



25 October 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

As we arrive at the half-way point of the Advent half term, the academic year is in full flight here at St Nicholas. We are very grateful to Fr Paul and Fr James who joined us to celebrate our Whole School Masses within which we marked the start of the year together in the most appropriate way by offering our prayers, hopes and dreams for the year ahead. Thanks also to all who were able to attend our annual PTFA Family Quiz this year – many families and friends packed out the 6th Form Common Room for a fun filled evening hosted by students and staff.

Year 11's November mock exams are very much on the horizon and I would ask that parents and carers consult the Mock Timetable and revision information to support their children through the weeks ahead so that they gain the best possible outcomes in these most important of exams. Year 11 students have also begun individual consultation meetings with our newly appointed Careers Advisor who looks to encourage and advise students on their next steps into education, employment and training.

Our annual 6th Form Open Evening was, yet again, a wonderful event. Students and families from St Nicholas alongside many people from other local schools visited the numerous subject areas offered at Post-16 where current sixth form students were able to share their experiences and guidance. In the assembly hall, Mr Bradley and myself along with current students, shared our vision and provision for post 16 education at St Nicholas - we know that in our Sixth Form we can offer small class sizes and degree level professional teaching, underpinned by unrivalled pastoral support and enrichment opportunities to deepen student formation and facilitate applications to University.

We were recently visited by a delegation of local and national education leaders to explore the fantastic careers education advice, information and guidance that students receive at St Nicholas. We were chosen from all schools across Cheshire West and Warrington to host this prestigious event and were joined by Mike Amesbury, MP for Weaver Vale who met with staff and students listening to the sector leading work that we are undertaking.

In response to feedback from parents, carers and students there will be a number of new and exciting developments taking place after the Half Term break. We will be introducing a new web-based appointment system for all future Parents' Evenings, which will allow you to make bookings with your child's teachers on line. We will also be launching our new VLE homework system 'Ruler' which will replace 'Frog' as the school's primary tool for the setting and recording of homework.



Finally, we will also be informing you of the new way to purchase school uniform from January onwards. Going forward, we will be in partnership with Chester based 'Uniformity' who will supply St Nicholas' uniform and will be available to purchase online for delivery to your home, or for collection at school. To assist all parties, we will be retaining the current fitting service that we offer here in school. Further information in relation to all of these matters will be communicated in more detail in November.

I very much hope that you are continuing to enjoy our weekly newsletter and if you haven't already done so, I would encourage you to follow our re-launched twitter feed with daily updates on life here at St Nicholas. You can follow us at [@StNicholasCHS](https://twitter.com/StNicholasCHS)

I would like to offer a reminder to you all that our next Parent Focus Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 20th November at 6pm and will focus on the school's approach to Relationship and Sex Education and the Religious Education Curriculum. We would welcome your views and opinions in relation to our current curriculum offer and the Department for Education's new guidance to schools. Please email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk if you would like to attend.

As winter draws ever nearer, I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that the *only* items to be worn under the school blazer should be a shirt, tie and school jumper. Hoodies are not allowed to be worn at any time. Appropriate coats can of course be worn, and full details of all uniform requirements are detailed within the school's Uniform Policy which is available on our website. Please also ensure that your contact details are up to date and that you have signed page 7 of your child's School Planner which gives permission for your child to leave site in the event of an emergency school closure.

Finally, as I write this letter, Year 11 students are currently on the schools first trip to Iceland and the Music Department are making final preparations for their trip to the Netherlands during the Half Term break - we wish all the students and staff a wonderful time!

As always, thank you for the support you continue to offer to the St Nicholas Community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher