



December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As Christmas approaches and a busy term comes to a close, I wanted to share our most recent highlights and headlines.

During their recent mock exams and end of term assessments our students across the school conducted themselves in an exemplary manner. On TRACK and assessment reports have been sent to Year 7,8,9 & 10 and for those achieving above and beyond, praise letters are on the way. Year 11,12 and 13 will receive theirs in the New Year. Encouragingly, this positive approach to learning is reflected in our visits to lessons around the school.

After much anticipation, we finally launched our Scholars programme which recognises sustained commitment to extra-curricular activities. Along with a certificate and a letter home students receive pin badges so that they can act as role models for their peers across our school community. Our first batch of bronze, silver and gold awards have been presented, over 200 applications for our next wave of awards have been received and these will be presented next half term.

In other news: Years 7 and 8, following our relentless push to promote and encourage reading have bought record numbers of books during our December book fair; a group of KS3 students (supported by KS4 and 5 student leaders) have recorded a carol concert for a local care homes; Year 9 had a careers day including external STEM speakers and sessions on the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, study and revision skills, GCSE taster sessions to help them select their options and looking to the future with Post 16; students in Year 10 had a video conference with a 91 year old holocaust survivor which was both moving and harrowing as he shared his story.

The sense of community and social responsibility within school remains strong and students raised over £800 for Children in Need with a variety of activities and more recently have contributed hundreds and hundreds of items for the local foodbank. On Thursday 16th December we also held our first ever community awards and following nominations, over 30 awards were presented by Andy Carter MP.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank parents for your feedback (particularly in our Friday 5) as we try to make our school experience as 'normal' as possible while still wrestling with and managing cases of Covid this term. While nationally some schools have had to send year groups home due to low staff or depleted student numbers, we have managed to carry on with our normal curriculum, timetable and deliver intervention and extra-curricular activities. Taking the extra step of wearing facemasks while in the building in late November, while a cautious approach, it has certainly helped keep cases down and missed learning to a minimum.



With regard to the arrival of Omicron you are no doubt aware we have been instructed by the DFE to conduct LFT tests on students as they return to school after the Christmas break to reduce infection. Extra testing kits have been issued to keep students and families safe and students will be tested during their first three days in school. Further details on these arrangements have already been sent via Classcharts.

As the term comes to a close, like many schools we have a number of staff leaving us and new staff arriving in January. I would like to take a moment to mention three members of staff in particular who will be leaving the Great Sankey family; Ms Bayne, Mr Egan and Mr Gould. Between them they have been at Great Sankey for 50 years. Their commitment and contribution to delivering enrichment and positive educational experiences in that time has been exceptional and we wish them well for the future. Our final day in school will also see our celebration assemblies reminding students of the meaning of Christmas and a pause for thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. We will also present various awards to celebrate and thank students for their efforts since September.

Finally, a reminder that the last day of term is Tuesday 21st December, students will leave school at 12.10 pm, and return to school on Monday 10th January 2022.

Thank you for your continued support, I hope you have a lovely, safe Christmas with your family and friends.

Yours faithfully