

9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'd like to thank all parents and carers for their support over this term. As we approach Christmas, I have reflected on the past term and I am grateful for the excellent staff and students we have here at St Anne's Academy. This term has had challenges like no other term before it and staff and students have had to adapt to a totally new way of St Anne's operating. The staff have really pulled together to ensure that we could deliver our curriculum. This has led to a positive start to the academic year and meant that students have already begun to catch up on the time lost due to the pandemic, although there is still need for further catch up.

Next term will see St Anne's begin to offer additional online tuition to our Year 11 students by external providers. The places are limited, and students identified will be based on the data from the recent College Application Examinations. We also have arranged additional catch up for other year groups that will begin slightly later in the year.

### **Year 11 Examinations**

The Government announced on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 that examinations will continue across England in 2021. They have made adaptations that include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation.

Year 11 students have just finished their College Application Examinations, I would like to commend our Year 11 students for the way in which they have focused on their studies in these final months before their examinations and we will continue to support families to ensure the best possible outcomes.

### **Message from the Chaplain at Christmas**

Christmas is usually a busy time of year. The traffic is heavy on the streets. The stores are full of people looking and buying gifts. Trees are being put up and decorated with decorations. The streets of cities are flashing with pretty lights. Boys and girls are looking forward to opening presents and it seems everyone is trying to spread cheer and promote

good will. It is the Christmas celebration. Let us remember it is the birthday of Jesus Christ.

Christmas, like no other time of year, is a time when families get together. This will bring a note of sadness to some because of family members who will not be present this year. But, may we gather together as a family in different ways this year and remember the happy times, and make Christmas a growing-together time. I wish you all a peaceful Christmas.

### **New Website**

After listening to feedback from parents and carers we are investing in a new website for St Anne's. The website will be more user friendly and be easier to navigate. Please look out for this later in the new year.

### **Work on the Gates at the front of St Anne's**

The main entrance gate at the front of the site is being changed. The current electric gate does not work and is not fit for purpose. The main gate will become manually operated that will be used at the beginning and end of the day. There will be a smaller single electronic gate for entering the site at other times.

The work will begin on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 (after the start of the school day) and will mean that the other gates at the side of the Academy will need to be used that afternoon and on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We will ensure that additional staff are on duty at this site on these dates.

### **Academy Christmas Closure**

The Academy will close on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 for the Christmas break. As usual we will close slightly earlier than normal. Students will be dismissed from 12.10pm and Year 11 earlier at 10.45 due to having their College Application examination results event that morning. Please note that the local bus companies are unable to operate a school bus service at this time so parents and carers will need to make alternative arrangements on this date.

The Academy will offer a 'grab and go' lunch service to all students on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 which will be on a pre-order basis only. Students who normally pay for their meals will need to pay as usual so please ensure that your child has enough funds on their lunch account.

Please note that we will continue to undertake Academy track and trace procedures until 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 in line with government guidance. If you need to advise school that your child tests positive up to 11am on this date, please email [admin@stannesacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@stannesacademy.org.uk). Families of any students who may be identified as close contacts and would therefore need to self-isolate will be notified by text only from the Academy up to 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020.

We look forward to seeing all our students safely back at school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at the existing staggered start time for your child's year group.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year when they arrive. Please take care over the festive period.

Yours sincerely,



Mr C Heyes  
Headteacher