

## STUDENT AND PARENT/CARER BRIEFING

Week commencing 30 November 2020

### ADVENT

*“Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a Son, and will call him Emmanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)*

#### Important Dates

**30 November** - **Teacher Training Day**

#### Forward Notice

As we learn of further useful/important dates for you, we will put them here for you.

#### Notices for All Students

##### Black History Month competition

Thank you all for your enthusiasm and congratulations to Kareem Ahmad who won first place (Prize - £10 Amazon voucher). Kareem made a wonderful presentation about the late Chadwick Boseman (*Black Panther* lead actor).

##### Christmas card competition - Years 7, 8 and 9

This is a national competition open to schools in all regions in England.

Learn about Christmas traditions in different countries by taking part in our Christmas Card Design competition!

Routes into Languages West Midlands will be sending out Christmas e-cards to our contacts and would like to invite students from Reception to year 9 from schools in England to participate in our Foreign Language Christmas Card Design Competition. We would like the students to design a card which shows the Christmas traditions of another country. Students should research and design their card using, if they wish, a variety of materials.

Entries can be submitted in any foreign language – **N.B. entries containing English language will not be accepted.**

Each card should be **no larger than a sheet of A4 paper** and must be completed by hand, but any form of materials can be used – felt tips, paint, fabric etc. Judges will be looking for originality of illustration as well as accuracy of language and content.

Please give your entries to your language teacher or Miss Hayes by the **4<sup>th</sup> of December**

### **Student Leadership**

Student Leadership Meetings will start **THIS** week

Year 7 - Tuesday 1pm. Meet at Student Reception.

Year 8 – Wednesday 12.30. Meet at Student Reception.

Year 9 – Wednesday 14.15 (**after last lesson**) until 14.45 in S07.

Year 7 and Year 8 Meetings will be in the Meeting Room. Try to bring a packed lunch, but if you need to buy food make sure you are on time so that Mr Matyla can get you through the queue quickly. Please could students who are involved with this check your e-mail inboxes for a message from Mr Matyla.

### **“Request and Receive” Library Service**

Although the Library will remain closed for the time being, we are now providing a method by which you can request books. Any orders will be delivered to your classroom. The system will work as follows:

- Requests can either be written on a piece of paper and put in the drop-box outside the Library. A book request **must** have your full name, your room number and the title of the book you would like. If you are unsure of what you like, you can request a certain genre or the name of an author that you like, and we will find something for you to try out.
- To help you to know what is available we will be providing a mini Library Catalogue with the titles of the most popular and most famous books here. There should be one per classroom.
- You may borrow up to two books at a time. Your books do not have to be changed every two weeks but if you would like a book renewed please contact the Library with a note in the box or an email.
- If a book you have requested is on loan, you may have to wait for it to be returned. Also please keep in mind that it may take up to a week to deliver your books so be aware of this when you make an order.
- If you already have two books on loan, you may make an order but you will not be able to borrow one until at least one of the books is returned. Please contact Miss Henry if there is an issue.

### **Homework Club will start again on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

Students will need to sign up on the sheets outside their Student Manager office in advance. Places will be limited.

- Year 7 Monday and Thursday 2.45 p.m. - 3.45 p.m. Library
- Year 8 Tuesday 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Library
- Year 9 Wednesday 2.15 p.m. - 3.15 p.m. Library
- Year 10 Thursday 3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Curriculum Support
- Year 11 Thursday 3.30 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Red Family Area

### **Chaplaincy news**

#### **Year 11 students Volunteering opportunities abroad next summer**

The Catenians are a Catholic association that is committed to helping, amongst others, young people with their projects. Please see the attached flyer. It is aimed at students aged 16 – 24 and will, therefore, be of interest to year 11 students. You can receive a cash award to help you with any volunteer projects in which you participate, or you could volunteer in Lourdes next Summer. Full details can also be found on the website:

[www.catenianbursary.com](http://www.catenianbursary.com)

## Pastoral Notices

### Additional Layer

As the weather becomes colder the requirement to have windows open in every classroom can lead to students feeling cold during lessons. We must remain warm and healthy, so students are permitted to wear an appropriate additional layer to stay warm in the classroom. Jumpers, sweatshirts and hooded tops are permissible. These do not have to be worn under blazers. Logos and brand names are permissible as long as they are not inappropriate for a work environment. This additional layer must allow the student to complete the tasks in the lesson and should not cover a student's head.

### Christmas Non-School Uniform Day

Wednesday 9 December 2020 will be a non-school uniform day. Students will be welcome to wear their own clothes. These should be warm and appropriate for a work environment. They can include Christmas jumpers! A donation of £1.00 will be requested for the wearing of non-uniform. This donation will go to the College's charities.

### Behaviour when going home

We have had a number of reports of students behaving dangerously around the road when leaving College at the end of the day. Not only is this putting students at risk but also members of the public. Please be mindful that with the evenings drawing in and the winter weather, visibility for drivers will be reduced and we do not want a serious accident to happen.

### Social media behaviour

We have been made aware of social media sites set up by students which are inappropriate and unacceptable. Posting messages or photos/videos which are deemed to bring the college into disrepute will result in consequences in college, parents being informed and could also be reported to the police.

### Wiltshire Treehouse

Wiltshire Treehouse is a charity that provides bereavement support to children and young people up to the age of 25. They have published a list of Christmas ideas to help young people and their families who may have suffered loss and may appreciate some activities to make this Christmas special as they remember a loved one. Please see the attached leaflet for the ideas. For further information about the work of Wiltshire Treehouse, please go to: [www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreehouse.org.uk)

## Careers Notes

### CareerPilot

For any student who is interested in finding out about possible career choices for their future, we subscribe to a website called CareerPilot. As you progress through your PSHE lessons this year, your teachers will ask you to log onto this website. However, some of you may be interested in looking at it now and there is nothing to stop you registering yourself. When you do this, you will be asked for the following:

- Your e-mail address – give your school e-mail, so that they see you have a “business” account.
- Your postcode – give them the school postcode, which is SN3 3LR.

You can take quizzes to find out the careers that are suitable for you and your personality, as well as find out about all the different job sectors that are out there for you.

Start planning your sparkling futures today!

**The next briefing will be Friday, 4 December 2020**