

21st December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

The last few weeks have been really busy but very rewarding.

I am pleased to announce that the governors have appointed Mr Joe Mangan as my successor for September 2019.

I am in awe at the talent and creativity of our children, which was particularly displayed during our school production of 'Mary Poppins'. We were all impressed and amazed by the high standard of singing, acting and dancing. I would personally like to add my thanks to the cast, musicians and backstage crew and to Mrs. Melling, Mrs. Rimmer and Miss O'Connor, co-directors and producers and Mr. Liptrot, technical supervisor.

School life has been enriching over the autumn term for most of our students and the range of trips and enrichment opportunities given to our students is remarkable:

In September:

- 17 GCSE Music students went to Bridgewater Hall, Manchester to watch the Halle Orchestra perform;
- 71 year 8 pupils went on a weekend residential to Cholmondeley Castle, Cheshire for a 'Bushcraft' adventure;
- Mr McCabe took students to the Adoremus National Youth Congress at the Echo Arena.

In October:

- A Level Further Maths students went on a problem solving day at the University of Liverpool;
- GCSE Geography fieldwork took place in Bowness and to River Clywedog in Wrexham;
- The Science department took 10 students to an 'Engineering your Future Event 2018' at Liverpool Football Club;
- Mr Daley has been working with 12 year 10/11 pupils and 12 year 7-9 pupils on an Enterprise course delivered by Everton in the Community and funded by the Premier League;
- 55 Performing Arts students went to Manchester Palace theatre to watch Matilda;
- Sixth form visit to Aintree hospital to develop knowledge and understanding of the Health Sector.

In November:

- Chill Factor, Manchester visits;
- UK Senior Maths Challenge competition;
- Science Live at the Bridgewater Hall and STEM Robotic Challenge at Hugh Baird.

In December:

- Our Community Choir sang at Maghull North train station to mark the unveiling of the memorial statue 'Compassion in Conflict' named by Alex Wareing, year 7.
- A Level students attended Liverpool University to secure learning on encryption as well as Maths and Psychology students learning about Career and University studies at Liverpool.

Year 7 welcomed their parents into school on the morning of Monday 17th September for 'a good cup of tea'. On Wednesday 3rd October we celebrated the Year 7 Mass of Welcome at St. George's church.

The careers team were busy organising a Year 11 and Sixth Form careers convention in November. Local colleges and training providers, apprenticeship providers, local universities, the armed forces and local employers were all represented. In October Year 11 mock interviews took place with external employers.

In keeping with tradition each Year Group is having its own Carol Service this week as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Christ.

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. Our Sixth Formers have been fundraising during Advent for Save the Children, Woodlands Hospice and the Salvation Army homeless appeal.

On Monday evening (17th December) we marked the success of our 'A' Level students with a service of Thanksgiving 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.

Snow

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. When the school has opened we will try 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.

Uniform

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 'rsconnected.com', 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. Could I also ask parents to avoid dropping children off outside Newman reception between 8.40 and 9.10 am and picking them up between 3.30 and 3.45 p.m. as this is the time the majority of our children are either walking to or leaving school along Newman driveway.

Dates for the Diary

Friday is a non-uniform day and the donation of £1 will be donated to a local food bank.

Year 11, 12 and 13 should allocate significant time during the holidays for revision as their pre-public exams start the first week back in January. My advice for Year 11 is that they should study for at least 5 days for six hours a day. Pupils should have answered up to 300 questions correctly on Maths Watch, so that they have 30 green bars.

On **Friday 21st December** school will finish for Years 7-11 pupils at 12.00 noon. Staff will then join in the final Carol Service of the term before the close of school in the afternoon.

School will start next term on **Monday 7th January** 2019 at the usual time of 8.50 am.

On behalf of the Governors and Staff of Maricourt, I would like to wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Mr B McLoughlin
HEADTEACHER

