

Our ref: 0221TCV

21st February 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

As we move forward into the second half of the Spring term, we welcomed Deacon Paul Mannings from Liverpool Archdiocese who conducted a full one-day inspection of the Catholic life and ethos of our school. He found the day to be a joyful and rewarding one and he fully engaged with many of our young people and staff. There were many positive aspects to school life that he joined in with and celebrated our Salesian way of life. I am extremely pleased to inform you that the inspection team graded the College as *outstanding* in terms of the extent to which pupils contribute to, and benefit from, the Catholic Life of the College. We were also graded *outstanding* for how well students respond to and participate in Collective Worship within the College. The College was graded *good* for how well students achieve and enjoy their learning in Religious Education. Thank you to all our young people, staff, Governors and parents who contributed to this very positive outcome.

The school continues to make progress and we look forward to our preparations for Easter, led by Fr Jakub, our Chaplain, and the RE department. We continue to celebrate mass in school every Friday lunchtime and our Don Bosco group plays an active role in school life, leading the whole school in Collective Worship and ensuring that we live our lives according to the teachings of our Founder, Don Bosco, to '*focus on the flow of God's love in every classroom, family and friendship*'.

On Sunday 11th February the College was invited to participate in the annual Civic Mass in the Metropolitan Cathedral and Tom Halewood, our Head Boy, represented the school. His photograph with Archbishop Malcolm McMahon (OP) will shortly be on our website.

We had a successful half term break with revision classes being well attended for Year 11 and we thank all the staff and students involved for their hard work, both in preparing and participating in the sessions. Thank you once again to all of the parents who attended the Year 11 Revision Evening.

Can I ask that you continue to support the College by ensuring that your daughters/sons follow the school rules at all times. We have recently re-visited our Behaviour for Learning Policy and there are some points that I need to re-affirm with both parents

and young people. We have significantly improved punctuality to school by tightening our procedures and arranging a short detention during break and lunchtimes on a daily basis. Please encourage your child to arrive at school by 8.25 am and to go straight to their form room. If they arrive after 8.30 am, they are marked as late and will have to serve one of the detentions above.

Similarly, like most schools we have a Referral Room that is staffed throughout the day for students who may find it difficult to behave in certain lessons. Short of exclusion, this is the most serious sanction we issue in school. Therefore, we need you to support us when we issue a one-hour detention for those who are sent there. The detention will be served the following day and there is a bus provided by the school that will take you child into Bootle at 3.45 pm. This is in fact our “homework bus” and can be accessed by all students. If your child fails to attend this detention you will be asked to bring them into the College the following day so that we can discuss why they did not follow our College rules.

On 1st March we are hosting a Careers Fair with representatives from Universities, Colleges, Apprenticeships, Training Agencies and the Armed Forces. This event is aimed at Years 9-11 so they may make informed decisions about GCSE options and study/ career paths post school. Parents and carers are very welcome to visit the Careers Fair between 3-4pm when Year 11 will also have the opportunity to talk about their future plans with the exhibitors. This event is part of our extensive careers programme which enables our students to have many opportunities to engage with employers and visit universities, as well as participating in workshops about apprenticeships and employability skills.

You may recall when I wrote to you in December I asked that you help maintain the high standards of uniform and this is happening so thank you for your support.

Finally, I met with the Headteachers of our feeder primary schools on the last day of term and they were extremely complimentary about our students. We further agreed to help support each other as we continue to grow and nurture our young people. To this end, we look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students at their 'Welcome Evening' on Thursday 22nd March.

I will write to you again before Easter and thank you once again for your continued support. Please be assured of our continued prayers for your families and our community.

Kind regards



Mr T Costello
Headteacher