

Friday 2nd December, 2022



Dear Parent/Carer

### **Parental Update 107**

*"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted"*

Matthew 5:4

In our main school Assemblies this half-term, we've been looking at a few verses in the fifth chapter of Matthew's gospel – the so-called "*Sermon on the Mount*" that Jesus preached. This verse comes from that sermon. It has been a particular source of comfort to a number of us over the last couple of weeks as we've come to terms of the death of one of our students in Year 9, following a long battle with cancer. Do please continue to hold Tom's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

I've written under separate cover about the arrangements for Tom's funeral. The letter has a reply-slip for students who would like to pay their respects; it need to be returned to us by Wednesday morning – thank you.

### Christmas is coming...

**Christmas Jumper Day** will take place next Friday, *ie* 9th December. Students should wear their full school uniform, including a shirt and tie, but may wear a Christmas jumper instead of their blazer. We would normally ask for a monetary donation 'in return' for allowing students to wear something other than their school uniform, but this year our Student Council has asked us to do something different. Instead of bringing £1, please could those who are wearing a Christmas jumper bring an item of food – such as a tin of soup – for a local foodbank? Imran Jjuko (Chair) and Mark Gill (vice-Chair) write: "*We as a council believe that our foodbank donations will have a very positive effect on many families this Christmas. We feel it is our duty to stay true to our Christian values and care for those in our communities who may struggle this Christmas.*" I should add that even if your child doesn't want to wear a Christmas jumper, they're still very welcome to donate some food!

Our annual **Christmas lunch** will take place on Tuesday 6th December. A traditional Christmas menu – roast turkey and Christmas pudding – will be available through our school canteen. Many thanks to Mr Ashton and his team for all their hard work in feeding us so well – not only on Tuesday, but also over the whole year!

And most excitingly of all...

### Carol Service

I'm delighted to be able to confirm that we will be back in Liverpool Cathedral for our Carol Service this year – for the first time for three years! Our Carol Service is a beautiful way to mark the end

of the Autumn Term and the start of the Christmas festivities; I can honestly say it is one of the highlights of my year.

The Carol Service will take place at **12:30pm** on **Wednesday 21st December**, the last day of term. That day is officially a half-day in our school calendar: students are only required to attend the Cathedral for the Carol Service; they are not required to report to the school site. The following arrangements will apply.

- All students in Years 7 to 11, including those of other faiths and of none, should attend the Carol Service. Parents wishing to exercise their right to withdraw students from acts of collective worship (which, naturally, include the Carol Service) should contact me through [this e-mail address](#) by 3pm on Friday 16th December. Sixth Form students are warmly welcome, and strongly encouraged, to attend the service, but attendance is not compulsory.
- Unless they are told otherwise (for example, because they are involved in the choir), students must report to the Anglican Cathedral (L1 7AZ) as follows:
  - students in Year 7 must arrive at 10:30am (please bring a drink and a snack, as well as a packed lunch); and
  - students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 must arrive at 12noon.There is a period of silent prayer in the Cathedral at 12noon, which students are asked to respect. We recognise that some students, especially those with additional needs, may struggle with independent travel to the Cathedral. If that is the case for your son or daughter, please [let us know](#) (again by 3pm on Friday 16th December) as we may be able to assist.
- A full register will be taken before the service starts at 12:30pm. Our usual 'First Day Response', when we contact you if your son is not in school and you have not let us know why beforehand, will be in operation (prioritising younger students), but please bear in mind that students will only be with us for a short amount of time that day. It would be really helpful if you could let us know [before 10am](#) if, on the day, your child is unable to attend due to illness.
- **Parents and carers are very welcome to join us for the service.** There is no need to book – there's plenty of room at the Cathedral!
- Students will be dismissed from the Cathedral at the end of the service (which we anticipate will be around 1:30pm) to start their Christmas holiday.

### Vision and Values

Thank you to everyone who responded to the survey – we've topped out at 111 survey replies, all of which will be invaluable to us as we review and reshape our vision and values over the next few weeks.

### Dr Silverstone writes...

"We are aware of the financial pressures that many of our families are facing currently and so would like to signpost the support available via the Liverpool Council webpages. [Help if you're struggling with the cost of living - Liverpool City Council](#) offers advice for those who are facing financial difficulties. There are links for advice on support with the rising cost of food, energy bills and household costs, as well as a link to other benefits and financial support that is available. Additionally there is guidance for anybody whose mental health and wellbeing has been adversely impacted by any of these issues.

"If you feel that issues to do with the cost of living are adversely affecting your child, please do contact us at school to discuss your concerns, and we will try to help you find some appropriate support."

Finally...

Our next *Update* will be published on Friday 16th December – the last Friday of term. Until then, do enjoy the season of Advent and the run-up to Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Brierley', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Stephen Brierley  
Principal.