

# Newsletter

CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC VOLUNTARY ACADEMY

FEBRUARY 2021

## Welcome to the Winter Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of this half term I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the support that you are giving to your children with their education. Moving to remote learning has been a challenge for us all but the work is always made easier when we are able to see the impact that it is having on your children's learning and well-being.

We are really pleased with the high levels of engagement in lessons and the mature attitudes of our young people in facing the challenges posed by learning away from the classroom. Please pass on my thanks to them and let them know how proud their teachers are of their commitment to their studies.

I know that you will join me, as many of you have already, in thanking their teachers for the way in which they have embraced this new way of teaching. None of us were trained to teach this way and so it has been a steep learning curve for us all, but the teachers have worked tirelessly to ensure that we are offering your children the best provision possible outside of the classroom. I know that they have really appreciated the support from yourselves and the positive feedback from students who are showing their appreciation of their efforts by engaging so positively.

As we prepare for our half term break I want to wish you all a safe and relaxing time. Please encourage your children, where they can, to get plenty of fresh air and exercise so that they can come back after the holiday feeling refreshed and ready to continue working hard.

Take care

Jo Love

## Remote Learning

We continue to offer the normal school day timetable with students taking part in form time and their subsequent five lessons of the day for those in Key Stages 3 and 4. We have introduced breaks between lessons to allow students and staff time to get away from the screen. The school day is now highlighted below:

**Tutor Time: 08.45 - 09.05**

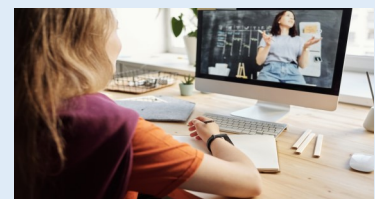
**Period 1: 09.05 - 10.05**

**Period 2: 10.25 - 11.20**

**Period 3: 11.30 - 12.25**

**Period 4: 1.05 - 2.00**

**Period 5: 2.10 - 3.05**



Students in Key Stage 5 are undertaking their timetable exactly as they would if they were in school. This includes their usual tutor time activities at the start of the day followed by the subjects which they have opted to study.

Student engagement levels have been fantastic, and we are really proud of all of our students during this difficult time. We know that it is not ideal to be following lessons online and that it is not the same as being in school. However, we are proud of the provision that we have put in place and the students have responded in a positive manner.

We also have a number of students accessing school on a daily basis due to their parents/carers being key workers. This is particularly enjoyable for our Year 7 students who have not been able to access any of the site before! The students who are in school have been focused on their learning and enjoyed the provision that their teachers have prepared for them.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout this challenging time. I sent you all a parent survey a few weeks ago, where I asked for feedback on the remote learning experience, and over 250 parents responded. The results of this survey were extremely pleasing and some of these are outlined below:

**85% of parents describe remote learning provision as good or very good**

**83% of parents said that the school had made the transition to remote learning very easy**

Some of your suggestions within this survey have led to us to make a change to our provision. For example, we now have a break between each lesson where your child can spend time away from the screen because this was highlighted as an issue.

As always, if you have any concerns about the remote learning experience for your child, please make contact with the school and we will look to rectify them as quickly as possible. We cannot wait to have all of our students back in school in the coming weeks and we thank you again for your support during this time.

Mr Riding



### ADVENT FOOD PARCELS

Every year at Christ the King, each form group collects and donates food parcels to local organisations who then deliver these parcels far and wide around the Nottingham area. This year has been no different!

The Greyfriars in Thorneywood came to Christ the King and collected 30 parcels full of food which have been distributed by the St Ann's and Sneinton Foodbank. The Greyfriars have collecting food throughout each lockdown and have not stopped in these winter months



Our students have done this every year and know the importance of our actions. The community puts so much value on a care package such as this and our students have done amazingly well to not let guidelines stop them helping those who are in most need.

A huge thank you to the Greyfriars for their help and to our wonderful CtK students for their generosity during these uncertain times.

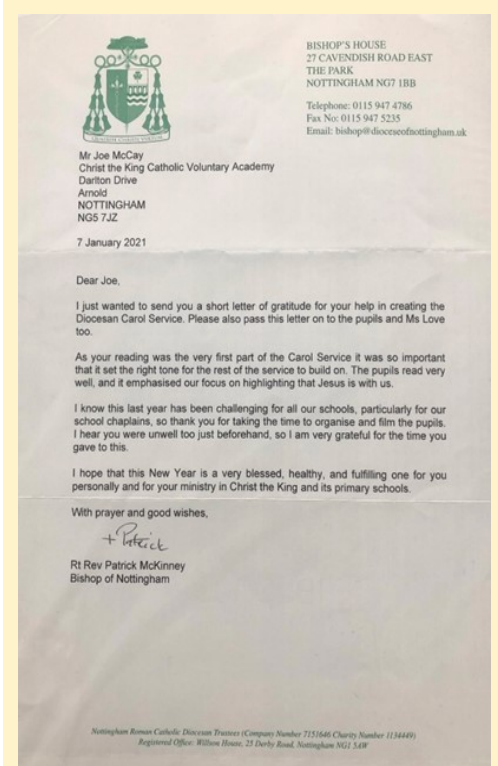
**#CTKCARESCHARITY**

### STUDENT LED PRAYER AND WORSHIP

This is a time when prayer is needed more than ever and, even in these most difficult times, our prayer life is still the central part of every single day. Form time prayer has still been taking place during Teams meetings and weekly Acts of Worship planned, prepared and delivered by students and staff. They have been present every week since September.

Christ the King have not just been leading prayer on a school level, but also on a Trust wide and Diocesan level. Our Head Boy and Head Girl, Arjun Korpall and Floran Steeples, led the entire Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Multi-Academy Trust in a Gospel reflection for the Trust Advent Liturgy. One staff member commented saying:

*"I thought the reflection was fantastic and I was very proud that you are students at our school."*



Our students then took it to one more level by leading the Diocese in the Gospel reading for the Diocesan Advent Carol Service.

Students from Years 7-11 represented Christ the King on a Diocesan level and began the carol service with their Gospel reading.

Our students have not let this pandemic stop them becoming leaders and examples of prayer, not just in school, but in our communities and parishes also. Above is the letter of appreciation sent by Bishop Patrick, Bishop of Nottingham, to our students.

**#CTKCARESPRAYER**



**PRAYER FOCUS AREAS**

We as a school are always trying to get our students to build on their ideas and put them up around the school. Working with the Chaplaincy Team, we have come up with many different ideas of displays and prayer focus areas that could be seen around the school to remind us all our mission and what we believe in. Trying to make those links with departments and curriculum through our faith is massively important for us at CtK. Work has begun on this and, although not complete, we are all very proud of what our students have come up with and then produced.

Great job Chaplaincy!

**#CTKCARESCHAPLAINCY**



**GEOGRAPHY**



**STAFF ROOM**



**FRONT ENTRANCE  
(HUB)**



**FRONT ENTRANCE  
(TRUST)**



**SIXTH FORM**



**Christ the King**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy





### Chaplains' Message

Is it me, or is this lasting a bit too long now? What a peculiar time we find ourselves in! Can I firstly, take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the keyworkers that are currently still working during the pandemic crisis that we find ourselves in. Many of them are parents of students at Christ the King and what you do, not just for your children but for the nation, is incredible and we say thank you to you.

I was very much hoping that this message would be with us back in a normal routine. But that does not seem to be the case and we are now into our fourth ... (I think) lockdown and people are being pushed as hard as they have ever been to limits they never anticipated that they could reach. But that is the precise message I want you to take away from this. You are being pushed harder and reaching limits you have never reached before, and you are still here making a difference. Although that comes with its difficulties, that is a message of hope for many.

During these days, leading to weeks and then months, we have been surrounded with messages of hope. Of people doing things that give people that spark or buzz which gives them the hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel. Of people doing actions which give families hope of a brighter future. And of people using their God given talents to ensure that we are all in this together.

The Scriptures tell us that God knows the plan and it is a plan full of hope:

*"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring about the future you hope for"*

JEREMIAH 29:11

I would urge you to not give up hope. Without hope, we have no reason to love, no reason to forgive, no reason to care. Our lives are dependent on basic needs. Our bodies need food, water, clothing and shelter. But our souls need love, forgiveness, mercy and hope. Take this snippet of hope and turn it into a ray of hope and keep passing on this ray until hope is becoming not a luxury for the elite, but an everyday for everybody.

Stay safe, be kind to yourselves and keep your hearts alert to the hope that is surrounding us.

**#CTKCARES**

Joe McCay  
Lay Chaplain

### Wonderful news that we'd like to share with you

Joe's mum, who is a Deputy Headteacher at a Primary in our Trust (Saint Philip Neri with Saint Bede's in Mansfield), recently shaved her head with another member of staff to support some children in her school who had lost their mum to cancer. It is a devastating thing to happen and something which we have all experienced in some way or another.

Joe says:

"Thank you all so much for your support of my Mum and her staff and school – you are all so generous! In just the last day, over £1000 more has been donated and the current total is £2405!!!

For proof, here is my lovely Mum after braving the shave:"



It is still not too late to donate via the link below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nohairdontcare?utm\\_term=3QzgVerZB](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nohairdontcare?utm_term=3QzgVerZB)



## Baking with Year 9 Students

Callum Douglas and Zak Fleming (Year 9) are still coming into school and for one of the food lessons, the class at home were asked to make scones.



However for two of the students who are in we thought it'd be nice to help them bake in school as a way of breaking up the day and getting them out of the classroom.



We were able to supply the ingredients for them and they both had lots of fun just the two of them baking scones. Since then, they have had practical lessons every fortnight and really enjoy these sessions.

Watch out Bake Off!!



## Testing Station at Christ the King

Prior to the Christmas Break we saw a change in direction with regard to the testing of students and staff for Coronavirus, in school. Upon our return in January, and with a small window of opportunity we planned, and successfully implemented, a testing station as well as ensuring those staff who had volunteered were fully trained to carry out their roles. It is important to note we were prepared for the mass testing of all of our students, upon their return, but the new lockdown changed that.

School continues to remain open to vulnerable students and those whose parents are critical workers. Upon their return in January, having gained consent from parents we were able to test returning students. We have found that this has been particularly re-assuring to staff and parents alike.

We remain ready for any mass testing, if/when that may happen but most importantly, we look forward to welcoming back all our students when it is safe to do so.

Mr Hoyle



**Christ the King**  
Catholic Voluntary Academy

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