



It has been an unexpected end to the week with the school closed due to the lack of heating; thank you to parents and carers who have supported children with being able to continue their learning at home. Whilst remote learning has become a common term following the pandemic, we understand the challenges that this brings; please do make sure you let us know if support is needed with devices for home learning, whether for enforced school closures, supporting online learning such as Sparx Maths and GCSEPod, revision activities or, for example, GCSE Photography coursework.

As you will be aware, we had planned to hold a Christmas-themed Enrichment Day today with students working very closely with form tutors and Year Teams. At the time of writing, we are unsure as to whether we will be able to rearrange this given the proximity to the end of term and the seasonal nature of the activities; however, plans are well underway for a very festive Christmas Assembly next Friday.

Two very successful visits have taken place to support Year 11 students as they move ever closer to their GCSEs; thank you to Miss Edwards and Mr Minton for taking 30 students to the Etihad Stadium, and there are further details about this trip below. Mr Paskin and Miss Thacker accompanied a group of our GCSE PE students to Redpoint Climbing Centre in Birmingham to support next week's rock climbing assessment.

We look forward to welcoming students as usual into school on Monday morning.

Upcoming Dates

Wednesday 20th December – Year 10 Blue Orange Theatre Visit

Wednesday 20th December – Year 13 Parents' Evening

Thursday 21st December – Christmas Concert, 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Monday 8th January – Teacher Training Day

Wednesday 10th January – Year 11 Parents Evening

Assembly Themes

Assembly focus this week was Human Rights' Day

w/c 18/12 – Christmas Rewards

w/c 08/01 – Welcome Back (Resolutions)

Please take the time to talk to your child about what they have learnt in Assembly.

Breakfast

Please remind all students that there is freshly cooked toast and bagels in the restaurant each morning between 8.00 and 8.20.

Come along and enjoy the company of the SEN staff and other students.

Year 11 Visit to the Etihad Stadium

On Wednesday 13th December, the English department took 30 Year 11 pupils to the Etihad stadium, in Manchester, to experience life as a sports journalist. The pupils took part in a tour of the stadium, including walking down the players' tunnel, sitting in the home dressing room and sitting in the press area. After the tour, the pupils had the chance to act as sports' journalists, interviewing one another and getting a taster for what it is like to be in on the action, post-match. The pupils had a fantastic time and were commended by the staff at City for their conduct.



**Free School Meals' Supermarket Vouchers –
Christmas Holidays**

We have received confirmation from Sandwell that a voucher for £25 for each of the two weeks of the Christmas holidays – so a total of £50 per Free School Meal-eligible student – will be provided. These will be issued from school in the usual fashion later on this term. Do please ensure that we have up-to-date email addresses for you, and please contact the school from Thursday 21st December onwards if you have not received your voucher and ask to speak to our Finance team. Please remember that vouchers can only be provided if your child is eligible for Free School Meals. As always, if you need help with applying for Free School Meals, please contact us and ask for Finance and we will do our best to help.

Cozy Club

On a Tuesday and a Thursday evening we offer a 'cozy club' in the SEND area where students get hot chocolate, biscuits and an opportunity to socialise with their peers. The club runs from 3pm to 4pm.

