



Our Lady Queen of Peace

Catholic Engineering College

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Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the second half term. Our students have had a good start back.

Catholic Life and Mission

A message from our chaplain, Mr Baron:

There have been so many things to celebrate from our first half term. We have launched our Faith in Action programme with a voluntary group in years 8 to 11 and the whole of year 7. This allows our students to gain a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith and how the scriptures are relevant to them in their daily lives. This will help our school community to grow in faith and be a positive place for our young people to flourish.

On Friday 1st November, we celebrated the feast of All Saints which we had been learning about in the Prayer and Liturgy for that week. This then meant that Saturday was All Souls Day. On this day, we as a church pray for all those dear to us that have passed away. In the Chaplaincy we had an open invitation for all staff and students to come and write on an intention slip those that they wished to pray for. I then took them to Mass on the Feast Day for them to be offered up.

We also mark Remembrance Sunday which commemorates the end of the first world war. We give thanks and commemorate those who have died through conflict so that we may live in peace. On Monday 11th November, we will hold a two-minute silence together and pray for those who have lost their lives through war or conflict.

I feel it is now time to tell you about the things that are on the horizon for all of us here in Chaplaincy and obviously the biggest of all those things is CHRISTMAS! During the season of Advent, a time of preparation to welcome the Baby Jesus into our lives. We have so many things going on. Following a rigorous application process, we have selected our Charity team, these students along with the school council will be celebrating a commissioning Mass at St Mary's on 15th November at 2pm. You are all invited. Here we will prayer for God's help in their work in our school community and beyond. We are also going to be running various charity events throughout Advent to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Finally, there will be a service of Carols and Lessons at St Mary's on 12th December at 6pm. This will feature staff and students. A great way to get into the festive spirit! Again, you are all invited.

Exams taking place this half term

Students in all year groups will shortly be completing their first set of formal examinations to check how well they can remember and apply what they have been taught so far this year.

Year 7 & 8 Exams Friday 22nd to Thursday 28th November 2024
Timetables and revision lists have been sent to parents & carers

Year 11 Mock Exams Monday 2nd December to Friday 13th December 2024
Timetables will be sent out early next week

Year 9 & 10 Exams Monday 13th to Friday 17th January 2025
Timetables, revision lists & more information will be sent out shortly



In Christ We Grow

'As a learning community, we live out our Mission Statement striving for excellence through caring, sharing and achieving'.

A key part of the teaching process is checking that students have learned what they have been taught and to identify any gaps as early as possible so additional support can be put in place. It is especially important during these exam weeks that students have 100% attendance so any gaps can be identified, and areas of strength celebrated.

Sparx Reader

We know that there is a strong correlation between reading ability and overall academic progress. To give our students the opportunity to read widely, students in Years 7-10 complete 25 minutes using Sparx Reader each week during form time as a method reading full novels rather than just focussing on shorter extracts. Following this session students then have one week to achieve at least 250 Sparx Reading Points (SRP) outside of school as part of their homework.

Sparx Reader can be accessed on laptops, tablets or mobile phones and includes a range of accessibility options to increase the size of text or change the screen colour using a coloured overlay to reduce any barriers.

Please keep an eye on the leaderboards published on social media each week – we have some excellent levels of engagement that should be celebrated!

How can you help at home?

- Ask your child what book they are reading
- Check if they have completed their 250 SRP each week
- Ask students questions about their book and what has happened so far

If you have any questions about Sparx Reader please contact Mrs S. Clarke (Literacy Coordinator).

Attendance

We are pleased to acknowledge that there are a number of students who have improved their attendance. They have overcome challenges to ensure that they are in school. Well done!

Firstly, can I say a massive thank you to all those parents who have taken onboard our comments regarding attendance and are making sure that their child does attend every day. As you may know, our magic number for attendance is 97% and a significant proportion of our pupils have attendance over this figure with a large group still on 100% attendance.

Whilst we acknowledge that 97% is a high number, all of the research shows that an attendance rate less than this can impact on your child's future progress. The diagram below shows that by missing days of learning in school a child can hinder how well they do in their GCSEs.

There are also many other benefits of being in school. School allows our children to develop into fully rounded young people with the initial skills, and knowledge to be successful in the ever-changing world they face. As they build their knowledge, they also develop social skills, wider knowledge outside of the curriculum and as such a greater resilience – much needed in our rapidly changing and turbulent world. Please ensure that your child is in school every day, and on time so that they can get the skills and knowledge they need to be successful.

Teaching & Learning

Students are set regular homework in all written subjects. Homework is recorded on class charts and students are given a paper copy. The focus of the homework is to support with revision of previously taught content. This helps create positive habits and will prepare students for revising ahead of mid-year exams. During Personal Development Day 1, students received lessons on how to revise and organise their time to support them with their homework. To support us and your child with their homework, please check ClassCharts regularly and let us know if they are struggling. If you feel your child could benefit with further support, please encourage them to attend study support at the library, which is available Monday – Thursday every week. Alternatively, if they need support with a specific piece of homework you can email the class teacher or encourage your child to speak to their teacher before the homework deadline.

Safeguarding

Please remain vigilant with your child's online activity and interactions. We have frequent reports about inappropriate and unkind behaviour in group chats on Snap Chat or WhatsApp. Internet Matters have produced a 'how to' guide for Whatsapp safety available here. This gives parents/carers useful advice:

[https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to\[1\]guide-for-parents](https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/whatsapp-safety-a-how-to[1]guide-for-parents)

Behaviour

We are continuing our work on improving behaviour. We are delighted that many students work hard and are well behaved. These students receive lots of ClassCharts points and weekly rewards are given out in form time or in assembly. If a student disrupts learning or misbehaves, they will receive a sanction which is usually a break, lunch or after school detention. I ask for your support in ensuring that you check ClassCharts and that you ensure that your child attends the detention.

The vast majority of students look smart in their uniform and are a credit to the school. A small number of students do not follow the school uniform regulations. Please ensure that your child attends school every day in correct uniform. This includes wearing a tie and blazer as well as black shoes. Students should bring a bag every day with their Knowledge Organiser. Students should not be wearing false nails, piercings or jewellery. Mobile phones should be switched off and not seen or heard. Phones and hoodies will be confiscated if seen in school.

Sports Updates

Thank you to all our students who play for our teams and take part in matches and competitions. They are excellent ambassadors for the school. We have had the following events:

Year 7 Girls West Lancs football tournament at Ormskirk

Y7 Girls Lancs cup game

Year 7 Girls netball tournament at OLQP

Year 8 & 9 Girls Lancs cup game with a 7-4 away win

Year 8 & 9 boys refereeing at JMO for the primary schools' football competition

Year 7 & 8 Curling team achieved 3rd place

Thank you for the ongoing support of all our families.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M. Henshaw
Headteacher