

20 December 2018

Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

As we approach the end of our first term, it gives me great pleasure to share with you Newsletter 80, which can be found on our website under News and Events. In it you will read about the many varied activities that have happened this half term.

In addition, I would like to report to you the wonderful fundraising activities for charities that students and staff have organised and supported during the season of Advent, including Christmas Jumper Day, Bake Sales, Christmas Fayre and the Christmas Tree Project. The students and staff have raised in excess of £2,000, which is in addition to the £2,254 that has already been raised in aid of Centrepont as a result of the Academy's Sleep Out and Lap for Life.

The Christmas Story is one of God becoming a human baby, Jesus, to be part of our world, to live in a normal human family and to share in the ups and downs of everyday life and by being part of it, to transform it. In this season of Advent your children, through their fundraising activities, have helped transform the lives of others via the charities that have been supported. You should feel rightly proud of them, as we do, for their efforts and generosity in helping others.

As a community we treasure the opportunities to worship together and this week we have celebrated Christmas through each year group's Carol Service. We were joined on Tuesday evening by Year 5 and 6 students and families from St Thomas A Becket for a joint Carol Service for the local community, a lovely occasion which we hope to repeat. It is through such opportunities that we are able to express and experience God's love and care for all.

This half term we have held two very successful consultative meetings with excellent attendance, where students, staff and families can recognise achievement and set targets for the future. The dedication of our staff was praised by many families, who are appreciative of the opportunities and support given to their children. Parents' Consultative meetings for students in Years 9, 8 and 7 will take place next term. Please check page 39 of your child's School Planner for details.

I appreciate you will want to help support your child's learning and progress, and this can be done by accessing the Academy's e-learning platform, 'Doddle'. This gives you the opportunity to have an even greater engagement in your child's education. You have your own access to the platform through 'Doddle Parent' which is now available on a new app that can be downloaded from the Google Play store and the iOS App store. To find it, simply search for 'Doddle Learn'. With the new app, students and families will now only need to log in once, so no more worries about forgotten passwords. The app will send daily notifications allowing students and families to stay up to date with upcoming and due homework.

Further information can be found on our website under the Parents and Carers tab/Doddle.  
<http://www.stpaulsacademy.org.uk/parents-carers/doddle>

The staff at St Paul's Academy are incredibly generous with the time and additional support they give to the students outside of lessons and there shouldn't be any need to employ private tutors. I have been asked to make you aware of an individual who has previously distributed leaflets near some Greenwich schools advertising himself as a private tutor, despite not having any teaching qualifications. There is no system for regulating private tutors, so this places the burden for checks on you, and so I would urge you to exercise caution, check qualifications and ask for references from other parents.

Over the Christmas break I would ask that you support your child in being fully ready for their return to St Paul's on Monday 7 January 2019. This will mean being smartly turned out in full school uniform, including their blazer. If you allow or pay for your child to have piercings, these will need to be removed on school days and not worn to or from school.

Please ensure that your child arrives at school by 8am in order to be on time for learning and is fully equipped, including being in possession of the School Planner and Swipe Card, which is part of the Home School Agreement you signed on page 3 of the School Planner. To support their learning, students are required to place their School Planner on their desk at the beginning of every lesson and then carry it in their hand ready to place on the desk when they reach their next lesson.

If your child has lost these essential items they will need to be replaced by making a payment via ParentPay. There will be a full school uniform check during the first week of the new Spring term. You may find it advisable to check the School Uniform Policy on pages 4 and 5 of the School Planner.

Thank you for the continued support you give to me and my colleagues, as well as the support you give to your child in helping them be successful.

I close with the final prayer from this year's Carol Service:

**God our dayspring and our dawn, greet us this Christmas-tide with your Holy light that we may share your love with others and enkindle within them the message of Christmas.**

**Teach us your ways of peace that we may become a blessing to others.**

**May our joy at Jesus' birth overflow into loving action.**

**Amen**

Christmas blessings to you and your loved ones and best wishes for a joyous and peaceful New Year.

Yours faithfully

**Miss S Malone**  
**Principal**