

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

23rd November 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

Today is the half way point of the term. Term 2 is always the term where we see the weather start to turn. We have had some glorious autumn days and we've had some pretty wet and dreary days!

As we approach the second half of the term there are just a few short messages and a slightly longer message setting up our December challenge.

Children in Need – thank you to all families for supporting Children in Need last week. Apologies that the notification came out slightly late in the day. Well done to all the students who took part in the dressing up challenge. 3rd Prize went to Billy (Y9), 2nd Prize went to Buddy (Y9) and 1st Prize went to Kaitlynn (Y7). Just over £700 was raised for charity. We know we received some feedback from families around being able to donate on ParentPay (appreciate that coins are not as widely used and that our communication was late in the day) and this is something we are looking at for future events.

In addition, well done to all of the students who took part in the annual “Big Read” that runs on Children in Need. I had the privilege of cutting the head off of Pudsey Bear Cake (always seems cruel) lovingly created by Mrs Harman, this year supported by Ellie and Lilly in Y11. Students were having a lovely time. When we know what additional sponsorship was raised by the team I will let families know. As always, a massive thank you to Mrs Harman for arranging. The word is starting to get out that Mrs Harman is retiring at the end of this term but she has already promised to come back and run the challenge next year...we'll hold you to it Mrs Harman!

Big Ambition Survey – the Children's Commissioner for England is asking all young people (Under 18) to complete this short survey giving their views as a young person. This will inform Government thinking about aspects that directly affect young people. Please do encourage any young people to complete this survey which is [available on this link](#)

UCL Widening Participation – University College London (UCL) are running a number of online sessions aimed at different year groups explaining various aspects of Further and Higher Education. If you would like to find out more and sign up for one of the free online sessions then please do [visit this link](#)

Reverse Advent Calendar – please see the next page for detail around our charity project this term to support a local homeless shelter.

Pencil Cases & Basic Equipment – a growing problem being raised by staff is around basic equipment. A significant number of young people are coming to school each day without a school bag and, in turn, without a pencil case with basic equipment. The basic equipment we ask students to bring each day can be found in the [Parent/Carer Handbook on this link](#). As a minimum students need to have a pencil case with a few pens (particularly black ink pens), pencils, rubber, ruler and calculator. We use purple pens for lots of reflective work and whilst departments will hand these out when needed having your own purple pen would also be really useful. Currently teachers are now losing learning time handing out and collecting back basic equipment and whilst they will always try to maintain a few items to lend in a genuine emergency the amounts currently being demanded are not sustainable. We'll be having an “equipment push” with students over the coming weeks and would really appreciate your support in ensuring learning sessions can get started smoothly.

Reverse Advent Calendar

This academic year, as part of our ‘Belonging Strategy’ we have a theme for each month. December is ‘Universal Human Rights’ month. Several of the articles of human rights cover social security and inclusion.



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This year as we approach the festive period we are going to participate in a reverse advent calendar to support The Julian Trust. The Julian Trust is a local charity based in St. Pauls supporting provision of a night shelter but also providing hot meals, hot showers and laundry services for those who are homeless or without a place to stay.

The idea of a Reverse Advent Calendar is that, instead of receiving an item each day during December 1st to 24th, we try to collect specific items each day. The picture below shows what The Julian Trust are asking for each day. In the 'Welcome Area' each morning we will have a box for donations and our aim is to try and ensure we tick off each item. We know some of the items will be bigger outlays than others and we obviously are not asking for any one family to donate every item on the list. Any items that are donated will be greatly appreciated by the trust and used to support vulnerable individuals and families in the local community. We are more than happy for items to be brought each day or for items to be brought in at the same time (especially since some days are the weekend and we finish on the 15th December). Each day we will try to photograph the collection of that day's items and put it on our 'X' (twitter) feed so if you don't follow us this may be the time to start @BristolMet.

Many thanks in advance on behalf of The Julian Trust and we are really looking forward to seeing what we can collect, as a community, to support the trust in the great work they do.



Day	Item	Day	Item
1	Backpack/School Bag	13	Readymade custard
2	Packet of Biscuits	14	New mens boxer shorts
3	Tinned Tomatoes	15	Washing powder
4	Roll on Deodorant	16	Bag for life
5	Tinned Meat	17	UHT Long life milk
6	Bar of Chocolate	18	Pair of gloves
7	Packet of Pasta (not spaghetti)	19	Sandwich pickle
8	Individual packets of tissue	20	Shaving foam
9	Wooly hat	21	Pasta/Curry sauce
10	Coffee	22	Drinking squash
11	Tinned fruit	23	Sleeping bag or blanket
12	New pair of socks	24	Hot chocolate
25	Consider volunteering some time to The Julian Trust. Check their website for contact details		

I hope all families have a lovely rest of November.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw
Principal

