



22nd October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As we approach the halfway point of the Advent term, I write to share some of the 'highlights' of the first seven weeks of the 2021-22 academic year at St Nicholas and details of forthcoming events here at school.

Year 7 and Year 8 students have taken part in their own retreat days and have had the opportunity to celebrate Mass with their year group led by Fr Simon and Fr Paul. Students from the parish of St John Vianney, Northwich have recently been Confirmed by Bishop Mark, and we offer every blessing to those students looking forward to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation after the half term break from the parishes of St Joseph's, Winsford and St Mary's, Middlewich - we will be keeping them all in our prayers over the coming weeks.

Our Information Evenings for the parents and carers of Sixth Form students in Years 10, 11 and Year 12 were very well attended both virtually and on site with curriculum information for parents, carers and students provided by Year Leaders and Subject Leaders as well as additional tips to support home learning, revision and preparation for forthcoming examinations. If you were unable to attend in person then you can access materials via our school website [news page](#).

Mr Wycherley has been delivering 'learning to learn' sessions to all year groups over the last few weeks. These sessions have focused on the science of learning and have provided practical tips and techniques that students can use to supporting their learning in class and at home to help them retain key information and revise effectively for their assessments and test. Further details can be found in our weekly newsletter [here](#).

Covid mitigations have meant that we have been unable to hold our usual 'Mini-market' event this year, but instead we have launched our October Market Challenge to all Form Classes to support CAFOD and our local Foodbank. We have been raising funds to help people across the world 'Go Green' by supporting them in sustainable living. We have had some great donations for the Mid-Cheshire Foodbank who continue to support the local community in time of need. We have also had generous donations of warm, spare coats (adults and children) to donate to charities supporting the homeless and refugees. Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting our local and global community.

Our recent Open Evenings were once again wonderful events and it was an absolute delight to be able to invite visitors and parents onto school site. Our Open Evening for Years 5 and 6 was the busiest it has been for many years, and our 6th Form Open Evening saw students and



families from St Nicholas alongside many visitors from other local schools visit the many subject areas offered at Post-16 where current Sixth Form students were able to share their experiences and guidance. In the assembly hall, myself and Mr Bradley along with current students shared our vision and provision for post 16 education at St Nicholas. Our updated prospectus and course information booklet provides all the necessary information for prospective 6th Form applicants and is available on our [school website](#).

I would like to take this opportunity to share some up and coming 'dates for the diary' as we move towards the season of Advent together. Our **KS3 Curriculum Information Evening** will take place virtually on Monday 1st November and Mr Spencer will be providing further details in due course. Our next **PTFA meeting** is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 9th November at 6.15pm, and if any new parents or carers wish to attend please do email into school and we will ensure we pass on further details. Our first **Parent Focus Meeting** of the year will take place on Wednesday 17th November at 6pm and our topics for discussion will be our Mission as a Catholic School and Our School Improvement Planning for the next 3 years. I would be delighted if you could join me for these discussions. Please email admin@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk to confirm your attendance.

Covid Update

Following consultation with the local Health Protection Team this week, it has been recommended that some of the additional temporary protective measures introduced a few weeks ago can be stepped down after half term. However, as transmission levels amongst 10- to 19-year-olds in the local community/borough remain high and cases are increasing nationally, ***the wearing of face coverings will continue for a further 2 weeks at least following the half term break.*** Students are also strongly encouraged to continue testing twice weekly at home. We will continue to monitor case levels regularly during the next half term and deploy mitigations in accordance with our outbreak management plan.

We will continue to implement existing mitigations at school including remaining vigilant for Covid symptoms, maintaining our one way system around site, maintaining appropriate levels of ventilation, maintaining good standards of hand hygiene on entry and exit to classrooms and enhanced levels of cleaning throughout the school day.

Details and arrangements for the Covid-19 vaccinations scheduled for after the half term break have been attached to this letter below.

Finally, as winter draws ever nearer can I please 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 on school premises and are not to be worn at any time. Appropriate coats can of course be worn and full uniform details are available on our [website](#).



I wish you all a relaxing and safe half term break and as always, thank you for the support you continue to offer to the St Nicholas Community.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

COVID Vaccination Update

COVID vaccinations are due to take place on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd November for 12 – 15 year old students run by the School Aged Vaccination Service.

For those students whose families have provided consent, vaccinations will be offered on Monday 1st November for Years 8 & 9 and Tuesday 2nd November for Years 10 & 11. The school aged vaccination service are planning to offer vaccinations to Year 7's on 2nd November as well but this will depend on the number of nurses available on that day. If this isn't possible, we will communicate with you and vaccinations will take place on the reserve date of Thursday 4th November instead.

Furthermore, please see the message below from the School Aged Vaccination Service regarding what to do if your child has recently tested positive.

The School Aged Vaccination Service is due to visit St Nicholas Catholic High School on Monday 1st and Tuesday 2nd November to vaccinate 12 – 15 year old students.

If you have submitted a consent form for your child and they subsequently test positive for COVID-19 prior to the date of the scheduled school session, please contact the School Aged Immunisation Service by telephone on 01244 397470.

This is because there must be a 28-day gap between a positive COVID-19 test and receipt of a COVID-19 vaccination.

Children will still be able to access a vaccination after the 28-day period and we will advise you of the details of these additional clinics when you call.