



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Wednesday, 9th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for your unwavering support throughout this term which has enabled us to resume teaching and learning at St Mary's College working confidently within Covid-safe guidelines to provide the best possible experience for the students in our care.

We are so proud of how rapidly and enthusiastically our students adapted to the new Covid-safe protocol in place at school and how they have embraced being back on site and in lessons. We have also been very impressed with how well students have responded to working remotely independently or accessing online lessons when they have needed to self-isolate. Their efforts throughout the bubble closure, accessing their learning and contributing to the remote lessons, are a true example of the resilience they have continued to show this year. Thank you particularly for the emails and phone calls to our year office in which you have expressed your thanks for our provision and care at this challenging time – these have provided such encouragement.

The students have worked really hard throughout this term and as we approach the end of term there will be assessments and the conclusion of current topics in all subject areas. Therefore, as usual, every lesson counts until the end of this term but even more so this year due to the amount of learning students lost in the first national lockdown. It is really important that students continue to access the curriculum for as long as possible to continue to compensate for this lost learning and to progress appropriately.

To ensure maximum learning time at St Mary's College, we will continue to teach formal lessons until period 2 on Friday 18th December when our morning arrangements will alter slightly to ensure we can join as a year group community to celebrate and conclude this remarkable term appropriately by sharing in our online Carol Service and then our Year Group's Rewards assembly which will be accessed from tutor rooms. Later this week we also look forward to our annual 'Christmas Jumper Day' which we will celebrate on Friday 11th December.

We wanted to take this opportunity to express how grateful we are for your trust in us as staff and for your support in our provision of pastoral care and education which we hope has brought some much-needed routine and normality to the lives of the young people we serve in our school community. Our students have shown such resilience throughout this term, they deserve a good rest over Christmas! We hope you have a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas holiday and we look forward to welcoming our students back to SMC on Monday 4th January 2021 as they begin preparing to make their curriculum choices for Year 9.

With warmest thanks and best wishes,
The Year 8 Team

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