October 21st 2022

**Autumn Term 1 Letter to Parents**

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of this half term draws near, I have been reflecting on what a wonderful community St Antony’s is and how lucky I am to have been given the great responsibility of leading this school.

The last seven weeks has been spent getting to know how the school works, who people are and what we want to work on to improve the school further. I want to thank you, our parents and carers, for making me feel most welcome and for your ongoing support.

Some of my highlights from this half term include:

* I’ve been so impressed with our pupils. I have found them to be polite, friendly, respectful and they are taking great pride in their uniform.
* In particular it has struck me how many of our Y7 pupils have made a super start to life at St Antony’s. They have settled in really well and are already feeling very much part of the St Antony’s family.
* Y11 pupils are already working really hard in preparation for their GCSE exams next summer. I have found them to be mature and focused in relation to their studies, whilst also continuing to be excellent role models to younger pupils in relation to their attitude and conduct. We also had a tremendous turnout for the Y11 parental information evening and attendance to our after-school intervention sessions in English, maths and science have been very good. Well done Y11 on an excellent start!
* Poor behaviour has been rare, but when it has occurred it has been dealt with fairly, consistently and with kindness so pupils are helped to learn from their mistakes and our school continues to be a calm, orderly place where pupils can get on with learning and teachers can get on with teaching.
* Our peer mentors in Y10 continue to do some wonderful work supporting our younger pupils.
* The progress we’ve already made in supporting all pupils with their reading during form time has been very encouraging and a big part in this success has been how well pupils are engaging with this.
* There have been many fantastic sporting performances from our various sports teams, where pupils have represented our school fantastically in how well they have played and in their attitude and conduct.
* The very big uptake amongst our pupils of our extra-curricular music offer, for example many pupils have joined our new choir (which rehearses each Friday lunchtime) and are accessing tuition in relation to a wide range of musical instruments
* The excellent response by pupils to our Cornerstone appeal, which is going to make a huge difference to support families in need in our local area.
* Meeting parents at the recent Parental Forum and the feedback they have given us, representing parent voice, that will help us to improve our school further.

Looking ahead to our next half term, some key dates to make you aware of include:

* Our careers information evening (aimed at pupils in Y10 and Y11) will take place on Wednesday 2nd November (3.30pm – 5pm) and all pupils in Y10 and Y11 along with their parents / carers are invited to attend.
* The next PTA meeting will take place in school on Thursday 10th November at 5.30pm, it would be lovely to welcome some new parents onboard.
* We’ll be having a short Remembrance Day reflection with pupils during the school day on Friday 11th November at 11am.
* We have an INSET day for staff on Friday 18th November, which means school will be closed to pupils on that day.
* Mock exams for Y11 pupils begin on Wednesday 23rd November.
* Y9 Parents’ Evening will take place on Thursday 24th November (5pm – 7pm).
* Our Certificates Evening for our Y11 cohort from last year will be at 6pm on Thursday 1st December.
* School Christmas dinner will be served during lunchtime on Tuesday 13th December.
* The final day of the Autumn term will be Friday 16th December and there will be an early finish on that day as is customary (pupils will depart at 1.15pm after they have had lunch)
* We return to school after the Christmas break on Tuesday 3rd January 2023 at 8.55am.

Wishing you a safe, restful and relaxing half term break,

God bless,



Mr A Campbell

Headteacher