year 8: Thursday Jan 11th 2024	4.00-6.00pm
Year 9: Thursday Jan 18th 2024	4.00-6.00pm
Year 7: Thursday Feb 1st 2024	4.00-6.00pm
Year 10: Thursday Feb 29th 2024	4.00-6.00pm
Year 9 GCSE Options Choices Evening: Thursday March 14th	4.30-6.00pm
Year 12: Thursday March 21st 2024	4.00-6.00pm

A number of our Sixth Formers will take public examinations in January 2024. Please encourage your son to work hard over the Christmas holiday in preparation for these important exams.

BTEC SPORT

Y13 - Unit 22 Investigating Business in Sport and the active Leisure Industry 15/01/2024 (morning) 3h

Y13 - Unit 19 Development and provision of sport and Physical activity 18/01/2024 (morning) 2H30

Y12 - Unit 2 Fitness, Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Wellbeing 10/01/2024 (morning) 2h30

Y12 - Unit 1 Anatomy and Physiology 12/01/2024 (morning) 1h30

BTEC BUSINESS

Y13/Y12 - Unit 2 Developing a Marketing campaign 11/01/2024 (morning) 3h

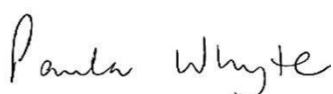
Y13 - Unit 6 Principles of Management 19/01/2024 (morning) 3h

Y13 - Unit 7 Business Decision Making 22/01/2024 (morning) 3h

Please encourage your sons/daughters to attend Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to experience the real meaning of this Holy Season as we celebrate the Incarnation of our Lord.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you all a safe, happy, joyful and restful Christmas holiday and every best wish for 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Paula Whyte
Headteacher