

3rd December 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope both you and your families are keeping well.

As the end of this Autumn term draws near, we are currently in the Holy season of Advent in which we prepare for the Nativity of our Lord on Christmas Day.

I am very touched by the way in which our young people take to their hearts the real meaning of Advent. They truly live out the values of the school and social justice, embedded in the Advent Candle of Hope, Peace, Love and Joy in a world often overwhelmed by the commercialism of Christmas.

This Advent, our school community will raise funds for the homeless charity, The Passage, for The Catholic Children's society and for CAFOD (Gaza). This demonstrates our commitment to ensuring that learning is not always about taking exams and progress, important though these are, but also the importance of nurturing commitment to the common good and our part in securing that for all.

This term has been a very busy one as usual. Our Year 13 Oxbridge applicants are waiting to hear of interviews. A significant number of Year 13 students have applied to Russell group universities to study a range of subjects.

Our 2025 GCSE Attainment 8 of 57.7 puts St Aloysius College in the top two secondary schools in Islington and in the top 10% of all secondary schools in the country. We are very pleased with this and we continue to work in partnership with you to secure the best possible outcomes for your children.

We have had a significant increase in the number of first and second preference applications for Year 7 September 2026. Places are still available so please contact enquiries@sta.islington.sch.uk if interested.

Boys in Years 11 and 13 taking public examinations in 2026 will be set retrieval revision work for the Christmas holidays. Please make sure your child spends part of the 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 30th, 2026.

Parents of pupils on free school meals will receive an email from Edenred on December 19th 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 19th, 2026.

We are changing our in-house caterers from Caterlink to HCL Catering from Jan 5th 2026. Weekly menus and price lists will be emailed to parents later this term. Payment will continue via ParentPay.

Our Christmas holiday food bank will be available to parents from 3.30-4.30pm daily from Wednesday, December 10th until Thursday, December 18th 2026. Please bring your own shopping bags. We are very thankful to FoodBank Aid for sponsoring our December foodbank.

Please remind your child that a free breakfast is available every morning in the food tech room from 7.45-8.20am. This is sponsored by Kelloggs and consists of cereals, fruit juice, toasted bagels and spreads.

Key Dates

Please see below details of the important dates for the remainder of this term:


Date	Event
4th December	Year 11 Parent's evening. Pupils to attend with parents.
5th Dec 2025	Staff INSET day. This is a Reading Day for all pupils in Years 7-13. No pupils in school on Friday, Dec 5th. Please encourage your child to join their local public library which is free and to read regularly to help them to develop their literacy. School reopens as usual at 8.25am on Monday Dec 8th.
15th December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for Catholic pupils in Years 7-13
15th December	Year 11 Rewards Assembly (period 6)
16th December	Year 10 Rewards Assembly (period 6)
17th December	Year 9 Rewards Assembly (period 6)
18th December	Year 8 Rewards Assembly (period 5)
18th December	Year 7 Rewards Assembly (period 6)
18th December	Christmas liturgies Years 7-13
19th December	Non-school uniform day to raise funds for CAFOD: Gaza (£1 per pupil) or donate a non-perishable item to the school's foodbank.
19th December	Last day of term Friday Dec 19th Early finish for pupils Yrs 7-13 1.00pm.
5th January 2026 (Monday)	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. Pupils must wear black school shoes. Trainers are not allowed except for PE.

A number of our Sixth Formers will take Public examinations in BTEC SPORT/BTEC BUSINESS in January 2026. Please encourage your son to work hard over the Christmas holiday in preparation for these important exams. Parents will be emailed the Jan 2026 Public examinations separately.

Please encourage your children 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 and restful Christmas holiday and every best wish for 2026.

Yours sincerely,



Paula Whyte
Headteacher



Partnership
with



Diocese of Westminster
Section 48: A Good Catholic School
with outstanding features