

All Hallows

Catholic High School

Newsletter

13th January 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,



Happy New Year and I hope you have all enjoyed a lovely Christmas. As this is my first letter as Headteacher I wanted to say how proud and privileged I am to take up this post. I have been a member of staff at All Hallows for over 25 years and cannot imagine working anywhere else. I love the school and feel passionately about maintaining the strong reputation All Hallows has within our community. I also wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr Horrocks for his years of service at All Hallows and also to share with you some of my priorities for the coming year.

Firstly, I will want to ensure that our classrooms are places where pupils can learn and fulfil their full potential. We will be ensuring that the classroom environment is purposeful and engaging, whilst beginning to develop the use of new technologies to enhance our teaching and learning.

In addition, I intend to focus on maintaining high standards of behaviour and in particular to increase rewards for the vast majority of pupils who do as we expect all the time.

I hope to involve more parents in sharing their views on key issues, and will be inviting you to some 'Parent Voice' sessions during the year. As a parent myself I fully appreciate how important strong links between ourselves and you as carers can be. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the year and if you have any queries, questions or issues do not hesitate to get in touch.

I hope it is clear that we have high ambitions for your child's success, and value the partnership between home and school. It is important, therefore, that we keep you as fully informed as possible about developments that affect your child. We have redesigned the newsletter and I will be sending news and information in this format fortnightly on a Friday. I would encourage you to read this regularly as we will be including lots of information about life at All Hallows, upcoming key events and other important information.

We will also aim to improve how we keep you up to date with developments, particularly through the school website and through social media. In addition, we aim to look at communication systems so that we are using one platform to send messages and for you to contact school.

I wish all our families and pupils a happy, successful and rewarding 2023 and look forward to meeting you at parents' evenings and other events during the year.

Yours faithfully,

Alison Cooper
Headteacher

Operation Encompass.

In conjunction with Lancashire Police, All Hallows is involved in a national initiative called "Operation Encompass". The purpose of Operation Encompass is to safeguard and support children and young people who have been involved in, heard or witnessed a domestic abuse incident, been identified as a vulnerable child or been subject to a missing from home episode.

Following an incident, children will often arrive at school distressed, upset, worried and unprepared. Operation Encompass aims to ensure that appropriate school staff are made aware early enough to help and support children and young people in a way that means they feel safe and included.

This is a valuable initiative that means we can help and support students and their families within our school when they need us most. You can find out more information by visiting the Operation Encompass website (click the link below) or by contacting Mrs Washington in school.

<https://www.operationencompass.org/>

Cycling To And From School.

May we please remind students who cycle to and from school, to observe cycling rules and decorum as we have had a number of reports highlighting the unsafety aspects of some students.

We must stress and highlight the importance of wearing helmets, using lights during the winter dark morning/evenings and general road safety, especially not using phones whilst riding their bikes.

All Hallows' Instagram Account.

We are now active on Instagram and if you would like to give us a follow our Insta handle is:



@allhallowechs

"Growing together in the spirit of Christ's love"

KEY EVENTS



- ★ **Frozen JR 06/02 & 09/02** - Tickets are on sale (£10 a ticket) to cast members from Tuesday 10th January for one week only and then the ticket sales will be open to the school community and the public from Monday 16th January.

Requests for tickets for cast members will be completed on ParentMail.

- ★ **Year 7, 8 & 9 Nasal Flu Vaccination** - A reminder to parents that our Year 7, 8, & 9 cohorts will be undergoing their nasal flu vaccinations on Monday 16th January. Please contact the Intrahealth Team should you have any queries.

Immunisation Team

Telephone Number 07818561168 or 0333 358 3397 option 3, option 1

- ★ **Year 11 Mock Exams** - Our Year 11's start their Mock Exam fortnight on Monday 16th January. Please ensure they are fully equipped with the needs of each examination.

Punctuality.

As many of you will be aware, as of this week we have re-introduced the daily 10 minute lunchtime detention for pupils who arrive to Form after the official start time of 8.45am. The pupils are given a warning bell at 8.40am and that is the signal for them to start making their way to Form. Any pupil who arrives after the bell at 8.45am will be marked as late and be placed on the detention register. This replaces the old policy, where a pupil received a Friday Night detention for being late three times.

Whilst we fully appreciate and understand that certain circumstances sometimes result in pupils being late for reasons such as traffic or car trouble, they are still late and the detention will apply. In order for us to be able to apply this rule consistently to over 900 pupils we have to stand fast with this application. The only caveat to this rule is for those pupils who travel using School transport, as their start time is actually much earlier than 8.45am as they have to arrive at the dedicated pick up point at a time dictated by the bus timetable. Those pupils are therefore deemed to have arrived on time once they are on the school bus.

I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and support on this matter as we strive to maintain and improve our standards here at All Hallows Catholic High School.



Self Harm Parenting Workshop

We understand how challenging it can feel for a parent or carer of a child or young person who is self harming. Managing those emotions, understanding why, communicating your concerns and keeping your child or young person safe; can feel overwhelming.

Lancashire Mind are now offering a workshop for parents/carers of children and young people who self injure. To support and upskill them to learn more about self harm to enable them to better support their child or young person.

For more information or to book a workshop, please contact training@lancashiremind.org.uk





Knitting/Crochet Appeal.

Knitting club has been meeting since early October now, we meet on Tuesdays at 1 pm in room 19 (the upstairs languages area). Some of us are total beginners and some have come with a little bit of experience. For our first big project, we would like to work with a charity who provides blankets for orphans in South Africa, "Knit a Square" (website underneath). Volunteers from all over the world knit or crochet squares of 20x20 cm which are then assembled into blankets in the country.

Since one blanket takes 35 squares, we can't do it all by ourselves and we are looking for parents, carers, family members and any other students who can knit or crochet to help us out!

Instructions on how to knit the squares (measurements etc.) are on the website and I would suggest that any finished squares are handed into the languages office by Easter.

<https://knit-a-square.com/knit-a-square-south-africa/>

Cross Country.

On a wet and muddy Saturday morning in January, a number of All Hallows pupils took part in the Lancashire Cross Country championships at Witton Park in Blackburn. The mud was so thick and slippery that they had to tape their running shoes onto their feet! Despite the dreadful conditions, they delivered some fabulous performances. In Year 7 running for Preston Harriers, Samuel Bates put in a top 15 performance for the under 13s. In the same race, Year 8s Sam Ridgway managed a 3rd place, winning himself a bronze medal. Lilly Washington and Tom Bates ran in the Under 15s race, with Lilly securing an 8th place finish in the girls race so the team went on to win a gold. Tom also had a strong finish putting in a committed effort for the boys. There were some excellent results in the U17 category, with Year 11s Daniel Smith coming second and getting a silver for Blackburn Harriers. Zara Darkin for Preston won a bronze and Poppi Watson, running for Chorley came in 5th. Due to the quality performances put in on the day, a number of our pupils have now been selected to run for Lancashire in the National Cross Country Championships in Loughborough in March. Let's hope it's sunny!



Epiphany Mass.

Last Friday we welcomed Bishop Tom Neylon to celebrate our Epiphany Mass. During the Mass Bishop Tom invited us to think about the people who guide us, the people in our lives who help us find answers in our searching and in our questioning. It was a wonderful celebration for this special feast day and we thank Bishop Tom for giving his time to be with us this afternoon.

Delighted that over 100 pupils attended this voluntary mass.



- ★ We would like to thank Mrs Leslie Robinson for her hard work and commitment to supporting our pupils as a teaching assistant over the past couple of years and wish her all the best for her retirement.
- ★ Good luck to our Under 14's & 16's as they compete this weekend in the Lancashire Netball Competition.
- ★ A reminder about uniforms. Please ensure that girl's skirts are the appropriate length. Sanctions will be issued if the skirt is not worn in line with the school policy.
- ★ We currently have a number of vacancies for exam invigilators for the upcoming summer exam series. If a parent or carer is interested in applying, in the first instance please contact our Exams Officer, Mrs Nicholson (mni@allhallows.lancs.sch.uk). Please pass on the information regarding the role to friends and family who may be interested in exploring the opportunity.