



7 December 2015

Dear Parent

As our term draws to a close, I am writing to inform you about some events which are taking place in school. We have begun our advent preparation by celebrating Mass for each year group in school and in St Mary's Parish. Staff and pupils were able to take time out at this busy time of year to reflect on the joy of the birth of Christ.

Christmas Carol Service

This year our Christmas Carol Service will take place on **Thursday 17 December at 7.00 pm** at St Mary's RC Church, Burnley. Please join with us as we celebrate the wonder of Christmas in readings and in music. It promises to be a magical event.

Christmas Parcels

Once again we are seeking your support in donating goods to make up Christmas food parcels for the needy and vulnerable in the community. This year these will be distributed through our parish priests. Our pupils will be calling on those elderly people, who would welcome a visit at Christmas, with a card, chocolates and some cheery conversation.

Progress Evenings

In response to parental requests, we have changed the venue for our Progress Evenings to Burnley Football Club. So far this year, two have been held for Year 11 and Year 8. Parents have welcomed this move and also the introduction of an appointment system. The dates for the remaining Progress Evenings are:

Year 9	Thursday 14 January 2016
Year 7	Thursday 28 January 2016
Year 10	Tuesday 22 March 2016

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Changes to the Curriculum and Assessment

On 20 October we held a Parent Forum to outline the changes to the curriculum for our Year 10 pupils and the new performance measures of Progress 8 and Attainment 8. Over the coming months we shall continue to inform you about these key issues and how they will affect your child.

Holidays

The holiday patterns for the two academic years 2016 – 2017 and 2017 - 2018 have been approved by Governors and are now on our website. Paper copies are available from pupil reception if required.

Attendance and Punctuality

Thank you for making sure that your child arrives in school on time and in the correct uniform.

GCSE Results 2015

Following a number of re-marks by the examination boards, our headline figure of 5+ A* - C grades including English and Maths rose to 65%. We were delighted that the hard work of our pupils and staff was recognised.

End of Term

The last day of term, Friday 18 December 2015, is a non-uniform day and pupils can donate £1 for this privilege. All monies raised will go to CAFOD's Refugee Crisis Appeal. School will close at 12.30 pm and buses have been arranged for this early finish. School will re-open for all pupils on **Wednesday 6 January 2016 at 8.45 am.**

May I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Richard Varey
Headteacher