

December 10th 2024

Updates and arrangements for the last week of term

Dear Parent/Carer

As the end of our Autumn term draws near I would like to provide you with a few key updates.

The banning of mobile phones across the site from our return in September has gone very well, with the vast majority of all pupils now very clear about our policy. Thank you for your support with this. As a result, we've seen pupils reduce their screen time as they now spend more time talking to each other and participating in our various lunchtime clubs. Furthermore, the strengthening of our sanctions for pupils who walk away from their after-school detention has had the desired impact, in that it has significantly reduced the frequency of this happening. Pupils are getting the message that if they refuse to stay for their after-school detention without a valid reason, then the clear consequence will be suspension from the school the following day. From conversations with parents and from feedback at the recent Parent Forum, it's apparent that the vast majority of parents are also very supportive of this. Thank you. This is helping us to create the right climate where children make good choices, adults are respected and resources are prioritised towards helping children to learn.

Improving the attendance of pupils to school continues to be a huge priority for all of us at St Antony's given the very strong link between good attendance and success in learning. The table below shows four equal groups of our current Y11 pupils based on their average predicted GCSE grade in all their subjects and their average attendance so far in this academic year, (e.g. quartile 1 are the top 25% performing pupils and their average attendance, quartile 4 are the bottom 25% performing pupils and their average attendance).

	Average teacher prediction of GCSE grades next summer	Average attendance up to 10th December 2024
Quartile 1 (top 25% of pupils)	Grade 6.5	97.5%
Quartile 2	Grade 4.5	95.4%
Quartile 3	Grade 3.5	90%
Quartile 4 (lowest 25% of pupils)	Grade 2.0	72.4%

As you can see, the more pupils attend school, the more they learn and the more they succeed. Hence, when pupils come to school regularly, they are likely to achieve much more positive outcomes. We will continue to do all we can to ensure pupils arrive in school every day, and this will always start with a warm, positive welcome. Please, please keep doing your bit in ensuring children come to school every day too – it really makes a difference and could, potentially, be life enhancing for your child in the long-run should this help them to go on to achieve better GCSE results at the end of their Year 11.

So you remain in the loop, key events in the final week of this term include:

- Tuesday 17th December is our Christmas jumper day and pupils are asked for a donation of up to £1 which will then be split between Cornerstone (which does fabulous work supporting homeless people in our area) and our PTA. In addition, also on this day, our pupils will have the opportunity to have Christmas dinner which includes a



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- pudding and drink for £2.82 (there will also be a limited selection of sandwiches for those pupils who do not wish to have the Christmas dinner).
- On Thursday 19th December the whole school community will be celebrating mass at 11.15am at St Hugh of Lincoln church (pupils will come into school at normal time and we will walk them the short distance to church from approximately 11am).
- Friday 20th December is our final day of the Autumn term and pupils will have an early finish on that day of 1pm after they have had lunch. Our final day before Christmas is also an own clothes day for pupils and we ask pupils for a donation of up to £1 if they wish to wear their own clothes. These donations will be sent to CAFOD to support their ongoing work in helping people living in poverty in various parts of the world. In addition, our PTA Christmas chocolate hamper raffle prize draw will take place on this day and if your child has not yet bought a ticket, they still have time to do so during form time each day next week. Please be aware that the 785 and 786 bus services will NOT be operating at this earlier departure time on that day and pupils who rely on this service will need to find alternative ways of getting home.

If pupils are wishing to donate money to our various causes on Christmas jumper day or for own clothes day, they can bring in cash which will be collected during form time, or you can arrange payment via Parent Pay, using the APP in the usual way.

All pupils will return to school on **Monday 6th January 2025** at the normal start time.

Before we finish we will be sending out to you our end of term newsletter that lets you know everything that has been happening at St Antony's and what lies ahead in the new year – so please look out for this early next week as we have lots to update you on!

Thank you for your ongoing support and I wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Campbell (Headteacher)