



December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

As I write my final Christmas newsletter, students are participating in their Advent services, and preparations for our end of term celebrations are well under way culminating in our Advent Mass for students this Wednesday 14th December.

This year, following almost six years as Headteacher here at St Nicholas, the end of the Advent season will bring a time of personal change for myself as I move on to take up a new position as Deputy Director of schools for the Shrewsbury Diocese. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you as parents and carers for the never-ending support and dedication you offer to St Nicholas Catholic High School. It has been an absolute privilege to have had the opportunity to serve this wonderful community for the last six years, and I truly believe that the commitment and devotion shown by the exceptional team of staff and governors, in partnership with yourselves as parents and carers, is an example for all within Catholic education. Mr Heffernan will be an excellent acting Headteacher as he takes up his interim position for the Lent term prior to Mr Burns becoming St Nicholas' substantive Headteacher in April, and I know that St Nicholas will continue to go from strength to strength during the months and years ahead.

I would also like to offer a formal thank you to all the students at school who each and every day live up to our high expectations and who live out our Catholic values through their attitudes, words and actions 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.

A reminder that our annual Christmas Carol Concert will take place on **Thursday 15th December at 7pm** in the School Hall and you are all welcome to join us for an evening of scripture, song, music and reflection as we prepare for Christmas together.

As we approach the celebration that is Christmas, we would do well to reflect once again on the words Pope Francis previously gave to the world from St Peter's Square last Christmas:

*The Word of God became flesh and came to dwell among us.
He came like a whisper, like the murmur of a gentle breeze, to fill with wonder the heart of every
man and woman who is open to this mystery.*

*Amid all the many problems of our time, hope prevails, "for to us a child is born" (Is 9:6).
He is the word of God, who became an infant, capable only of crying, and in need of help for
everything.*

*He wished to learn how to speak, like every other child, so that we might learn to listen to God, our
Father, to listen to one another and to dialogue as brothers and sisters.*

O Christ, born for our sake, teach us to walk beside you on the paths of peace.

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 later this week.

The new Lent term will begin for students on **Wednesday 4th January 2023** and until then may I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Richard Woods
Headteacher