

24th October, 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Updates

As we come to the end of half-term one, I am writing to outline the plans for half-term two. We have had an excellent start to the new academic year with many sporting, academic and pastoral successes to celebrate. Each week the newsletter is packed with stories of individual and team successes. This includes achievements on the regional, national and international stage.

We have also welcomed in several guest speakers, visits from local universities and students have taken part in workshops linked to world mental health day, Mathematics Masterclasses with the University of Liverpool and celebrated the official inauguration of Year 11 Prefects. Our work also continues with the White Ribbon organisation to support violence against women. Alongside this, we will be working with a national mentoring organisation called Girls Out Loud.

Student voice is a vital part of school improvement, and we recently voted in new form, vice, chaplaincy and sports captains. I met with all representatives on Friday 13 October to discuss whole-school projects and the feedback was very constructive and supportive.

Over the next couple of weeks, we will announce the new School Council as part of the 1804 Society. This group of students meet on a half-termly cycle to discuss key aspects of school life. Feedback from this meeting is reported to the governing body of the school. This is a fantastic step forward to get students involved in leadership and have their voices heard.

Staffing

We have appointed a new Catering Manager, Miss Jones, who will start from 3 November. She is an experienced chef who will focus on nutritional food catered for many different dietary needs.

Key dates

Liturgical calendar - this incorporates weekly themes linked to our Notre Dame values:

9	06/11/2023	Truth	Remembrance Sunday (12.11.23); Feast - Dedication of the Lateran Basilica (09.11)
10	13/11/2023	Justice	World Day of the Poor (19.11.23)
11	20/11/2023	Love	Feast of Christ the King (26.11.23); Youth Sunday (26.11.23); Feast of St Cecilia - patron saint of musicians(22.11)
12	27/11/2023	Hope	1st Sunday of Advent (03.12.23); Day of Prayer for Migrants (03.12); Feast of St Andrew (30.11)
13	04/12/2023	Faith	FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT - 2nd Sunday of Advent (10.12.23) Immaculate Conception (08.12); Feast of St Ambrose (07.12); Feast of St John Almond (05.12)
14	11/12/2023	Justice	SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT - 3rd Sunday of Advent (17.12.23)
15	18/12/2023	Joy	THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT - 4th Sunday of Advent (24.12.23)
	25/12/2023	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Christmas Day (25.12); Feast of St Stephen (26.12); Feast of St John (27.12); Feast The Holy Innocents (28.12); The Holy Family (31.12.23)
	01/01/2024	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY	Mary, the Mother of God (01.01)

Key dates – Academic calendar

10/11/23	Friday	Whole-school Remembrance Service at 11am
27/11/2023	Monday	Year 11 Mocks begin
01/12/2023	Friday	English trip to Lancaster Castle Year 7, 8 and 9 Data Point 1 reports posted home to parents
07/12/2023	Thursday	Sixth Form Open Evening – 4:00-6:00pm
09/12/2023	Saturday	Production weekend rehearsals
10/12/2023	Sunday	Production weekend rehearsals
11/12/2023	Monday	Christmas Production
12/12/2023	Tuesday	Christmas Production
13/12/2023	Wednesday	Christmas Production
14/12/2023	Thursday	Year 7 Parents' Evening (in-person) – 3.30-6.30pm (school finishes at 3pm)
18/12/2023	Monday	Merit Assemblies
19/12/2023	Tuesday	Year 11 Mock GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams
20/12/2023	Wednesday	Year 11 Mock GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams
21/12/2023	Thursday	Year 11 Mock GCSE Spanish Speaking Exams
22/12/2023	Friday	Advent Christmas Service Students finish for Christmas at 1.30pm

Following the outcome of a very successful OFSTED inspection, I wanted to share with you our whole-school strategic aims for 2023-24. The information below provides an overview and we have a detailed strategic plan which sits alongside this.

1.	Excellent outcomes for all students
2.	Knowledge development ensures that students progress to excellent destinations post-16 and post-18
3.	All curriculum plans are clear, concise and ensure that students can progress and achieve excellent outcomes about national performance

Most importantly, at the heart of everything we do links directly to our Notre Dame values.



Attendance, Attainment, Behaviour and Rewards

[Please click here](#) to access key reminders about the correlation between attendance and attainment.

Confidence and well-being

Unfortunately, 56% of girls lose confidence during puberty. Girls are more likely to blame themselves when something goes wrong, apologise when they give their opinion, over-think decisions and dwell on mistakes. At St. Julie's Catholic High School, we want to arm your daughter with the tools she needs to combat the confidence gap and show the world that doing things #LikeAGirl is amazing.

There are a range of ongoing programmes, activities and workshops which take place across school to support health, well-being and confidence. Through our PSHE programme, daily assemblies and whole school events we develop each of the key skills required to support your daughter as she moves through each year group. Recently we have had a key focus on mental health, resilience and well-being. Progress Leaders and Senior Leaders have delivered assemblies on each of the key topics and provided links and resources to show your daughter that we have every confidence in her ability to succeed, build resilience and provide the necessary tools on how to deal with difficult situations.

To support your daughter with her health and confidence, she can access 'Well Being' boxes in school (main office or Mrs Rooney's office). Each box contains: free sanitary products; breakfast bars; hair bobbles; stationery; spare tights and underwear. If your daughter requires any of the free products, she can ask any female member of staff. As a school, we will help your daughter to take on all the changes of puberty and bloom into the confident young woman she was born to be.

Thank you for your continued support of your daughter's education. Wishing you a peaceful half-term break.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs K McCourt
Acting Headteacher