Sir John Cass's Foundation and Red Coat CofE Secondary School & Sixth Form College

We will achieve excellence and inspire generations the Cass way

Headteacher: Mr P. Woods

December 2019

Dear parents and carers,

It has been a busy few months and it seems a long time since we welcomed students in September. We have managed to achieve a huge amount both within and beyond the classroom and are looking forward to our Christmas holiday. This break is well earned for Years 11 and 13 who have completed their mock exams.

Attendance at School

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. Talking to your child and their teachers can help solve any difficulties you may have in getting your child to go to school and there are other forms of support available if you still have problems. The law requires parents to make sure their children receive full-time education suitable to their needs.

I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is to not take family trips or holidays during term time and attend school every day. Good attendance at school is essential for academic progress, social interaction with peers and the opportunity to participate in clubs and try new activities. At Sir John Cass Red Coat we have a clear expectation that students should aim for 100% attendance every year.

Staff news

At this time of year, we say farewell to a small number of staff. We will be saying farewell to three members of staff at Christmas who are leaving for pastures new. These are Amy Higgins, Md Shabbir and Sarah Henry. We wish all of you the very best for the future and thank you for the magnificent contributions you have made to our school.

University Interviews

We wish good luck to all of our students heading up to Oxford and Cambridge for interviews over the next few days. This year we have students interviewing for Engineering, Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Geography, English, and Human, Social, and Political Science. Students have been supported by the school with a number of specialist mock interviews, coaching sessions, and tailored application support.

Online safety

Following on from recent assemblies in Key Stage 3 on the topic of online safety, I would like to draw your attention to Net Aware Net Aware. This is a new guide put together by O2 and the NSPCC to support parents and carers, by reviewing social networks, apps and games. Young children are often spoken to by their parents on such matters as crossing the road, bullying and talking to strangers but talking to young people about their online world is equally important. Take a look at the link below which will help parents and carers understand the apps that students may be using. www.net-aware.org.uk/networks

Enrichment Activities

This term has seen a range of extra-curricular events including concerts and performances, sporting events, visiting author workshops, poetry recitals, the chance to see theatre productions, and trips including a visit by students in Year 9 to Italy. It has been heartening to see so many of our new students engaging with these opportunities and

challenges. My thanks go to all the staff who give up their time so willingly to give our students such a wide range of experiences.

To find out more there is a dedicated section of our website which is updated each term to show the clubs and activities that are running. Please encourage your child to participate. The programme for term 2 will be published and shared with students in early January.

End of term 1 arrangements + start of the term 2

School will close for the Christmas break on Friday 20th December. Arrangements are as follows:

Periods 1 and 2:	Lessons as normal
11.00am:	Students return to their form room for tutorial time
11.15am:	From 11.15am onwards the students will be dismissed by their Head of Year

It is anticipated that all students will have left the school premises by 11.45am. Full uniform must be worn as normal.

Students may order a packed lunch from their form tutor; the order should be placed by Monday 16th December and packed lunches will be collected from the second floor dining hall prior to leaving school on the 20th December.

The new term starts for students with our Academic Review Day on Tuesday 7th January 2020. Appointment times will be distributed in advance.

Lessons resume as normal on Wednesday 8th January. This will be Week 2. Please note that Monday 6th January is a staff training day.

Key Events for this term

Autumn Term

Christmas Concert	Tuesday 17th December 3.45-5pm
Last day of Autumn Term	Friday 20th December

Spring Term

Staff INSET day	Monday 6th January 2020
Academic Review Day	Tuesday 7th January 2020
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 12th February 2020
Spring Half Term Holiday	Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February 2020
Year 9 Options Evening	Tuesday 10th March 2020
Year 12 Parents' Evening	Wednesday 1st April 2020
Last day of Spring Term	Friday 3rd April 2020

Year 12 exams after Christmas

I would like to remind our Year 12 students that, whilst we expect them to enjoy the Christmas holiday, it is essential they also make time to study and revise as they prepare for exams in the New Year. We know that many will be applying for university places over the coming months and their hard work now will help them be successful and secure the places they deserve. Students in Years 13 and 11 must also be using their time productively to prepare themselves for the demands ahead. I would like to congratulate these students on the efforts so far and to remain focused on study for the final few months ahead.

I look forward to seeing all students back refreshed in school on Tuesday 7th January for our Academic Review Day and ready for the term ahead. I hope that you have a very peaceful and restful Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your support and I will be writing to you again in January.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Woods
Headteacher