

17th December 2020



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Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing at the end of what has been an interesting, challenging and very rewarding term to thank you and your daughters and sons for all your support, hard work and effort that has taken place since we returned in September. Despite the many restrictions placed upon us by the coronavirus we have managed to maintain a degree of normality and, as a school community, grow in strength alongside one another.

These last few days have been some of the most rewarding and happiest of times as we came together as one and celebrated Christmas and our Salesian heritage. Each year group has been given the opportunity to celebrate Christmas together and in the process raise a considerable sum of money for local charities. The generosity and kindness of our children knows no bounds.

We too have been recipients of a very generous community and we are extremely grateful to organisations such as Everton in the Community, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service as well as Sefton Community Pantry and Optimum Group Services for their contributions towards making our Salesian families Christmas one that is filled with hope and kindness.

On a more practical level we are trying to resume some kind of normality upon our return in January and to this end I am asking you to ensure that your daughters and sons wear full school uniform at all times. No longer will they be allowed to wear their PE kit to school on the days they have PE. Therefore, they will need to bring their PE kit in a school bag. Years 7, 8 and 9 have our official school bags that they were given at the start of the year so please do not buy another one. We will replace the school bag if it has been lost or broken.

We continue to maintain very high standards and I would like to congratulate everybody on their excellent record of attendance. As I write today our attendance across the whole school is 94%. A figure for the whole country is 85% and this is therefore a remarkable achievement and deserves to be applauded. Our aim is to maintain and improve upon this from January, with every pupil aiming for 100% attendance and punctuality every day.

In upholding such high standards it is also timely to point out that we do have a 'no mobile phones on display' policy and therefore remind your daughters and sons that their phone will be confiscated if they have it on display during school hours. Similarly we have a no jewellery or earrings policy (apart from a watch) and again can I ask that you support the school in enforcing this rule.

We are continuing to operate in year group 'bubbles' as we move into the new year and, although a vaccine is now available to some, we will maintain these groupings until we are absolutely certain that the risk of infection has significantly reduced. We will continue to operate a separate entrance and exit for the different year groups in addition to separate playgrounds and eating lunch in

classrooms. The pupils have been amazingly co-operative in helping to maintain these standards and I hope to see this continue.

It is also worth sharing with you that since our return in September most parents have fully engaged with Class Charts and ParentPay and hope that you feel better informed about your child's progress and behaviour. It is again very encouraging to see that on Class Charts for the school as a whole more than 80% of the comments being made by staff about pupils is positive and this is reflected in the calm and well ordered atmosphere around the school. Finally, as the year draws to a close I would like to say thank you to so many different people. Firstly to the Salesian Community for their generosity and long-standing support for the school and not least for the 50 laptops they provided for our pupils during lockdown. Although I have already mentioned Everton in the Community for their Christmas donations they have also been extremely helpful throughout the year in also providing free laptops and considerable support to our young people in many different ways. I would also like to mention the Parish Community of St James for their support and for Brother Wiktor and Father Jakub who are their Salesian representatives in our school. Miss Fort, or Hazel as she is known to all, is also someone who gives so much to our girls and boys and does a tremendous job as a full time volunteer in our Chaplaincy team.

Last, but not least, is for me to say thank you to all of our girls and boys, mums, dads and carers for all you have given to our school in these past 12 months. I look forward to welcoming pupils back into school on **TUESDAY 5th JANUARY 2021** and on behalf of all the staff, Governors and trustees wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

Warmest wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Costello', with a stylized flourish at the end.

T Costello
Headteacher