



Dear Parents
General Letter No 11

6 December 2011



Invitation to our Christmas Carol Concert

All students and families are invited to join us for our Christmas Carol Concert at Leeds Trinity Chapel next Monday at 7.00 pm. Refreshments will be available after the concert.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Last week's Sixth Form Open Evening was very well attended. The very high level of attendance pays testimony to the interest shown in St. Mary's post-16 reputation.



Advent events continue apace with the "St. Mary's X Factor" underway and a "Faculty Bake-Off" this week. Break and lunchtimes are the focus for bun sales, hot chocolate sales, sale of quizzes and guessing competitions. Well done to the Sixth Form 5-a-side Football: this has raised £150. During next Wednesday, a disco is being organised for Year 7 students and a 'Cinema Chill' for Year 8 students. Our charities are: St. Gemma's Hospice, Catholic Care, Cafod, and Martin House. Please support your child in supporting our charities, by ensuring they have a little cash for the activities.

We are grateful for all the gifts received so far for the Hampers to give to the senior members of our community at their Christmas Party on Friday. We would be grateful to receive any further gifts by tomorrow. Gift donations for a raffle on the day will also be much appreciated and can be handed in to either Pupil or Visitor Reception or to Form Tutors.

Bambisanani Christmas Cards/Gifts

Please support our partner school, Mnyakanya High School in Kwa Zulu Natal, by 'gifting' presents. All documentation is available on the school website. More information on the Bambisanani Partnership can be found on www.bambisananipartnership.com

Religious Life

The final Service of Reconciliation, for Year 8 students, takes place this morning. Students across all year groups have had the opportunity to receive the sacrament and make their confession. The priests have commented on the reverence and commitment of all participants.

Progress Grades

Progress Grades will be issued for Years 11, 12 and 13 tomorrow. Please take time to discuss progress with your son/daughter at this vital stage in preparation for examinations.

Year 12 Parental Consultations

These will take place on Thursday evening from 4.00 – 7.00 pm. Appointments were issued at the end of last week. Progress grades will inform discussion.

Creative Faculty Visit

On a two day visit to London Year 12 and Year 13 art students will visit the Tate Modern, The Tate Britain and the National Gallery, and Theatre Studies students will take part in a storytelling workshop and a backstage tour of the Theatre Royal Drury Lane. All students will visit the theatre to see "Woman in Black".

French Exchange

Our French Exchange students and staff arrive on Friday evening. They will spend the weekend with families and will be in lessons for the day on Wednesday. The full itinerary during the week includes visits to Leeds, Whitby, and a theatre production of "Annie". The French Exchange students will also be joining us at the Christmas Carol Concert.

Year 8 Ullswater Residential

For those who have not paid by post-dated cheque, please note that the next instalment of £70 for the Ullswater Residential is due on 5 December 2011.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas Dinner will be served on Monday 12 for Years 7, 9 and 11, and Tuesday 13 December for Years 8, 10 and Sixth Form. The traditional festive lunch will consist of Turkey with all the trimmings, Sticky Toffee Pudding, Juice and a Christmas Cracker. Each day there will be an alternative available for those who do not opt for the Christmas Dinner. The cost of the Christmas Dinner will be £3.50 through the cashless catering system. Please ensure that there is sufficient funds on your child's dinner card to cover the Christmas Dinner.

Sporting Success

Two students in Form Group 9G have had recent sporting success. Fourteen year old William Marshall has been selected for the Central Yorkshire U14 Rugby Union squad. William, who is a member of Yarnbury RUFC plays his first fixture for the squad on Sunday against South Yorkshire.

James Cape, who was the recipient of the Jamie Payne Ross Award in June 2011 has achieved a 2nd dan black belt in his chosen sport of Karate. James, also 14 years old, is a member of the Kyojin Karate Club in Harrogate. Well done to both boys!

Pupil Premium and Free School Meals

Parents are encouraged to put in a claim for Free School Meals if they think they may be entitled and have not claimed already. For further information, please see Free Schools Meals letter on the website.

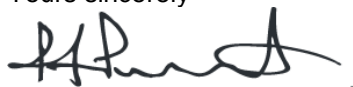
School Holidays 2012-2013

For your information the holiday dates for next year have been confirmed:

HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSURES	SCHOOL OPENS
Summer		Monday 3 September 2012
Autumn mid-term	Friday 26 October 2012	Monday 5 November 2012
Christmas	Friday 21 December 2012	Monday 7 January 2013
Spring mid-term	Friday 15 February 2013	Monday 25 February 2013
Easter	Thursday 28 March 2013	Monday 15 April 2013
May Bank Holiday	Friday 3 May 2013	Tuesday 7 May 2013
Summer mid-term	Friday 24 May 2013	Monday 3 June 2013
Summer break	Tuesday 23 July 2013	

Provisional dates for Training Days are Monday and Tuesday, 3 and 4 September, Friday 26 October 2012 and Monday and Tuesday, 22 and 23 July 2013.

Yours sincerely



R Pritchard
Headteacher