

21 December 2023

Dear families

At the end of this long 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, Culture Day, Y11 mock interviews, the Advent service at the Metropolitan Cathedral, and the Y6 Open Evening. The Open Evening was a fantastic evening, and I am really pleased to report 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 60 young people to the Academy over the course of this term.

Students have attended various trips to theatre to watch Macbeth, KS4 Drama trip to see 'Woman in Black' at the Playhouse, and all of Y7/8 went to watch the Rock and Roll Pantomime at the Everyman. We have visited Archbishop Blanch for a masterclass in Macbeth, invited all Y11 parents/students in for an Information Evening and held a Sixth Form Open Eve at our sister school, St Nicholas Academy.

Our school community has provided a lot of care and support for others. We set up the Francis Foodbank and this week, provided Christmas hampers for 43 families in the school and local community. 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. School ties are available in school from 8 January at a cost of £4 each. 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.

If you have any old uniform, please can you drop this off at the school office in the New Year. We can then recycle this to other families.

### 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 still a minority whose behaviour continues to be disruptive and disrespectful. This is not acceptable, and we will be arranging for those students 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 2024. Similarly, 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 be continuing to focus on attendance and punctuality. Students are expected to arrive at the Academy by 8.40. If late, they will serve a break time detention on the same day. Failure to comply with the detention will result in a further consequence. All our students should be in school every day. If your child is absent, whether they are ill or have medical appointment, you must contact the main office by 8.30am. 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.**

Our Spring term reward incentive will be a film afternoon for all students who meet this level and there will be weekly attendance prize draws for students with 100% attendance. We are planning a school trip to Blackpool Pleasure Beach on 12 July. The details and payments schedule will be made available in January. Students will have to maintain the required standard of two days or less absence each term combined with a good standard of behaviour. **#2daysorless #everydaycounts**

### Arbor Parent Pay/Portal

We are now using the online platform Arbor for all payments (THIS GOES LIVE ON 4 JANUARY) as well as to communicate with you more efficiently and allow you access to your son/daughter's Academy information including attendance, behaviour, timetable, and homework. Please sign up as soon as possible. **PARENT PAY WILL NO LONGER BE ACTIVE FROM 1 JANUARY 2024.**

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.

### Save the date

Here are some important events for your diary:

Back to school	<b>ALL STUDENTS RETURN Monday 8 January 2023 – onsite for 8.35am</b>
Y11 Parents Evening	<b>Wednesday 10 January 2023 3.30 – 6.30pm</b>
February Half Term	Term ends at normal time on <b>Friday 9 February</b> Students return to school on <b>Monday 19 February</b>
Easter Holidays	Term ends at normal time on <b>Friday 29 March</b> Students return to school on <b>Monday 15 April</b>

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

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi  
Gardeners Drive  
Liverpool  
L6 7UR  
United Kingdom

T: 0151 260 7600  
W: [www.asfaonline.org](http://www.asfaonline.org)  
E: [info@asfaonline](mailto:info@asfaonline)

### Staff changes

We have to say farewell to several staff who are leaving us this term: Ms Gore (Learning Support Assistant), Mr Hepke (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Owen (Associate Assistant Headteacher) and Mrs Diamond (Data and Exams Officer). We wish them every success for the future and thank them for their service to our school community.

### Local Academy Council

We have recently elected our school Chaplain, Miles Rimmer-Tagoe as the staff representative on our Local Academy Council.

The ballot has closed for the Parent Governor positions and our new Clerk to Governors, Mrs Byrne, will notify you about the result at the start of Spring term.

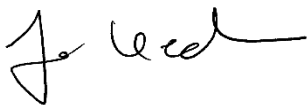
### Return to school

The Academy will re-open for all students on **Monday 8 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.

In whatever way you celebrate this holiday period with your families, I hope you have 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.

Yours sincerely



Ms Jo Leech  
Headteacher

Proud to be a member of



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

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi  
Gardeners Drive  
Liverpool  
L6 7UR  
United Kingdom

T: 0151 260 7600  
W: [www.asfaonline.org](http://www.asfaonline.org)  
E: [info@asfaonline](mailto:info@asfaonline)