

31 January 2024

Dear families

As we head towards the end of January, I wanted to take the opportunity to celebrate some of the successes from the term so far and to let you know about some of the areas of focus for the academy.

There have been some wonderful events involving our young people such as

- Knife Awareness assemblies
- Debate Mate competition
- Careers visits to Peel Ports
- Oxford / Cambridge careers talk to Y10 and Y11
- Athletics City Wide competition where we came 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> respectively (out of 12 schools)
- Football – Y10 and Y11 against Bluecoat (Y11 won their match 5-2 and Y10
- Bully Busters workshops
- Action Tutoring for Y11 maths and English
- Law Factor programme at LJMU for Y11 students

### **Foodbank**

The Francis Foodbank is in place at school for members of our school community. If you need any support, please let us know.

### **Uniform standards**

Thank you to all our students who attend school wearing the correct uniform and with the necessary equipment. This includes a bag, pencil case and pens. 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 expected to replace missing items such as shoes, blazer, or tie. If they come without the correct shoes, they will be asked to change into a pair of appropriate school shoes. We do not want to see coats in the school building, and these should be removed on entry to the school each day.

We are awaiting a restock of ties and these will then be available in school from at a cost of £4 each

For those that consistently refuse to cooperate with basic rules over clothing 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 particularly blazers, please can you drop them off at the school office. We can then recycle them to other families.

### Behaviour standards

Most of our children are well behaved and respectful. 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 is the basic standard expected. 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

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 phone the main office by 8.30am. 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. 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 Pay/Parent Portal

We are three weeks into the switch from Parent Pay to Arbor Pay for all school payments including school meals. There are still parents who need to sign up to the portal. If you are yet to sign up, please either check your emails for your welcome email or go to <https://login.arbor.sc> and select forgotten password. Then enter the email address that we hold on your child's contact details and an email containing a reset link will be sent.

If your child has a debt of more than £4.40, they will not be able to receive their lunch in school. We know that some parents might have had initial problems logging in for the first time, but these have now all been resolved. If you are struggling to log in please contact the school office on 0151 260 7600 and we will assist further.

If you are struggling financially, please contact your child's HOY. It may also be worth checking if you are eligible for Free School Meal support.

### Do you receive any of the following benefits?

- Income Support.
- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance.
- Income related Employment Support Allowance.
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit.
- Child Tax Credit - as long as you have a yearly household income of less than £16,190 (as assessed by HM Revenue and Customs) and do not get Working Tax Credit.
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit).
- Universal Credit - provided you have an annual net earned income not exceeding £7,400 (£616.67 per month).

[Apply for free school meals - Liverpool City Council](#)

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  
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### Save the date

Here are some important events for your diary:

<b>Y9 Options Evening</b>	Thursday 8 February 5 – 6pm
<b>February Half Term</b>	Term ends at normal time on <b>Friday 9 February</b> Students return to school on <b>Monday 19 February</b>
<b>Y9 Parents Evening and Option Choices</b>	Wednesday 21 February 3.30 - 6.30
<b>Easter Holidays</b>	Term ends at normal time on <b>Thursday 28 March</b> (Friday 29 March is a bank holiday for Good Friday) Students return to school on <b>Monday 15 April</b>

### Y11 news and boosters

We are continuing to run Year 11 boosters within departments. Please see the schedule of boosters below for the next two weeks in the run up to half term. We expect all students to attend these sessions which will provide valuable preparation to their GCSE exams.

	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b><u>WEEK A</u></b> <b>W/B 29<sup>th</sup></b> <b>January</b> <b>2024</b>	No boosters due to staff training	RE	English	Science	Maths
<b><u>WEEK B</u></b> <b>W/B 5<sup>th</sup></b> <b>February</b> <b>2024</b>	No boosters due to staff training	<b>Option A</b> Computer Science Business History Geography Art Food & Nutrition Health & Social Sports Science	<b>Option B</b> Business Drama Geography Spanish Construction Sports Studies Separate Science	<b>Option C</b> Creative iMedia French Spanish History Food & Nutrition Health & Social	

### Local Academy Council

We have recently held elections for two Parent Governor positions. Mrs Byrne, Clerk to Governors is pleased to announce that Ms Remya Prasadchandran and Mr William Thompson have been appointed.

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### Our social media platforms

We have been working hard to improve the information we share about the Academy. We have started using our Instagram account to tell you about key stories and events. It is great to see that we now have over 500 followers. Please follow us on the Instagram app: @academy\_stfrancisofassisi



@ACADEMY\_STFRANCISOFASSISI

As always, I am extremely grateful for your support if you require any further assistance please get in touch with the Academy.

Yours sincerely

Ms Jo Leech  
Headteacher



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