



Saint Edmund Arrowsmith

Catholic Academy

POPE FRANCIS MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

21 December 2021

Dear Parents and carers,

Again we come to the end of what has been a very busy and packed term in school. I am delighted that this has been another successful term for our community under very challenging conditions. We are very proud of everything we have been able to achieve and I thank you for your support over the last term.

January 2022

As we go to print current guidance is that all students should perform at least one lateral flow test upon their return to school in January 2022 (*please be aware that this guidance may change over the festive period and I would ask you to check our school website as that is where I will communicate all changes to you*). The guidance also state that the school must conduct a test on-site. To ensure this takes place effectively the school will be open to pupils on **Wednesday 5th January** at the following times for the following year groups:

Year 7	9am - 10am
Year 8	10am - 11am
Year 9	11am - 12noon
Year 10	12noon - 1pm
Year 11	1.30pm - 2.30pm

Students should attend school at the allotted time, take the test (which will be self-administered) and then return home. This will allow us to start the new term promptly on **Thursday 6th January at 8.35am** when **ALL** pupils return to school.

Once the on-site testing has been completed I ask that parents test their child at least twice per week and inform school of the results. This is to ensure the protection of our school community. It is important to remember that if your child has symptoms or feels unwell they must not come into school - you should book a PCR test and inform the attendance office who will give you further advice. Can I also remind parents to encourage their children to wear masks in school and on public transport (unless exempt).

Celebrations During Advent

Advent is a time for preparation, and we reflect on our actions, turn away from sin and look forward to the birth of Jesus. Pupils have reflected on the Advent virtues of hope, faith, joy and peace each morning and our Pupil Chaplaincy Team have made an amazing effort at leading us all through prayerful assemblies. On Wednesday 22nd we look forward to celebrating the true meaning of Christmas with our Advent Liturgy.

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Headteacher Mrs H Pinnington BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd, NPQH

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Caring for our most vulnerable - yet again our pupils have been amazing in their support for the Knowsley Foodbank Appeal. Over the last 4 weeks' pupils and staff have been collecting food and other items ably led by the Student Council and Pupil Chaplaincy Team. Well done everyone - you will be part of making someone's Christmas a little more joyful and a little less stressful this year.

Finally, staff in school have been taking part in spreading Christmas Cheer. This has been a chance for staff to say 'thank you' to each other for all the hard work and dedication they have shown over this term. I couldn't be more proud of how well they have worked together to face this challenge.

Year 11 News

Well done to Year 11 for approaching their Mock 1 exam series with such maturity and enthusiasm. We are planning to run a national exam series in 2022 - however we are mindful that - just as in the last 2 years - plans have changed at short notice. It is therefore vital that our children take each assessment seriously and put in as much effort to their learning as possible to maximise their progress. It was a very successful exam series and students received their Mock Exam results on Monday 13th December 2021 followed by their data report. Thank you to those parents who logged on for Parents' Evening. Those teachers who couldn't attend due to sickness will contact you in the New Year with information regarding your child's progress in their particular subject areas.

From January onwards teachers will be busy delivering curriculum plans up to the next set of Mock Exams which are due to start on 28th February 2022 - just after the half-term break. Y11 pupils should be making use of this time now to organise their revision strategy - if they haven't already started.

Exams - January Series for Y11

The following exams are taking place just after Christmas:

Monday 10th January 2022	Afternoon	Creative i-Media and Health and Social Care
Friday 14th January 2022	Morning	Travel and Tourism
Monday 17th January 2022	Morning	Animal Care
Wednesday 2nd February 2022	Afternoon	Enterprise

It is vital that pupils are preparing for these exams now and over the holidays as these exams will make a significant contribution to pupils' final grades in the summer. Pupils must practise past papers and use the revision resources that staff have provided for them. Pupils who have been absent must catch up on missed lessons.

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Online Safety

Christmas is a very exciting time for young people and many teenagers will, I am sure, be receiving new technology. However, new technology can also leave them vulnerable to bullying, grooming, online scams and being exposed to indecent materials. It is important that we as adults protect them and keep them safe. Please look at the fantastic resources the NSPCC has available:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

This term my staff and I have had to deal with the inappropriate use of social media. Not only does this waste a lot of valuable time but platforms such as TikTok have been used to subject staff to what is, essentially, bullying. This is not acceptable, and I will not tolerate this behaviour at Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Academy. For clarity, where social media is used in the wrong way to bully, spread malicious content or bring the reputation of our Academy into disrepute I will take appropriate action up to and including permanent exclusion.

Year 7

Congratulations to our Year 7 community who have successfully completed their first term with us. I have been very impressed by the way they have embraced learning and very quickly become involved in the life of the school.

Celebration

Thank you to all staff and pupils who - in some way embraced and supported the wider life of the school. Just this term alone pupils have had the opportunity to take part in:

Blood Brothers theatre trip
Mountaintop Theatre trip
Knowsley Youth Council-school council and prefects
Haps educational visit, Cronton College. Year 10 Haps
Sunset Boulevard-drama, Cronton College
Nutcracker ballet, Lowry Theatre-yr9/10 Scholars
Panto-Year 7
Panto-Year 8
Carmel college, HAPS educational visit
Maritime Museum-year8 Scholars

Alongside clubs in Drama, STEM, Music, Dungeons and Dragons and of course sport. Thank you to all the staff who give up their time to enrich and inspire. They truly embody our values of Love, Inspiration, Empowerment and Joy.

Many children this last week have been rewarded during our end of term celebration assemblies. 298 certificates were awarded to students achieving the school attendance target or better and overall 108 students had 100% in Term 1. In addition to this we handed out 454 Certificates of Recognition for Excellent Behaviour during Term 1 including a record 10 Headteacher Awards in Year 7 alone! Well done to those students also who live out our school values every day - you make us all very proud to be part of the Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic Community.

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Attendance

Good attendance to school is 97% and above. Anything lower than that and pupils are putting their chances of the highest grades, social relationships and their life chances in jeopardy. It is absolutely vital that your child attends school on time every day. Please encourage a good bedroom routine, monitor the use of screen time (ideally reduce at least an hour before bedtime) and teach your child good systems for getting up and out on time every day. Good attendance is a *life skill* and, thankfully, one that can be learned.

Standards

We work hard, day in day out, to ensure high standards are set and high expectations are met. We do this so that all our children can attend a safe and caring school environment where they can flourish, become decent young people and behave well. We do this so we can be proud of our Academy, our young people and their achievements. Please support your child to rise to this challenge, so that when they are wearing the Saint Edmund Arrowsmith Academy uniform they are wonderful ambassadors for our community. Please make sure that uniforms - including suitable school shoes - are in place for our return in January and that any Christmas additions (acrylic nails/false eyelashes etc) are also removed. If these need to be done professionally, please seek an appointment before the 5th of January 2022.

I will leave you with wishes for a safe, happy, healthy and holy Christmas. Please take this time to enjoy time with your families and rest from the business of our day to day lives.

I look forward to seeing you all on Wednesday 5th January 2022.

God Bless

Denise Brahms (Mrs)

Acting Headteacher

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