

20 December 2023

Dear parents/carers

With the end of term almost upon us, I am truly thankful that our community has so much to celebrate as we look back over the last few months. While it is impossible to mention everybody and everything, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise some key highlights – that I will cherish long into the new year and beyond...

Ofsted: Our term started with the first of two inspections and it was wonderful to receive validation on the rigour of our curriculum, our commitment to pastoral care, high standards of behaviour, the exceptional personal development of students and the leadership of the college. Although it was an ungraded inspection, inspectors remarked upon various aspects of outstanding provision and we will continue to devote ourselves to sustaining and building further upon this.

Black History Month: This is a personal highlight for me because it genuinely marks some of the finest student leadership I have seen throughout my many years at Bishop Milner. For our young people to be inspiring us all through their presentations, performances and prayer - with such important messages of hope, equality and diversity has been something to be truly proud of.

Charity, Fundraising and Community Outreach: What a busy term it has been for helping others: Macmillan cake sales, raffles, collections, culture days, Foodbank donations, Christmas hampers and more! I would like to thank staff, students and parents for their overwhelming generosity; even in difficult times as we continue to prioritise those less fortunate than ourselves. Special mention must, of course, go to our fantastic senior citizens Christmas party and the staff and students who went the extra mile to make it a memorable occasion for our guests.

The God-given Talents of our students: Our amazing sports teams continue to excel under the guidance of PE staff in the areas of football, netball and basketball and a good many more clubs are enjoyed. Our students have displayed brilliant sporting etiquette and team work this term and are very deserving of their winning ways! The brilliant cast of Shrek are working very hard in preparation for what promises to be another fantastic college production next year and our inspirational choir continue to go from strength to strength under the leadership of Miss Gullick. I would also like to offer particular praise for our Stewardship team, who are always busy finding new ways of caring for our common home, and for our Chaplaincy and Liturgy leaders, who are so pro-active in representing the faith life of the college.

Please keep updated on all the wonderful events that our students are involved in through our [Facebook page](#).

CSI: While I'm not in a position to divulge the formal outcome of the inspection until its publication in the new year, I can tell you that we are delighted with how well the two days went and can't wait to share with you the successes of our Catholic Life and Mission, provision for RE, and Collective Worship. When it comes to the faith life of the college, there is much to celebrate so please look out for a distinct communication on this in the new year.

Our community has much to look forward to in 2024. Of particular focus in January and into the new year will be the BMCC Behaviour Curriculum. This publication (and the larger body of work it represents) will complement our current behaviour policy, but will serve as a much more profound tool for the teaching of expected behaviours in and out of college, and a focus on what success looks like – **The Milner Way!** Importantly, each aspect of this curriculum will be rooted in our faith and the reasons *why* we ask students to conduct themselves the way we do. I look forward to providing all parents and carers with their own copies of our behaviour curriculum so we can continue to work in partnership when guiding and rewarding the positive choices of our young people.

Staff Notices

At the end of this term, we say goodbye to Mr Winsper and wish him and his family all the best for their exciting adventures in Australia. In his place, we welcome Mr Conway in February – an experienced teacher of RE and pastoral leader.

At the start of next term, the college also offers recognition for the service of Mr Bradbury who begins his retirement in January after a successful career in Catholic Education. Mr Bradbury has had a massive impact on both MFL and the pastoral life of the college and will be dearly missed. In his place, we welcome Mrs Nduwimana - an experienced leader of Modern Foreign Languages.

As a community, we continue to send love and best wishes to Mr Detheridge and his family during his absence due to ill health. Staff and students miss him very much and are praying for his recovery.

Dates and Reminders

Term finishes on Friday 22 December at the normal finishing time of 3.20 pm and students will be in **full uniform as normal**. However, students are most welcome to wear the addition of a Christmas jumper on this day, and make a charitable donation of a £1. We will mark the day with end of term services and some fun afternoon activities but it is vital that students come equipped and ready to learn.

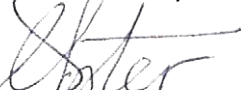
Spring term starts for all students on Tuesday 9 of January.

Let us pray for Peace

In this holy period of Advent, as we await the joyful coming of Christmas, we are reminded that some parts of our world are greatly impacted by war and conflict. Let us do what we can in our own homes and communities to promote unity and harmony and always keep in our prayers all those suffering this Christmas.

All that remains is for me to wish you a safe, happy and holy Christmas with your families when it arrives. I very much look forward to seeing in the new academic year with you all – but not before a well-deserved rest for everyone! On which, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to the hard -working staff of Bishop Milner for everything they continue to do to meet the needs of our students.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Foster
Head of School

SFR/JGI