



30<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear parents/carers

At the end of this term at the Academy of St Francis of Assisi, I wish to take the opportunity to celebrate some of the successes from the term and to let you know about some of the areas of focus in the New Year.

There have been some wonderful events involving our young people such as the St Francis of Assisi Feast Day, Y11 mock interviews, the Advent service at the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the Y6 Open Evening. The Open Evening was a fantastic evening despite the dreadful weather, and I am really pleased to see that we are oversubscribed for September 2023. We continue to be the school of choice for parents in the local community and we have welcomed a further 50 young people to the Academy over the course of this term.

Students have also attended various trips to Liverpool Football Club, Hugh Baird College, the Royal Albert Dock, and our sister school, St Nicholas Academy. Our school community provided Christmas hampers for 25 families in the school. It has been wonderful to see the kindness, ambition, and pride that so many of our young people have.

#### **Uniform standards**

From January we are having a continued focus on uniform and basic standards. Most of our students come to school wearing their uniform with pride, however, some students are falling short of the basic expectation, and this is something that needs to improve. To be clear, students who come to school without the correct uniform, will be provided with the missing items such as shoes, blazer, or tie. For those that consistently refuse to cooperate with basic rules over clothing (for example coats) they will be placed on daily detentions and parents will be invited into school to discuss how we can rectify the matter. If you are struggling to provide the correct uniform, please contact the school office because the school may be able to assist you.

#### **Behaviour standards**

Most of our children are well behaved and respectful and I would like to thank you for your support in creating such a positive learning culture in our Academy. That said, there are a minority whose behaviour continues to be disruptive and disrespectful. This is not acceptable, and we will be arranging for those pupils and their parents to meet with myself and members of the Senior Leadership Team and (where appropriate) the Governing Body in the New Year. I know I can count on your full support in making sure that your child attends the Academy on time, every day and behaves in an appropriate manner. Talking to staff and each other with respect and manners will be a central focus for us in 2023. I would like to remind you that any verbal abuse of our staff by parents or students is not acceptable, and further action will be taken if this happens.



### Attendance and punctuality

We will also be having a renewed focus on attendance and punctuality. Students are expected to arrive at the Academy by 8.40. If late, they will serve a detention on the same day. All our students should be in school every day. Regular absence from school will be challenged and parents will be issued with warning periods and/or fixed penalty notices if your child's attendance falls to an unacceptable level. We must report all attendance to the local authority and to the Department of Education (DFE). We expect a minimum of 97% attendance for all students. This can only be achieved with 2 days or less absence per term. We will be running a school trip as we approach the Easter holiday for all students who meet the requirement of two days or less absence combined with a good standard of behaviour.

**#2daysorless #everydaycounts**

### Arbor Parent Portal/Arbor App

We are now using the online platform Arbor Education to communicate with you more efficiently and allow you key access to your son/daughter's Academy information including attendance, behaviour, timetable, and homework. Please sign up as soon as possible.

To access the Arbor Parent Portal/Arbor App: Go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and click 'Forgot your password?' to finish setting up your account using your email account.

### There are some important events for your diary:

<b>Inset day</b>	<b>Wednesday 4 January 2023 (staff only)</b>
<b>All students return</b>	<b>Thursday 5 January 2023 – onsite for 8.35am</b>
<b>Y11 Parents Evening</b>	<b>Thursday 12 January 2023 3.30 – 6.30pm</b>
<b>Y9 Options Evening</b>	<b>Thursday 2 February 4.30 - 5.30pm</b>
<b>Y9 Parents Evening</b>	<b>Wednesday 8 February 3.30 - 6.30pm</b>
<b>February Half Term</b>	Term ends at normal time on <b>Friday 10 February</b> Students return to school on <b>Monday 20 February</b>
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	Term ends at normal time on <b>Friday 31 March</b> Students return to school on <b>Monday 14 April</b>

### Staff changes

We have to say farewell to several staff who are leaving us this term: Mr Phil Johnson (Chaplain), Mr Rotheram (Maths), Ms Carter (English) and Mrs Williams (Attendance Officer). We wish them every success for the future and thank them for their service to our school community.

### Return to school

The Academy will re-open for all students on **Thursday 5 January** and all students should be on the premises by 8.35am. There is a free breakfast available from 8.00am.

I would like to wish all our school family of students, parents, governors, and staff, a peaceful and restful break. As Mother Theresa observed, "It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving."

In whatever way you celebrate this holiday period with your families, I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you a very blessed New Year on behalf of all the staff and Governors of the Academy of St Francis of Assisi and the All Saints Multi-Academy Trust.

Proud to be a member of



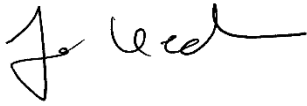
**ALL SAINTS**  
Multi Academy Trust

All Saints Multi Academy Trust is the operating name for The Liverpool Joint Catholic and Church of England Academies Trust

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Yours sincerely



Ms Jo Leech  
Headteacher



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