



ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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Dear parent,

As this term draws to a close, there is so much that we have to be grateful for within our school community. It has been a huge success and there is so much that we can look back on with great pride.

First and foremost, our judgement of Outstanding by OFSTED really did show the monumental hard work that has gone into this school over the last six years. Last year, only 2% of schools in England improved their OFSTED judgement and over 50% of schools were downgraded from their previous judgement. The fact that we managed to move the school from Good to Outstanding is fairly unprecedented under the current OFSTED framework. The reason for this success is down to the hard work of leaders, teachers and staff to ensure the very highest standards for all of the pupils in this school. The focus on exceptional behaviour this term has ensured that we can deliver the very best teaching and learning possible for all our students. I want to thank the vast majority of parents who support us in our mission to ensure that the highest standards within the school can be enacted - it really does make a huge difference when families work collaboratively with us.

On November 1st we celebrated our feast, All Saints day. This is always such a great celebration of what our school community is all about. As usual staff were outside first thing in the morning to sing the students into the school with a rousing rendition of 'Oh When the Saints'. Pupils were spent the day learning about what it means to be an important and valued member of our school community and were also treated to a free lunch.

Throughout this term, our Performing Arts department have worked really hard to ensure that students have plenty of opportunity to perform and prepare for future performances. Our Schola Cantorum performed Fauré's Requiem at Saint James' church in Marylebone and it really was an occasion that showcased the remarkable talent of students within our school. This week they also performed as the lead choir for the Tablet's Christmas concert at Farm Street church in Mayfair, and Baron Christopher Patten stated that it was one of the best choirs he'd ever heard sing. Presently, students across the school are preparing for the musical production of the Wizard of Oz that will take place in February 2023. I look forward to sharing more details with you about how you can get tickets for what will be a fantastic event.

In October, we had a visit from the shadow Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson MP, who took a tour of the school and was incredibly impressed at the standards of both teaching and learning and behaviour within the school. She remarked that the atmosphere and camaraderie between staff and students was exceptional.

Christmas is also a wonderful time to be in schools and All Saints is no different. Yesterday we celebrated a wonderful Christmas lunch together which we always try to make incredibly special for our students. We make sure that we lay all of the tables with tablecloths and Christmas crackers, put on the show lighting and have Christmas music pumping out of the sound system. Our pupils get to sing songs together, spend time with their friends and also share a meal together with everyone in their tutor group

and year group whilst they are served lunch by their teachers. This morning, around 20 of our staff are performing in the staff pantomime. They have spent the past few weeks rehearsing to try and put on a performance that will make the children laugh and provide them with some extra Christmas cheer before they all go off on holiday. I am always so proud that we have teachers and staff members who are prepared to give up so much time outside of their teaching hours to do things for our students that we know will have a lasting impact on how they feel about their school.

In November, I was humbled to be announced as the Secondary Headteacher of the Year in the Pearson National Teaching Awards. I'm grateful to so many parents who wrote in to the school with more messages of congratulations and gratitude for the work that we have done at the school over the past six years.

As we move into 2023, I hope that you will continue to support the school in maintaining the high standards that we have set for all students over these past few years. It is imperative that both staff and parents work together to ensure that we educate all of our children to become upstanding members of our community, to take their studies seriously, to understand and take responsibility when they get things wrong, but to also be rewarded and praised for when they do things well.

Have a lovely Christmas,

Mr A O'Neill