



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

29th January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

Firstly, may I start this letter by saying 'thank you' for the kind messages received after Mr Ward's letter about the Headteacher appointment last week. It is a huge honour and privilege to have any leadership position within a Catholic school but as Headteacher I will always serve and strive to deliver for all of our community.

It has been a week when there have been a few Government announcements so I will headline below and include relevant points for our school.

Re-opening

It is now confirmed that students will not return immediately after half term and the earliest return date will be Monday 8th March 2021. As with every lockdown, we would rather all students be in school but the daily numbers impacted by Covid are terrible so we continue to work within the Government guidelines. With this extension confirmed we will pivot some of our working practices to further support students after half term and I will write about these specifically next week.

Half term (Monday 14th February- Friday 18th February)

The Government have confirmed that schools are closed over half term, including to key worker and vulnerable students. There will be no work set over this time and I strongly encourage a week dedicated to spending as much time together as a family, off computer screens and from a well-being perspective, parking school work for those days.

Linked to this, the Free School Meal voucher system will be suspended for the half term week because the Government have said that Local Authorities will have control over the funding for half term, in a similar way to the Christmas break.

Exams

The national consultation period ends today regarding examinations and assessments for Year 11 and Year 13. I appreciate that this uncertainty is very unsettling for students, as it is for staff, but we must await further guidance as to what examinations/ assessments will look like and as soon as that is clear we will prepare a way for students to be as successful as possible over the coming months, with opportunities to prove their abilities.

Erdington Road, Aldridge, Walsall, WS9 0RN
tel: 01922 740300 fax: 01922 740330 www.stfrancis.cc postbox@stfrancis.cc



Golden Tickets and Rewards

The level of engagement during this time is excellent and students are working very hard and I am overjoyed that we are able to continue to richly reward students for every lesson. The Golden Ticket draw is still happening each week and vouchers are being sent out in the post so please continue to encourage your child(ren) with their work because they will be rewarded by us.

I will finish as I began, with a 'thank you'. Every parent/ carer, student and staff member are doing their very best during this time and everyone will be spinning plates in a way they will never have expected. Thank you for your unwavering support and please know that as a school we are here for you as our family.

As per the beautiful hymn,

Give me love, keep me serving.

Give me joy, keep me praising.

Give me peace, keep me loving.

God Bless,

Luke Salkeld

Headteacher