

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the end of the first half term, I would like to take the opportunity to write to you to discuss what this year holds for parents and students in year 10.

Firstly, upon reflection, it has been a joyous half term. We are now celebrating Mass regularly together as a community, record numbers of Year 11 students have returned to our 6th form, we have begun our new RSHE curriculum, after school clubs have restarted, rehearsals for the whole school production, 'Oliver', are well under way, the Urban Scholars programme is back and in person, Black History Month is the best it has ever been and the overall sense of community is back in the school after a very disjointed last couple of years.

Year 10 students are in their final *full* year of secondary school. Year 11 is a shorter year due to GCSE exams being taken in May and June and therefore, it is vital that students are taking their studies seriously and not letting anything get in the way of their learning. Students in Year 10, who study English Literature, will be taking their official GCSE exam this year during May/June of 2022. A number of other subjects will be holding GCSE practical and/or coursework assessments this year; these include Textiles, Art, Drama and MFL. The Year 10 GCSE MFL Oral exams begin on 6th June.

Year 10 Work Experience (WEX) week is at the end of the academic year, from 11th to 15th July. More information will be sent out shortly, but students will be required to organise their own work experience placement. All students will be fully prepared for this through a range of focussed lessons, a Careers Fair and mock interviews in the spring term.

Year 10 will be looking forward to a whole range of enrichment opportunities. I have outlined some of the key moments below:

21st October: Wear It Pink day 2021

9th November: Year 10 RSHE Peer on Peer abuse workshop

15th November: Anti-bullying week begins

29th November: Advent fundraising begins

14th December: Christmas Concert / Year 10 GCSE Textiles assessment

15th December: Year 10 certificate assembly / Year 10 GCSE Art assessment

16th December: Christmas House Day competition

The first major set of internal assessments will take place during the week beginning 4th January 2022. Student should be revising for these well in advance. You will receive the results of these assessments at the end of January. Year 10 parents' evening is on 20th April 2022 from 4pm to 6:30pm, please make the necessary arrangements so that you are available for this crucial event. It will take place online.

My final request is for parents. The school is trialling a new app from which you will be able to see in live time student positives, negatives and detention times/dates, attendance figures, as well as the ability to provide consent for trips/activities without having to deal with any paperwork. Please send an email to office@stclaudines.co.uk stating that you are interested in taking part in the 'Class Charts' app trial. We will select a small number of parents who will be contacted shortly after.

I will finish by saying a big thank you to you as parents/carer for all the support you have shown our school and I wish you all a restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming our students back on 1 November.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J. James

Assistant Headteacher