



Dear Parents

1 November 2011

## General Letter No 7

### The Half-Term Ahead

We are looking forward to a busy and productive half-term. Today we celebrate the Feast of All Saints with Masses taking place in school for Years 7-10. An All Souls service will take place tomorrow, Wednesday at lunch-time in the Chapel, to which all students are invited. Year 8 students Olivia Boardman and Frances Jezzard represent St. Mary's at Leeds Trinity University College today, when Bishop Roche celebrates a votive Mass of All Saints. They process the school banner at the beginning of Mass.

The next seven weeks are vitally important for those students preparing for public examinations next summer. Significant preparation before Christmas gives students the confidence and motivation to work hard towards their examinations.

We also focus, this half term, on our Advent fund-raising activities in support of our chosen charities. Fundraising will begin with our annual Sixth Form Fancy Dress Day on Friday 25 November.

Three members of staff were married over the holiday. Congratulations to Mr Thornton and Miss Watson who are now Mr and Mrs Thornton; and congratulations to Miss Wright, who is now Mrs Laycock.

On the recent Pink Day, Sixth Form students and staff raised over £200 towards Breast Cancer Research. Our Sixth Form show great initiative in fund-raising and empathy with issues within and beyond the school community.

May I remind parents that school is closed on Monday 5 December 2011.

### Year 11 Trial Exams schedule

Please find attached the timetable for the Year 11 Trial Examinations. A separate letter will be sent by Mr Priestley giving further details.

### Third Prize in the i11 Project

Three teams have been working with PC Beardsmore, our Community Police Officer on the i11 Project. The Year 8 boys team were awarded third prize for their project on Stop Drugs in Leeds (SDIL), in the i11 competition, run by West Yorkshire Police: Congratulations to Connor Inman, Matthew Hickie, James Bowling, Ben Tinson and Sam Shaw. Thank you to PC Beardsmore for her work in support of our students.

**Sicily Exchange:** The Sicilian exchange with students from the Istituto Maria Ausiliatrice in Caltagirone was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for students from both schools. Special thanks to Miss Mastin and Mr Wilkes for accompanying students on this international cultural exchange.

### World Challenge Training Expedition

World Challenge students take part in a training expedition on Sunday 6 and Monday 7 November. This is based in Rugeley, Staffordshire, and is a required element of the preparation for participants in the World Challenge expeditions next July.

### Retreat Day at the Briery

On Saturday 19 November 2011 there will be a retreat day at The Briery Retreat Centre in Ilkley. Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm. This retreat is open to anyone who would like the opportunity for a quiet day as Advent approaches with the chance for prayer and reflection. The day will include the invitation to

celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation and will conclude with the celebration of the Vigil Mass for Christ the King. For further information and booking please contact Janine Garnett at the Diocese of Leeds: [janine.garnett@dioceseofleeds.org.uk](mailto:janine.garnett@dioceseofleeds.org.uk)

**Bad Weather Information**

In the event of bad weather, information regarding possible school closure will be posted on the “News Flash” section of the school’s website [www.stmarys.co.uk](http://www.stmarys.co.uk) by 7.15 am. A text message will also be sent to parents via their email contact addresses. In addition, Radio Leeds will read out a school closure list.

Yours sincerely



**R Pritchard**  
Headteacher