

Our ref: BMc/JD

5th December 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been an eventful term. Staff and over 500 pupils gathered together on Remembrance Day after the two minute silence for tea and cake in aid of the International Mercy Association. We were joining Mercy members and friends across the world for 'a good cup of tea', an event inspired by Catherine McAuley who founded the Sisters of Mercy. She instructed her Sisters that upon her death they were to mark her passing with 'a good cup of tea'. The gathering raised £283 to support the work of the Sisters.

In October on National Poetry Day we were privileged to host the 'People's Poet of Liverpool', Tony O'Neill. Tony celebrated the day by reading poetry during staff briefing in Newman and working with a small group of Year 7s on developing original poetry.

In November the school was re-awarded Fairtrade status. The pupil steering group believed strongly that it was only fair that the people who produced what we eat and use should get paid enough to live on and a chance to improve their lives.

As winter is upon us once again, can I remind you how to find out whether school will be open or closed in the event of snow or bad weather.

Your best first step will be to check the school's website for a closure announcement and any updates: www.maricourt.net

We will also always endeavour to have staff in the school office to answer your phone calls during working hours. If this is not possible out of school hours there will be a recorded message to update you.

As happened last year, local radio stations will help to provide information through announcements on air or via their websites. Checking their websites would be your better option:

www.radiocity.co.uk

www.smoothradionorthwest.co.uk

www.realradionorthwest.co.uk

When the school has opened we will always endeavour to keep pupils on site for the entire day. However should the weather deteriorate an early closure may be necessary in the interests of pupils getting home safely.

/Continued....

(2)
5th December 2011

The Autumn term Progress Review day, where parents and pupils in Years 7-10 discuss progress with the form tutor, will take place on **Monday 12th December**. Pupils will be given appointment times this week and will only attend school for that time.

In keeping with tradition each Year Group will have its own Carol Service during the last week of term as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Students and staff in Newman will enjoy their Christmas dinner on **Wednesday 7th December** while on **Wednesday 14th December** Years 7 and 8 will have their Christmas dinner, followed by a Quiz, in the afternoon, in Arnold. On **Wednesday, 14th December** our annual Carol Service for Parents and Carers will be held in St. George's Church, Maghull, at 7.30 pm. All are most welcome to attend.

The Christmas hampers currently being prepared by each Form are a tribute to your generosity and will be distributed to the needy in our community.

On Monday evening (12th December) we will be marking the success of our 'A' Level students with the celebration of Mass and the awarding of certificates, as we did in November for our GCSE students. Both occasions are a fitting honour for the hard work of both students and staff.

I am most grateful to the Parents and Friends of Maricourt Association who have been very busy this term recruiting members, organising raffles as well as holding a very successful Bingo evening in December to raise funds for our pupils.

Sincere thanks to parents who continue to support the school in maintaining a high standard of uniform. If you are replacing any items over the holidays please remember that outdoor coats should be black, dark grey or dark navy with no logos or additional colours. Could I remind parents who have not yet notified school of their email address, in order to access ParentMail, to do so as soon as possible.

I also wish to remind parents who bring their children to school by car to continue to show consideration to our neighbours and not park on the pavement or the corner of Brooklands Drive.

On **Friday, 16th December** school will finish for Years 7-11 pupils at noon. This will enable the staff to join in the final Carol Service of the term before the close of school in the afternoon.

School will start next term on **Tuesday, 3rd January** 2012 at the usual time of 8.50 am.

Yours sincerely



Mr B McLoughlin
HEADTEACHER