

Archdiocese of Birmingham
St Edmund Campion Catholic School

Sutton Road, Erdington, Birmingham, B23 5XA

Telephone: 0121 464 7700

Email: enquiry@stedcamp.bham.sch.uk Web: www.stedcamp.bham.sch.uk



Headteacher:
Mr A Grant MAEd, BSc, PGCE

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: End of term letter from the Headteacher

Thursday 17th December 2020

So 2020 is drawing to a close and we are all, I am sure, looking forward to a well earned Christmas break. It would be easy to say good riddance to 2020 and given the challenges and heartbreak it has brought it would be understandable. I am always reluctant though to wish away our precious time that God gives us and though this year has been tough, I believe it has brought out the very best of us. I can certainly say this within our school community. It has been simply awe inspiring to see staff and students tackling the challenges head on. Our pupils returned in September with enthusiasm and a passion for learning. They have responded to everything we have had to put in place with maturity and understanding. And for this I thank them. Our staff put aside their fears and anxieties because all of them understand just how important the education of our children is. My gratitude to the staff for their dedication to your children through this time cannot be expressed in simple words. So I don't regret 2020 but I do look forward to 2021. The challenges aren't over yet and won't be for some time but there is certainly hope over the horizon and as the Advent journey teaches us *Hope becomes Peace, Peace becomes Joy, Joy becomes Love, Love becomes Christ*. I am certain that 2021 will provide us with many wonderful opportunities to show us all at our very best.

Reflecting on this term it is very easy to focus on Covid-19 and everything that has come with it. However I would just like to pick out a few things that happened this term that I am immensely proud of. Firstly, I am hoping you will have seen how the staff pulled together and, instead of the usual secret santa, created food hampers of Christmas goodies to be sent out to some of our families most in need. Some of the emails of thanks I have received are truly heart warming. Secondly, we have appointed our first group of year 11 prefects. I have really high expectations of this wonderful group of young people and I hope this will give them a real opportunity to showcase their talents and leadership qualities. We have some great plans for them for next term. Thirdly, it is just wonderful to see how our Sixth Form students work so well together to really help out our local community. This year we were unable to hold our annual VIP party for our local senior citizens so instead we've created some wonderful hampers for them with various gifts. Despite Covid restrictions we have still been able to hold online Mass for our staff and pupils and we are very grateful to Father Joe for conducting these.

There are so many other things I could talk about such as how the school sent twenty four crates of food for the Bethany food bank, our year 6 and 6th form open evening videos (both can be viewed on our website), our reward celebrations at the end of term, celebrating the hard work and achievements of our pupils, year 7 creating Christmas cards for the Birmingham Children's Hospital and so much more.

Next term there are already lots of things in the pipeline. We will be holding our parent review days next term and we will also be beginning our options process for year 9, and year 11 pupils can continue to apply for our Sixth Form via our website.

'Achieving Together through Christ'



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Acting Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M. Emery Company House Registered No. 08706247



There'll be further mock exams to support pupils with their exams at the end of the year and there will also be a special retreat day for year 11. More information will follow next term about all of these events. During the lockdown period I charged the staff in addition to the work provided for pupils, with the task of developing and improving our curriculum especially at key stage 3. The work that has been done has been tremendous and I would urge you to visit the curriculum section of the school website where you will be able to see just what your children are learning in each and every subject, together with resources. The retrieval practice books that each child has in years 7 to 9 are testament to the work and are an invaluable resource for your children.

As I am sure you are aware schools have been central to the Covid contact tracing strategy in implementation across the city and the country. This unfortunately does not end for us over the Christmas holiday and there are protocols in place to support this. At the end of this letter you will see an outline of what you need to do should your child or a member of your household test positive for Covid-19 over the Christmas holiday. Remember, if you do develop symptoms you should get tested immediately.

In addition you may have seen the government announcement regarding a serial testing programme that will be launched in all secondary schools in January 2021. The notification and guidance has only just been released but we are already planning as to how this will work in school. Whilst this will present a logistical challenge, once set up, it will mean that with parental consent, pupils will no longer have to isolate if they have been identified as a contact. This is good news and especially with years 11 and 13 preparing for examinations, means pupils will remain in school for the duration. More details will follow in the new year and we will be sending out a letter of consent of which it will be vitally important you respond to.

In light of announcements today regarding staggered returns for secondary school pupils in England after the Christmas break, full details will follow in due course; please continue to check ParentMail throughout this period. However, please be advised that all exam groups will return on the 4th January 2021. When pupils do return, please ensure they are all prepared with everything they need for another successful term; equipment, uniform, lanyard, planner, handgel, mask etc. Having the pupils so well prepared for their learning really does help us to provide the best learning experience and ensures that they have a level of responsibility for their own work and achievements.

Finally, I would just like to thank you as parents for your ongoing support over this term. It has without a doubt been challenging but so often we receive emails or words of thanks and praise and I am always very grateful for them. I wish you all a very Merry and Holy Christmas. I hope you are all able to attend a Christmas service over the break and please do check out the local parish bulletins and websites for information about the Advent and Christmas Masses. I wish you and your families a very Happy New Year for 2021 and hope it brings you joy and prosperity.

'Behold a virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted means God with us.'
Isaiah 7:14

Yours Sincerely



Mr A. Grant (Headteacher)

'Achieving Together through Christ'



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | T: 0121 354 6270 | W: johnpaulii.co.uk

Acting Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M. Emery Company House Registered No. 08706247



Arrangements For Contact Tracing Over The Christmas Period

What to do if your child tests positive between Friday 18th December – Wednesday 23rd December 2020:

1. Email enquiry@stedcamp.bham.sch.uk
2. Title of email – **Positive COVID result** for (name of pupil and year group)
3. In your email please provide answers to the following four questions:
 - What date did the symptoms start?
 - What date was your child last in school?
 - What was the date of the test?
 - What was the date when you received the positive result result?
4. The enquiry box will be checked at 10am and 2pm on Friday 18th – Wednesday 23rd December.
5. Any pupil contacts will be notified via ParentMail and text that they are required to self isolate. We will let you know the date this ends within the message.

What to do if your child tests positive between Thursday 24th December – Sunday 3rd January

1. Email enquiry@stedcamp.bham.sch.uk
2. Title of email – Positive COVID result for (name of pupil and year group)
3. In your email please provide answers to the following questions:
 - What date did the symptoms start?
 - What date was your child last in school?
 - What was the date of the test?
 - What was the date when you received the positive result?
4. The enquiry box will be checked on **Monday 4th January** as other pupils will not have had contact with your child in this period of time. You will not receive a reply but please be assured that this will be picked on Monday 4th January.

Please note that between Thursday 24th December and Sunday 3rd January it is your responsibility to notify any contacts as these will not be school-based contacts.

‘Achieving Together through Christ’



St. John Paul II Multi Academy

Registered Office: c/o St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Little Sutton Lane, Sutton Coldfield B75 6PB

E: enquiry@sjp2.net | **T:** 0121 354 6270 | **W:** johnpaulii.co.uk

Acting Catholic Senior Executive Leader (CSEL): Mr M. Emery Company House Registered No. 08706247

