



St Nicholas Catholic High School

A Business and Enterprise College

Headteacher: Mr R. Woods, BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH
Under the Trusteeship of the
R.C. Diocese of Shrewsbury

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14 December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, we have begun our new Liturgical year together as Advent bids us welcome once more in anticipation for the celebration of Christmas. As always, there has been much to reflect upon and celebrate since the half term break back in October.

Our month of remembrance began with remembrance assemblies for all year groups led by Mr Whipp. Students have also completed their own remembrance 'stars' in the school Chapel for all loved ones that they wished to remember and for the first time the entire school community gathered on the yard to mark our two minute silence together.

Year 11 students have completed their mock examinations and engaged very positively with all necessary processes as the Sports Hall became their examination room over six school days.

Our 2018 school production of Sister Act was a resounding success. The exceptional talents of the cast brought tears and laughter to audiences over three nights with wonderful singing, dancing and dialogue accompanied by the fantastic live band. Sincere thanks to all the staff, students, parents, carers and friends of the school who worked together to produce such a superb performance.

As always, there have been numerous enrichment activities across the half term including our Music Tour to Dublin, Sixth Form visits to many Universities, our Year 9 Retreat Day, KS4 and 5 students participating in the Bar Mock Trial at Chester Crown Court, as well as visits to the Jaguar Landrover factory and the Drama Department trip to London. November 22nd also saw another wonderful St Nicholas' Christmas Market evening organised by the PTFA. Feedback from staff, students, parents and visitors to the school was, as always, tremendously positive and we are indebted, once again, to the dedicated team of PTFA volunteers who make it all possible.

On Monday 10th December we hosted our first ever Parishioners Christmas Tea. We were delighted to welcome members of our parish communities to St Nicholas for an afternoon of music provided by the school Choir and Orchestra, a Christmas Quiz led by Sixth Form students and a traditional afternoon tea of cakes and sandwiches prepared by the catering team. The immensely positive comments from our guests as they left, means we anticipate many more next year!

A reminder that our annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place on **Wednesday 19th December at 7pm** in the School Hall – you are welcome to join us for an evening of scripture, song, music and reflection as we prepare for Christmas together.





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As we approach once again the celebration that is Christmas, we would do well to reflect on the words that Pope Francis shares with us:

Dear brothers and sisters,

May the Holy Spirit today enlighten our hearts,

That we may recognize in the Infant Jesus, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary,

The salvation given by God to each one of us,

To each man and woman and to all the peoples of the earth.

May his redeeming strength transform arms into ploughshares,

destruction into creativity, hatred into love and tenderness.

Then we will be able to cry out with joy: "Our eyes have seen your salvation".

A reminder that the **Advent Term will end on Friday 21st December when school will close to students at 1pm**. I do hope that you are able to join the celebrations within your parish communities over the Christmas season and there will be details of all local parish services in our Weekly Newsletter next week .

The new Lent term will begin for students on **Monday 7th January 2019** and until then may I wish you all a happy, Holy and peaceful Christmas

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

