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Education and Families  
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Dear Parents and Carers,

The school closes for Christmas Holidays today Thursday 22 December at 2.30pm and classes resume on Monday 9 January at 8.55am.

It is difficult to believe that the first term is almost over and Christmas upon us. It just seems like yesterday we were returning from summer holidays.

### **Cardinal Newman High School is AABOUT**

This term as you know we have been concentrating on the principles of our AABOUT Programme (Improved - Achievement, Attendance, Behaviours, Opportunities, Uniform, Timekeeping). Thank you for your support with ensuring that we achieve these aims. Almost every young person is now coming to school in full uniform including blazer and black shoes. Thank you for your part in this. We simply cannot achieve our goals without the support of our parents and carers. A very small number of young people are still coming to school in leisure shoes despite our best efforts. I would ask those parents in particular, once more, to support the school and ensure your child is leaving the house each day in full uniform. We are happy to provide new blazers and school shoes for any young person who needs them – please contact us if this is the case.

Classes begin at 8.55am each morning. Please make sure your child is in school by 8.50am. We now have the rather strange situation where young people who walk to school or who come on public transport are here by and large, on time, but young people who travel by car are increasingly late. If you drop your child off in the morning, please help us by making sure they are here on time whenever possible – this will help us to challenge late coming and make sure interruptions to lessons are kept to a minimum.

### **Prelims**

Senior pupils have just completed two weeks of prelim examinations. We also arranged for catch up arrangements this week for young people who were unable to sit their prelim on the scheduled date. We will make further arrangements with individual pupils if necessary.

Results of prelim examinations will be available week commencing Monday 16 January 2023.

A second diet of prelim examinations takes place week beginning Monday 23 January 2023. We have already published the schedule and this is also available on the school website.



## **Parents' Evenings 2023**

We have two upcoming parents' evenings following the Christmas holidays.

Tuesday 17 January – S3 Parents (4 - 6.30pm)

Tuesday 7 February – S1 Parents (4 – 6.30pm)

The system for booking your appointment time slots goes live week beginning 9 January for S3 parents and week beginning 30 January for S1 parents. We will send you a text to let you know when the booking system is live.

## **First Term 2022**

We have had a very successful first term. You will be aware via social media, the school website and the letters and certificates we have sent, of the many collective and individual successes our young people have had. They have continued to achieve and to support others and the wider community. We are very proud of all of their achievements and hard work. They are a credit to the school and to you.

These last weeks in RE classes and in our Advent Services we have been concentrating on the real message of Christmas and on the birth of the Baby Jesus in the stable in Bethlehem. Our Advent preparations have included weekly Advent Services prepared and delivered by senior pupils using the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Our new school chaplain Fr Stuart Parkes is in the school very often, leading services and providing pastoral support for our young people and staff. We are very grateful for everything he does for us. He offered our final Advent Mass yesterday in the Oratory and today he will lead us in our Christmas Nativity and Carol Service before we break up for the Christmas Holidays.

As always if there is anything we can do to help please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for everything you do to support us in our work which is ensuring your child is able to fulfil their potential and achieve their own goals.

I wish you and all of your families and loved ones a Wonderful Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful 2023.

From everyone in Cardinal Newman High School.

Robert Smith

Head Teacher