



Holy Trinity Catholic School

learn to love, love to learn

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Friday Letter / Edition Number 1 / 21st October 2016

Dear Parents,

It has been a very busy first half-term and as the new Head of School here at Holy Trinity, I am certainly starting to feel tired! So much has happened in a short space of time and for me personally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the many kind wishes of support I have received thus far. It is a privilege for me being here to serve your children and this community. I am convinced that through a period of stability and through the recruitment of additional quality staff, Holy Trinity will be on a journey to becoming an 'Outstanding' school and a beacon school in this area. I am pleased to announce that we have recently recruited two high quality professionals to the roles of Head of Humanities and Second in charge of Science. These highly skilled professionals will begin their duties in January. The school is optimistic about a further recruitment of another high quality teacher in time for a January start. If you have observed the first publication of DFE 'League Tables' you will note that Holy Trinity is the highest performing Secondary School in our part of the city. I will conclude with the words of Saint Teresa of Calcutta 'God will not ask what you did, but will reward you for the love with which it was done'. I believe that the staff at Holy Trinity treats your child as if it was their own. On occasion they will frustrate us, but all that we do for them, we do out of love and with the intention to drive them to be the best that they can be. Thanks for your continued loyalty and support.

Colin Crehan. Head of School.

Half Term Holiday

A reminder that our students finish for half term today. We return to school on **Monday 31st October** at the normal time.

A key reminder about attendance and punctuality - Attend and Succeed!

Some key facts!

- The law states that students should be in school on time every day.
- Attendance and Punctuality are important for you to succeed at school
- **Students with attendance above 96% achieve the best grades**
- **We expect 100% attendance from all of our students, minimum expectation is 97%**
- If you are not in school, school cannot be sure that you are safe
- Any student whose attendance is below 90% is classed as persistently absent.
- All students are expected to be in school every day **by 8.40 am**
- If you are ill then a parent/ carer must contact school **before 9.00 am**
- Any concerns or questions please contact the attendance office
- Please make sure we have up to date contact details for hom

Punctuality to school

- All students are expected to be on the school premises every day for 8.40 am. After this you are LATE
- Arriving late to school will result in a break time detention on the same day. Failure to attend this will result in an after school detention on the same day (25 mins).
- If you have any concerns about punctuality or attendance, contact **Mrs D Butler**, our attendance officer.

Keeping our students safe

This term we have been focussing on 'keeping safe' with all students in school and have had a number of additional inputs around making sensible and responsible choices, staying safe on the way to school and how to stay safe online. We have discussed with all students about safeguarding in school and how to report concerns and who to.

Students have also been working on developing their understanding of Key British Values, and celebrating our diversity via the form tutor programme which runs weekly. In addition, Year 7 were treated to the absolutely amazing 'Natural High' Roadshow, where they learned how to stay healthy and make responsible personal choices to ensure a healthy lifestyle, The students wrote some fabulous mini quotes, amongst them, ' Happy and healthy, great lifestyle, but taking drugs won't make you smile. Take it from me, its great advice, but also listen to 'Natural High' drugs aren't nice.' I'm sure that you will agree, we have some budding poets in year 7!

Well done Year 7!

Mrs Smith is extremely proud of how well year 7 have settled in since they started and how much effort they are putting into their lessons. Keep up the good work!!

Design and Technology congratulations

A very positive start in Design and Technology this year. I am very impressed with the pupils' attitude to learning and the quality of work which has been produced so far. We all know that homework is a must if pupils are to succeed and work to their full potential. Each child is given a short project to work on linked to the red hot chilli pepper within each technology subject area. Pupil responses have been really positive and productive. I have been blown away by the quality produced especially in 9X1. **Aneesah Hussain** produced a booklet with amazing use of graphics. It is possibly the best homework I have ever seen and left me speechless!!! Well done to Aneesah. **Miss H McKiernan -Head of D+T.**

Congratulations Haseeb!

The Maths department want to give a special mention to **Haseeb Israr** in Year 8. Haseeb moved to Birmingham from Pakistan a month before starting Year 7. He had only ever learnt from a book and the only Maths he had done was in Urdu. Haseeb spent Year 7 in the Access Group with Miss Harnedy and over the year grew in confidence as his written and spoken English got better and better. At the start of Year 8, Haseeb moved into 8Y3 but within two lessons was achieving 100% in his assessments. He was moved up to join Mrs McCarthy's 8Y2 group and after half term will move up again to 8Y1. Haseeb is an example to us all that hard work, determination and a big smile are all you need to succeed. Well done Haseeb. Aim for X band next!

Year 7 French

Our year 7 pupils have had a fantastic start to their French studies. For some of them, they have only been learning French for a few weeks but already can have a conversation from memory with

their friends, and some very entertaining puppets! The enthusiasm and excellent attitude to learning the pupils have shown is wonderful to see.



Key Dates

for your Diary

- 3rd November 2016 - Y7 Tutors Evening
- 21st November 2016 - Parental Forum
- 5th January 2017 - Y11 Parents' Evening
- 2nd February 2017 - Y9 Options and Parents' Evening
- 23rd March 2017 - Y10 Parents' Evening
- 30th March 2017 - Y11 Parents' Evening (Final Push)
- 18th May 2017 - Y8 Parents' Evening
- 13th July 2017 - Y7 Parents' Evening



Invitation to Parent Forum meeting

This forum gives those involved the opportunity to represent all parents/carers regarding any matters they may want to raise with our school and to hear about schemes the school may be considering, or to contribute to policies and practice.

Following the successful meetings before the summer, we are writing to warmly invite you to the first Parent Forum of this academic year, which will take place at the following time: **Monday 21st November 2016 from 9:00 to 11:00** If you are interested in joining the Parent Forum, please return the reply slip (letter on website) to the main office by Wednesday 15th November. You can also phone the school and let us know. **Mr Rodriguez, Miss Yañez, Mrs Teager and Miss Ormsby**

Staff Bake off for Open Evening

Thank you to **Miss McKiernan** for arranging a wonderful staff bake off during Open day as our Year 6 visitors and their parents thoroughly enjoyed judging each cake. I personally loved it because I have not baked a cake in 3 years (even my 2 year old daughter helped me with it!) I enjoyed decorating mine with love hearts sweets which was called "Love puts a smile in the heart." **Mrs Wallace's** cake won best appearance and **Miss McKiernan's** cake won best taste. As I always say though "it's the taking part that counts!" It was all down to Miss McKiernan though who made sure our future students enjoyed the experience. **Mrs Rowe**



Accelerated Reader Years 7-9

All students in Years 7 - 9 are taking part in our reading programme called Accelerated Reader. All students will have been to visit the LRC this week and choose a book. We expect all students at KS3 to read for at least 20 minutes each and every day, 30 minutes for real success. When students have finished their books they will be taking a quiz based on the book they have read. Please support your child at home and ensure they are reading during the holiday. We will be holding an information evening next half term to explain all about the reading programme for parents of new students.

Bookbuzz for Year 7

We are delighted to offer every student in Year 7 a free book! All Year 7 have chosen their book and we are awaiting delivery of these exciting books after half term.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Crehan