

January 2024



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Principal: M. Calen

Dear Parents

### **New Year**

I have been delighted to welcome all the students back this week looking refreshed and ready for the new term. This is a very important term for all students which includes learning many new topics as well as focussing carefully on revising work already completed and preparing for examinations later in the year. Thank you for your support with uniform and Sixth Form dress code. Lanyards are part of the school uniform. I have asked tutors and heads of year to contact parents where there are any uniform issues. In this cold weather, students should have a coat if needed. A reminder that hooded tops are not coats and should not be worn to school.

I have held Principal assemblies with all students reminding them of the English Martyrs Way and setting them a New Year target to challenge themselves. I talked to them about the words of the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah states 'lift up our eyes and look around'. I have asked students not to give something up but instead see that they can do better, whether it is to take more care in their work, more revision, be on time, and to use kind words. All of these show the desire to 'lift up our eyes and look around'.

### **Advent Charity Fund Raising – thank you**

During Advent we raised £1471.79 for the following charities: City of Sanctuary, CAFOD, Missio, and Pax Christi. Toiletries and non perishable goods were delivered to City of Sanctuary. A very big thank you to all members of the school for contributing to our Advent fundraising.

### **Safety**

At the start of term may I ask you to remind your child to keep safe whilst travelling to and from school. Where possible, they should not walk alone, especially in unlit or quiet areas; they should not talk to strangers and should report any concerns they have to home, police or school.

### **Year 11 Study Club**

We have been inviting students who would benefit from extra help with homework to a Study Club, which will take place on Monday's afterschool.

### **Pre Loved Shop**

This is an opportunity for any parents to replace any missing uniform. At English Martyrs we recognise that school uniform is expensive and as students grow, they can grow out of uniforms.

We would like parents to donate pre-loved school uniform that would have been thrown away due to not fitting. These pre-loved clothes will then be available in our pre-loved uniform shop for parents to visit and see if there is uniform they would want.

I hope this will be a small way in which we can all contribute to reducing clothing waste and protect the environment. Thank you to those families who have already donated Pre-loved Uniform. It would be marvellous if you had uniform that you no longer needed and you brought them to the main school reception.

Our next Pre-loved Uniform event is Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January, 3.00 – 4.00pm.

A reminder that as part of our continued commitment to be Eco-Martyrs. Over the past year we have been reducing the school's contribution to landfill/carbon footprint and all students need to bring in a reusable bottle to school. These cannot be glass for safety reasons.

### **Student Voice**

Students have asked for more places to buy food and to sit outside. We will over the next term be putting an outside serving place and 2 canopied areas for eating. This has been funded through successful bids the school has made for funding.

### **Parents' Consultation Meetings**

**Year 11** – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

**Year 10** – Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

**Year 9** – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

**Year 8** – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

**Year 7 - X (Alban, Campion, Clitheroe, Fisher)** Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

**Year 7 - Y (Line, More, Sherwin, Ward)** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024, 3.30 – 6.00pm

### **Year 8 KS4 Options Information Meeting for parents and students - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 4.00-5.30pm**

This term, Year 8 students at English Martyrs' make their options choices for Key Stage 4 studies which they will commence in Year 9. Students will be supported at every stage of the options process to help them make the best decisions for their long-term futures. On Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February, you are invited to attend the Year 8 KS4 Options Information Meeting for parents and students. A presentation outlining the options process will begin at 4.00pm in the Auditorium. Parents and students will then have the opportunity to speak with subject teachers in an Options Fair in the Exhibition Area until 5.30pm.

### **Free Breakfast**

Bagels, Cereals, Porridge, the school provides a free breakfast for all students.

### **Parking**

Please can I remind parents who are collecting their children to park with consideration and avoid blocking our neighbours' drives.

### **Severe Weather**

In the event that the school were to be closed due to winter weather there would be an announcement on the school's website and local media. Clearly we hope to operate school as usual every day. Unless an announcement is made, please assume the school is open.

### **60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

In the summer term of 2025 English Martyrs' will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is to coincide with the official opening of the school by Bishop Edward Ellis on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1965.

May I wish everyone health, happiness and prosperity in the coming year.

Yours sincerely



M Calen  
Principal