



December 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, all students at St Nicholas have entered the new Liturgical year together by preparing themselves for the Christmas season through our usual Advent services with RE classes in the school chapel, Advent Award Assemblies in their Year Groups as well as volunteering items for our annual foodbank collections to support our local SVP and Mid Cheshire Foodbank.

As always there have been numerous enrichment activities since the half term break including the School Choir's tour to the Netherlands and the Geography Department's first trip to Iceland - the Country not the Supermarket! Closer to home, students have also visited Stoke on Trent with the Drama Department to see The Woman in Black at the Regent Theatre, others have participated in the UKMT Senior Team Maths Challenge at Manchester University and our Boccia Team took part in the Cheshire and Warrington's Boccia Tournament. During their Retreat Day, Year 9 students have also spent time reflecting on the themes of our school mission statement and 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 a number of days.

Building on the success of our first ever Parishioners Christmas Tea last December, this year we were delighted to welcome back even more members of our parish communities to St Nicholas for an afternoon of music provided by the school Choir and Orchestra, a Christmas Quiz and a full Christmas lunch prepared by the catering team and served by our Sixth Form students. The immensely positive comments from our guests as they left, means we anticipate even more visitors next year!

I would like to take this opportunity to offer a formal thank you to all the students at school who each and every day this term live up to the high expectations of our 4Rs, and who live out our Catholic values through their attitudes as members of the St Nicholas community: Thank you for being punctual at the start of the school day and to your lessons, for your positive engagement in class with your studies, for attending in the correct school uniform and with the correct equipment ready to learn and for being role models to each other through your words and your actions. Collectively, all of these small behaviours create a firm foundation upon which deep learning can be built and from which future success is destined to follow.



Next **Tuesday 17th December**, our annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place **at 7pm** in the School Hall and I would like to invite all students, families and friends to join the school choir and orchestra for an evening of scripture, song, music and reflection as we prepare for Christmas together.

As we draw ever nearer to the celebration that is Christmas, we would do well to reflect on the words Pope Francis gave to the world from St Peter's Square on Christmas Eve last December:

*May the little Child whom we contemplate today in the manger in the cold of the night,
watch over all the children of the world,
and every frail, vulnerable and discarded person.*

*May all of us receive peace and consolation from the birth of the Saviour,
And in the knowledge that we are loved by the one heavenly Father,
realize anew that we are brothers and sisters and come to live as such!*

In conclusion, I would like to remind you that the **Advent Term will end on Friday 20th December when school will close to students at 1pm**. I do hope that you are able to join the Christmas celebrations within your own parish communities this year, and details of all local parish services will be included in our final newsletter of the term next week.

The new Lent term will begin for students on **Tuesday 7th January 2020** and until then may I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

IN OMNIBUS LABORA