



ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

30 November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We are so proud of our amazing students who have all worked hard this term, embodying our college values in both their attitudes to learning and their behaviour in and around the college. The calm and purposeful environment around the school was commented upon by a number of recent visitors, including our church school inspector.

As we begin the Christmas season, we would like to share some information with you.

Festive Christmas Dinner

We are really looking forward to sharing some festive cheer with our students during our annual Christmas dinner which is taking place on the following days:

Wednesday 6 December for Years 7 and 8

Thursday 7 December for Years 9, 10 and 11

Thank you to those students who have already prebooked. Students who still wish to join us will need to collect a ticket from the cafe staff by the end of lunchtime on Friday 1 December. The cost of Christmas dinner is £3.00, and we will debit this from your ParentPay account on the day. If your child is eligible for free school meals, they will also need to collect a ticket. Students choosing not to have Christmas dinner should bring a packed lunch. However, there will be a limited menu available at breaktime on these days.

Last Day of Term

The last day of the term is Friday 15 December, when we will close at 12:30pm. To facilitate this earlier closure, we have amended the college day:

TIMINGS	SESSION
Tutor – Lesson 2	As per normal
11.10am – 11.40am	Extended breaktime
11.40am – 12.30pm	Lesson 3
	All students leave college at 12.30pm

We realise that this early finish may have implications for our families and for that we apologise. If you would like your child to stay in college until 3.05pm, for whatever reason, please email your child's Head of Year.

We are excited to let you know that we will be having a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of the Foodbank on the last day of term. Students may wear a Christmas/winter themed jumper or tie, instead of their usual blazer or uniform tie. They will still be expected to wear the rest of their usual uniform on this day, i.e. college trousers/skirt and shirt and appropriate footwear. We would like to use our Christmas Jumper Day to further support Eastbourne Foodbank, so we would encourage students to bring in £1.00 or a donation for the Foodbank if they are able to. We look forward to celebrating this day as a college community.

The Big Christmas Sing

We would like to invite all students, parents, and carers to our Christmas Concert at the Kings Centre, 27 Edison Road, Eastbourne, on Wednesday 13 December from 6.00pm. During the evening we will be sharing the stage with a number of other local schools. The students are currently rehearsing hard to make sure that this will be an event to remember! Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#).

Advent Worship

College worship focused on advent this week. Please click [here](#) to view it.

INSET Days

Our next INSET Days will be on Thursday 25 January and Friday 26 January. The school will be closed to all students on these days.

Winter Weather and Uniform

Children are allowed to wear a plain grey knitted V-neck jumper to help them to stay warm. Year 11 students have the option to wear a plain burgundy knitted V-neck jumper. The jumper should be worn under blazers. They can be purchased either from our uniform supplier, [Price and Buckland](#), or from any local supermarket. Students may wear a plain white T-shirt under their uniform for added warmth if needed. We would like to thank you for your support of our uniform policy and ask that students come to college in a suitable outdoor coat.

We keep a stock of new and preloved uniform and coats. Please let us know if you would like any of these items. Any donations of preloved uniform and/or coats would be very gratefully received at reception or year offices.

We also have a stock of toiletries, period products and stationery for any student that may need it. These can be collected from the year group offices.

Warm Space

Our café is open Monday to Friday from 8.00-8.30am for students to get a free breakfast, no booking is required. In addition, the students are invited to join an extracurricular activity, and they are more than welcome to stay in college until 4:15pm to complete their homework.

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year, particularly when our children open their hearts to support those who struggle or who are in need. We were overwhelmed with their support of our recent Foodbank appeal, and our Christmas Jumper Day will provide an additional opportunity to show generosity for those families who are struggling to buy food and other essential items over the Christmas period.

Finally, it is important for our students to have a good rest over the Christmas break. It is an opportunity to recharge their batteries and enjoy time with loved ones. We hope you all have a peaceful Christmas holiday, and we look forward to welcoming students back to college on Tuesday 2 January 2024.

Kind regards and happy festive wishes



Solomon Berhane
Headteacher



Nigel Jewell
Deputy Headteacher



Sophie Thomas
Head of School

"Glory to God in the highest and peace to everyone on earth" Luke 2:14