



10<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## Parental Update 12

Earlier this week, we heard about further national restrictions as part of Plan B. From the initial headlines, there does not appear to be any further impact upon schools, though we await the finer details. The whole pandemic continues to be a challenging time for everyone and I am reminded of Winston Churchill's quote "*If you are going through hell, keep going*" and that is exactly what we will all do as a Lasallian community.

### COVID and Testing

The government has asked that in January all schools test the students before they return. As I have mentioned previously, this is a logistical challenge and we asked if students could come in and be tested in the days after they return. Sadly, the answer to this is no.

The government will, however, allow schools to stagger the return of year groups, to allow the testing to happen. We are trying to avoid this by asking for the mobile testing units to come in and support us. If they are able to come in then we may be able to begin testing a day earlier and avoid any staggered return. I will update you as soon as I have confirmation.

### Pastoral Meetings

A big thank you to all the staff and parents involved in the Yr 8, 9 and 10 Pastoral Evenings. You will recall these are additional meetings that we put on through the year, on top of the expected traditional parents' evenings, to allow a more informal discussion on how the young people are settling in this term.

### Hoodies and Tracksuit Tops

Can I remind parents, though students are welcome to wear coats over their blazers, they are not allowed to wear tops, hoodies, tracksuits or coats (or other street-wear) under their blazer, only a school jumper is acceptable attire; they will be asked to remove any other garments. If they repeatedly wear incorrect uniform, this will be removed and returned at the end of the day.

### Confirmed Holiday and INSET days for 2022/2023

We have now confirmed the INSET days (called Staff Training Days below) for next academic year, and thought you may find it useful to have these, along with the term dates, for planning any holidays or family activities.

#### Autumn Term 2022

Staff Training Day 1 - Thursday 1st September

Staff Training Day 2 - Friday 2nd September

**ALL PUPILS RETURN - Monday 5th September**

School closes for pupils - Friday 21st October  
Re-opens - Monday 31st October  
Staff Training Day 3 - Friday 2nd December  
School closes - Wednesday 21st December

### **Spring Term 2023**

Re-opens - Wednesday 4th January  
School closes for pupils - Friday 10th February  
Staff Training Day 4 - Monday 20th February  
Re-opens - Tuesday 21st February  
School closes - Friday 31st March

### **Summer Term 2023**

Re-opens - Monday 17th April  
Bank Holiday - Monday 1st May  
School closes - Friday 26th May  
Re-opens - Monday 5th June  
Staff Training Day 5 - Monday 26th June  
School closes for pupils - Wednesday 19th July

### **House Update**

Since my last letter we have now held the following:

- Christmas Card competition, won by Lily Chamberlain for West Park Wonders, with the runner up being Harry Houghton (whose design won the Lasallian wider district competition) for Notre Dame Raiders.
- The DT Challenge to make a torch from a given design. The results being: 1st place - Archie Everett, Mount Carmel Crusaders, 2nd place - Harry Houghton, Notre Dame Raiders and 3rd place - Emily McKenny – Team Champion.
- Science Fair making a model of a human organ. The results being 1<sup>st</sup> place Lucy Darbyshire for West Park Wonders, 2<sup>nd</sup> place Arlo Shallcross for Notre Dame Raiders and 3<sup>rd</sup> place Scarlett Traynor for West Park Wonders.

The current points are as follows:

	<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>House Total</b>
<b>Notre Dame Raiders</b>	199	177	86	112	130	704
<b>Team Champion</b>	137	143	87	106	88	561
<b>West Park Wonders</b>	248	91	80	69	49	537
<b>Mount Carmel Crusaders</b>	141	79	87	63	83	453

### **Dates for your diary (items in bold indicate a change to normal school day)**

**Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec: school closes for Christmas at 12.10pm (no buses after school)**

Christmas Holidays

Wed 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022: School re-opens (usual time)

Fri 17<sup>th</sup> Jan: yr 8 retreat (60 students)

Fri 11<sup>th</sup> Feb: school closes for half term

Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Feb: School re-opens

### **And finally...**

I realise that was a solemn start to this update and it is easy to look at this week's events nationally and feel sadness, despair and even anger, but it is important to remember that most people within society are good people who care about others. This has been shown

very clearly this week, as we continue our Advent journey, by your overwhelming generosity for our Coats for Christmas and HOPE appeals.

The scale of donations and your generosity has been staggering and restores our faith in people. These donations will make a huge difference to local people who find themselves in need. Thank you all (and a special thank you to one of our parents from Jacks UK for a huge donation of food).

Yours sincerely

**Andrew Rannard**