



9th December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the first full term of the year and the Christmas break there are a few key messages I would like to send to all families.

The first of these is to reflect on the fantastic achievements of our staff and students again in 2019. What a year! We have continued to build on the success of 2018 and gained examination results which once again place us in the top 10% nationally and are even stronger than our 2018 results. The results mean we are once again at the top of the league table locally, making us the highest performing school in the Wakefield District for the progress of students! We also won the highly coveted TES Secondary School of the Year award in 2019 – overall quite a year for the academy. Well done to all staff and students who made these excellent achievements possible.

We will continue to strive for further improvement developing the excellent provision for all children in our care. At some point in 2020 we will expect Ofsted to come and inspect the provision we offer. Their new framework introduced in September 2019 makes it more difficult to reach outstanding status but we are confident that we can demonstrate excellent provision here at the academy and hopefully this will be recognised when they do arrive.

One of the key challenges all schools face and particularly here at Cathedral is to ensure all students make full attendance at school a priority. Research shows that there is a direct correlation between achievement and attendance and as such we continue to strive to make this better. Of course, we understand that students fall ill at times. However, too many students' attendance patterns show concern. We will continue to reward those who attend frequently and encourage full attendance as far as possible. We welcome your support with this.

In addition punctuality to school is a key focus for us. Since we moved to an 8.30am start to the day, the vast majority of students have adjusted very well and get here on time. However, there are few students who fail to do this on a frequent basis and from this week the detentions for late arrival without good reason will be one hour. Being late to school really does impact on progress and we will continue to prioritise this.

As Christmas approaches I wanted to let all parents and students know the arrangements for the end of term. The break begins on Friday 20th December and on that day students will leave school at 2.10pm. I ask that parents make arrangements for this early finish and please do let your Student Liaison Officer know if there are any issues.

We will be running a charity event on Friday 20th December where students are encouraged to come in a Christmas jumper worn over the top of their normal uniform. Students are then asked to make a £1 donation to charity. We support many charities throughout the year and will be splitting the donations this year with half going to a local charity and half to a global charity.

Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QF
tel: 01924 330640 email: contactus@cathedral.trinitymat.org web: cathedral.trinitymat.org

Also, parents should be aware that students in year 8 will be attending Wakefield Cathedral for a Christmas Service on Wednesday 18th December. This will take place during the normal academy day with students and staff travelling by coach to the Cathedral and returning back before the end of school. All other year groups will be taking part in a Christmas Service based at the academy during the normal school day.

Finally, I would like to wish you all the very best for the festive period and hope you have a lovely Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing students return after the break at 8.25am on Tuesday 7th January 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Marsh', followed by a small dot.

Rob Marsh
Principal