



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Newsletter - 8 (14/ 12/2020)

Mr Salkeld Faith update

As this calendar year draws to a close, it is important to reflect on what we have all been through. The difficulties, the loss, the changes and the uncertainty are like nothing we have ever experienced before. It has been an immense challenge and many of us would happily consign 2020 to the history books and move forward. In the midst of all of the challenges though there have been amazing acts of kindness and joy. Coming back to school in September, whilst difficult for many, has been joyous. Having staff and students back in the school environment, working together, smiling and growing as one is what we are all about.

We don't forget though that there are still many who are suffering, those who are lonely, ill or bereaved. That is why we must focus on a constant. The one constant that is always with us and that we can all look forward to during this Christmas season is the presence of God. Knowing that we are all loved and that God gave us his only son should sustain and uplift us at the end of this year. It is at times like this when I am reminded of the beautiful 'Footsteps in the Sand' poem/ prayer which I share below for you all.

One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.

After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.

This really troubled me, so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the most, You would leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."

May this poem/ prayer remind us all that God will always carry and support us, and will never ever leave us.

I, the Governors and all of the staff at SFA wish you all a happy, holy, and restful Christmas break. Please stay safe, love one another and we will come back together on Monday 4th January 2021.

Luke Salkeld

Culture

I talk incessantly about how important the culture of our school is. This encompasses uniform, punctuality, behaviour and how we all interact with one another. Every interaction should be based on genuine mutual respect and it is the most amazing sight to see a school of over 1300 staff and students living this out.

As an example for each year group, last week over 100 students in Year 7 didn't receive a single negative, 40 Year 8s have received over 100 achievement points, in Year 9, 145 students didn't receive a single negative last week, 120 students in Year 10 had no negatives last week and 110 Year 11s without a single negative last week. Good behaviour matters, behaviour in the classroom and around the site and the vast majority of our students understand that high expectations lead to better outcomes for all.

Thank you to all of the parents who completed the survey that was live last month. The results give confidence that we are on the right track and also highlight areas for us to improve. Please see below:

94% of respondents say they strongly agree or agree that their child is happy at school.

94% say their child is safe at school.

88% strongly agree or agree that we make sure students are well behaved.

90% strongly agree or agree that their child does well at our school and 90% would recommend our school to another parent.

Literacy Words of the week

Achieve

Definition:
When you succeed in doing something or causing something to happen.

In a sentence:
I aim to achieve my goals.

Concentrate

Definition:
To focus all your attention on a particular object or activity.

In a sentence:
If I concentrate, I will learn more.

Calendar and Up coming events...

- Thursday 17th December—Whole school breaks up at normal time
- Friday 18th December—Staff INSET day
- Monday 4th December 2021 —All to return to school
- Monday 4th January 2021—Y13 mock examinations
- Wednesday 6th January—The feast of the Epiphany
- Friday 8th January—Deadline for Sixth Form applications
- Monday 18th January—Y11 mock examinations