



ST CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

3 December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

We are incredibly proud of our students who have worked diligently this term, exemplifying our college values through their dedication to learning and their behaviour both in and around the school. The calm and focused atmosphere throughout the school has been praised by several recent visitors.

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 11 December for Years 7 and 8*
- Thursday 12 December for Years 9, 10 and 11*

Tickets for Christmas dinner are on sale from any of the year group tuck shops until Friday 6 December. The menu can be found [here](#). The cost is £3 for a two-course meal (drinks are charged as an extra). Students eligible for free school meals are entitled to a free Christmas dinner and will need to collect a ticket in the same way.

If a student chooses not to have the Christmas dinner, they will need to pre-order their requirements and collect it from their year group's tuck shop during breaktime on both days. Alternatively, students will need to bring a packed lunch.

Last Day of Term

The last day of term is Friday 20 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

Students will be able to collect their pre-ordered lunches during the extended break. 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 also excited to let you know that we will be having a *Christmas Jumper Day* 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, shirt and appropriate footwear. We would like to use our Christmas Jumper Day to further support Eastbourne Foodbank, so if families are able to, please make a £1.00 donation via Arbor payments at any time before 12.30pm on Friday 20 December. Thank you for your generous support.

Christmas Nativity Concert

We warmly invite you to join us in celebrating the spirit of Christmas on Thursday 19 December at 6.00pm (doors open at 5.30pm) in our school hall. Our students will showcase their incredible talents, bringing the story of the Nativity to life through music and drama using contemporary pop songs and traditional hymns. Tickets are just £6 (under 5's free) and available to purchase [here](#).

Parent View

We would be extremely grateful if you could please complete the [Ofsted Parent View](#) questionnaire. This online survey allows you to share your thoughts about the school, providing valuable feedback on key aspects of your child's education and wellbeing. Your input is essential in helping us understand how well we are meeting the needs of our students and their families. Even though we are not currently being inspected, by taking a few moments to complete the questionnaire, you can ensure your voice is heard and you can contribute to improving the support and opportunities we provide for our students.

INSET Days

Our next INSET Days will be on Thursday 30 January and Friday 31 January. The school will be closed to all students on these days.

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. A selection of pre-loved coats is also available in this area for anyone who needs one, the students can just help themselves. Additionally, students are invited to join an extracurricular activity, and they are more than welcome to stay in college, Monday - Thursday until 4:15pm, to complete homework.

Christmas is such a wonderful time of the year, particularly when our students open their hearts to support those who struggle or who are in need. We have been 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 school on Monday 6 January 2025.

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