

Friday 29th November 2024

Dear parents and carers,

### SIAMS

We had a busy but really fulfilling two days on the 21st and 22nd November with the SIAMS inspector. She met with staff, students, parents and governors and was also very busy across the two days visiting lessons, completing scrutinies of children's work and looking at our Collective Worship. She was incredibly positive about our Christian ethos and how it permeates all that we do at the Academy. The report should arrive to us in the next ten days and as soon as I can, I in turn, will share with you.

### Start of Mock exams

Good luck to all our students completing mock exams from next week: Year 10 RE, all of Year 11 and students in Year 13 who are taking Maths, Sociology and Psychology A Levels. As ever your support as parents is invaluable. Ensuring your young person has somewhere quiet to work, is getting enough sleep - without beeping electronics in their room - and eating well the evening and morning before an exam. Let me know any top tips as two of my daughters have their own mocks for GCSEs and A Levels coming up!

### CAF Giving Tuesday

We are raising funds to bring Life Skills programmes to our students. With just one week to go, we need your help! Through 6 December, parent/carer gifts can make a BIG impact:

- all donations will be matched
- all new monthly givers will result in an extra £20 donation to the Foundation
- if we have 30 more parent donors, the Fund will receive an extra donation of £1,000

Every gift makes a difference, and we are so thankful for your support! Please click [here](#) to donate.

### Christmas Music Concert - tickets on sale next week

Our Christmas concert will be taking place at 5.30 pm on Thursday 12th December, and tickets go on sale next week from Thursday. They can be purchased on ParentPay at a cost of £3.50, or £2.50 for concessions. Tickets can also be purchased on the door. This is always a lovely, twinkly (literally!) evening with the chance to listen and see some fabulous festive performances and have a mince pie or two!

### School Uniform Direct - discount code

We have been sent a flyer for a 15% discount at School Uniform Direct, which is valid over the weekend. Please see the attached flyer for more details.

### Chaplain's message - from Rev'd van Kan

*Displaying patience with others can be one of the most powerful expressions of God's love at work in our lives. In a world that often rushes towards instant gratification and quick fixes, practising patience with people can feel like swimming against the current; especially when they've let us down. Yet, when we pause to reflect on God's patience with us — His unwavering love despite our own flaws and moral failures — we are reminded of the call to extend that same grace that God has shown to us to everyone around us. As we enter the Advent season, let us be reminded that in the same way that Christ fasted for 40 days and nights to patiently wait on God's guidance, we must also be patient with others. May the peace of Christ be with you all.*

So as our Chaplain has referred to, with the first Sunday of Advent coming up, we pray that in this season of waiting we have patience and hope for the light that Christmas will bring to our lives and homes. It certainly feels that now more than ever we need hope and faith for a more peaceful world.

I hope you have a restful weekend ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron  
Principal

**Upcoming useful dates:**

Thursday 5th December	Year 11 Mock Exams start (until 19th December)
Thursday 5th December	Year 13 Progress Evening (4pm - 7.30pm)
Friday 6th December	Flu Vaccinations for Years 9 and 10
Thursday 12th December	Christmas Concert (ticketed event) - starts at 5.30pm
From 16th December	Year Group Christmas lunches this week
Friday 20th December	Church Service (morning)
Friday 20th December	Students dismissed from 12.05pm
Tuesday 7th January 2025	Students return at 8.35am

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