



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

28th November 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to begin with a reminder that students will not attend school on Friday 1st December 2023 as the school is closed for a staff training day.

Heating Replacement Project

I am pleased to be able to report that the heating project in the Main Building is almost complete. The contractor, Meashams, have been working over night for most of this term to ensure that the work is completed. Once completed we will have a much more reliable, efficient and environmentally friendly system for heating this part of the building.

Youth Commissioners for the West Midlands

Congratulations to Brooke in Year 11 who has recently been elected as one of Walsall's Youth Commissioners for the West Midlands.

The Big Ambition

The Children's Commissioner for England (Dame Rachel De Souza) is running a national campaign The Big Ambition. It has been requested that we share a survey with the children and parents within our school community. Children or parents can complete the survey here:

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

The Knife Angel

The National Monument Against Violence and Aggression, known as The Knife Angel, will be visiting Walsall for the month of December this year. The James Brindley Foundation's strategy is to promote awareness of all the issues around serious youth violence. A series of promotional events are being planned to spread the message of peace throughout the year, not just for Christmas and to engage communities across the borough. The events are being arranged with support from Walsall Council, key agencies and partners within the borough. This is a huge opportunity to make a positive difference in the lives of the people of Walsall and the wider West Midlands.

- Friday 1st December, 8.30am for 9.00am to 11.00am. Angel Welcoming Ceremony. The New Art Gallery Walsall, Gallery Square, Walsall, WS2 8LG.
- Thursday 14th December, 2.30pm for 3.00pm. Walk of Peace from St Matthew's Church, Walsall, WS1 3DG to Gallery Square, WS2 8LG.
- Thursday 28th December, 2.30pm for 3.00pm. Departure Ceremony, Gallery Square, Walsall, WS2 8LG.



Christmas is Coming!

As we approach the final few weeks of a busy term, we are preparing for some special events. Following last year's successful service, the Walsall Civic Service will now take place as a Civic Carol Service in St. Matthew's Church on Sunday 10th December beginning at 10.45a.m. Our OAP Christmas Party will take place on Monday 11th December.

Foodbank Appeal

This year we are again appealing for donations for the local foodbank, current food bank shortages include: tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned puddings, cooking sauces (like pasta sauce), jam, shower gel, shampoo, UHT milk, fruit juice and mashed or tinned potato. Donations can be given to Mrs Homer between now and Wednesday 20th December.

Christmas Dinner

The school canteen will be serving Christmas lunch to students and staff on Wednesday 20th December.

The Nativity

As you will be aware each Friday morning, we have a whole school assembly at St. Matthew's Church. We are exceptionally grateful for all of the support we receive from Rev. Jim Trood and the wider church community. The Church have organised a special community theatre production – The Nativity. The Nativity is a new adaptation of the story of the birth of Jesus, as told in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke.

This unmissable community theatre production takes the story back to the basic; the shepherds are labourers who don't wear dressing gowns; the Magi are figures of authority; Herod is a frustrated vassal of Rome; and Mary and Joseph are a young couple facing enormous responsibility.

Performances are on:

Friday 1 December, 7pm
Saturday 2 December, 2.30pm & 7pm

Book your tickets (£5 each) at www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/nativity

End of Term Fundraisers

Students have asked to organise a number of fundraising activities during the last week of term:

Tuesday 19th December – Cake Sale (organised by Year 11)

Thursday 21st December – Talent Show (organised by Sixth Form)

Friday 22nd December – Non-uniform day

Christmas Services at St. Matthew's

There are a number of services taking place in St. Matthew's over the coming weeks and everyone associated with Blue Coat is more than welcome to attend. The services are as follows:

Sunday 17th December

10.45a.m. Nativity Service

6.30p.m. Carol Service

Christmas Eve

5:00p.m. Christingle Service

11:15p.m. Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8:45a.m. Holy Communion

10:45a.m. All Age Communion

1.00p.m. Asian Congregation

Details of some other events are available on the St. Matthew's website:

<https://www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk/services/#christmas>

End of Term Arrangements

School ends for all students on Friday 22nd December 2023. This is a non-uniform day with a minimum donation of £1 which will be collected during the last week of term. The funds contributed by Sixth Form students will contribute towards the Year 13 Prom while other donations will be used to support activities on Diversity Day later in the year.

Dismissal on the last day of term will be at approximately 12.00pm. A lunch service will be available as normal but at an earlier time on the last day of term.

We return to school at the normal time on Monday 8th January 2024.

Thank you for your support this term to ensure that your child looks smart each day. If you are buying new school shoes for your child over the Christmas break please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes or plimsolls. With the winter weather, it is also important that your child is warm. I would ask that if you are buying a new school outer coat, it is in line with the Academy's uniform policy and should be plain navy blue or black, without patterns or logos. Please refer to the uniform policy on the school website regarding uniform expectations, and I would draw particular attention to the expectations regarding piercings and hair styles.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to you for the support you have given to your children over the first term of this academic year. On behalf of Blue Coat's governors and staff, I would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully,



D. Smith
Principal