



January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to a new and exciting term at St Nicholas. I hope you and your families enjoyed a peaceful Christmas.

As this is my first letter to you in my capacity as Acting Headteacher for the Lent Term, I want to take the opportunity to state how honoured I was to be asked by Governors to lead the school for this period. Having served our wonderful St Nicholas community for nearly 10 years, I have been regularly humbled to witness the amazing outcomes, in all spheres of school life, which result from the combined effort of students, staff and families. St Nicholas Catholic High School is a truly unique and inspiring environment.

I can assure you that the foundations of our considerable success as a school in recent years will continue to be strengthened and developed during this crucial term ahead and I very much look forward to working with you to continue our fulfilling learning journey together.

### **Lent Term**

As ever, the Lent Term holds much promise for our school community. Highlights of this term include:

- Year 7 students embarking upon their residential event in January;
- A whole-school Mission Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January;
- CAFOD Lent fund-raising events;
- Special Form Patron Assemblies in preparation for Lent;
- A skiing trip to Austria;
- A major Art and Modern Foreign Languages trip to Paris;
- Parents' Evenings for Years 13, 11, 10 and 8;
- The continuation of our extensive co-curricular offer across the school;
- Continued development of our student leadership structures, which all have a direct impact upon decisions made for the benefit of our school community (please click [here](#))

Underpinning these special events is the daily commitment to our 4Rs approach at St Nicholas: respect for **yourself**; respect for **others**; respect for our **school**; and ready to **learn**. Students and staff live out our Catholic values every day here in school through their attitude to our 4Rs and I am proud of the very special ethos our faith inspires.



I want to thank students and families who each day help us achieve the high expectations of our 4Rs: we are blessed to have a school community in which students attend every day, arrive punctually, take pride in their uniform, are equipped for lessons, engage positively with their learning, and commit to being role models through their actions and words. Every positive choice each student makes in all aspects of school life contributes to the high standards we all enjoy at St Nicholas.

### **Attendance**

Attendance is the very foundation of a successful school experience for students. Quite simply, any absence from school is to the detriment of students' learning and future chances of success. It is essential that students attend school every day; we are fortunate that our students and families understand the absolute importance of this. Every single day of learning counts. I urge all parents and carers to consolidate this message at home and ensure every student's attendance is the absolute best it can be.

### **Uniform**

The standard of our school uniform here at St Nicholas is exceptionally high and frequently commented upon by visitors. Students, quite rightly, wear our uniform with a sense of pride and belonging. As we are now in the depths of winter, I want 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 on school premises and are not to be worn at any time. Of course, appropriate coats can 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.

### **School Newsletter**

A reminder that our School Newsletter is published weekly and sent via ParentPay. The newsletter contains lots of important information about our school life, including reflections for the week ahead, celebration of students' vast range of achievements, special events, sporting news, and schedules for our co-curricular offer for students. It's always very affirming to read about the special energy and vibrancy which characterises the St Nicholas community and I encourage you to look out for the newsletter each week.

Finally, in closing, I share the words of Pope Francis:

*'The mission of schools and teachers is to develop an understanding of all that is true, good and beautiful.'*

May these words sustain us as we embark upon the challenges of the term ahead.



**ST NICHOLAS  
CATHOLIC  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Heffernan  
Acting Headteacher

