



6th December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write this letter, all students at St Nicholas have entered the new Liturgical year together and are preparing for the Christmas season through our usual Advent services with RE classes in the school chapel, Advent Assemblies in their Year Groups as well as volunteering items and donations to support our local Foodbank's this Christmas.

I would also like to offer congratulations to those students from the parishes of St John Vianney Northwich, St Joseph's Winsford and St Mary's Middlewich who were recently Confirmed. We also ask every blessing for those students looking forward to receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at St Luke's in Frodsham on Friday - we will be keeping them all in our prayers over the coming weeks.

Building on the success of our Parishioners Dinner in December 2019, this year we are delighted to welcome back members of our parish communities to St Nicholas once again 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.

For all students at the school, Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 15th to Yrs. 7-9 and Yrs. 10-13 on Thursday 16th December. We will be serving fresh roast turkey with all the traditional trimmings followed by a warm mince pie or chocolate Christmas tree ice-cream. The vegetarian option will be a vegan sweet potato & chickpea loaf.

Our usual annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place at 7pm on Wednesday 15th December in the School Hall and I would like to invite students and families to join the school choir and orchestra for an evening of scripture, song, music and reflection as we prepare for Christmas together. Tickets numbers will be limited and offered to the parents and carers of those students participating in the first instance due to COVID restrictions. Further details will be sent to families this week.

I would like to offer a formal thank you to all the students at school who each and every day 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.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that the ***Advent Term will end on Friday 17th December when school will close to students at 12.30pm.*** 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 **Wednesday 5th January 2022** and all students will be offered one on-site LFD test on their return to school. According to the current DfE and NHS guidance for asymptomatic testing in schools, individuals are exempt from LFD testing within 90 days of a PCR test unless they develop new symptoms. The most recent guidance on testing and isolation can be found [here](#). If your child has participated in previous testing, you are not required to provide your consent again unless you wish to change consent. If so, please email covidtesting@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk advising us of this change.

Alternatively, if your child has not been tested before and you now wish for them to be part of the testing programme at the start of next term, please email covidtesting@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk and we will send you a consent form to complete.

Please can you notify the school of any changes to your child's consent by 9am on Friday 10th December.

We will then be in touch with further details and arrangements for the testing programme before the end of term.

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 details of school uniform requirements are available [here](#) via our school website. Please pay particular attention to footwear and permitted hair styles which are clearly outlined in our Uniform Policy to avoid any misunderstanding when your child returns in January.

Thank you, once again, for your ongoing support this term as we continue to respond to all that Covid-19 asks of us.

Yours sincerely

Mr Richard Woods
Headteacher