

13 October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of this half term next Friday I am pleased to be able to write to you to let you know about some of the things that have been happening in school since we started in September and to give you advanced notice of some forthcoming events.

### **Exam Results**

If you follow our Twitter account or have checked the website recently you will know that our Summer exam results were really pleasing. Over 45% of grades at A Level were A\*, A or B and our GCSE Progress 8 score (the new government measure) was positive – meaning that our children, on average, achieved better grades than they were expected to based on their prior data. We were delighted to be able to celebrate our children's academic and other achievements at our Awards Evening in September. The Catholic writer and broadcaster Joanna Bogle gave a memorable keynote address to the award winners which challenged them all to aim high. An aspiration that we all share for the children at St John Bosco College.

### **Growing the School**

As many of you will already be aware the number of pupils applying to join St John Bosco College in Year 7 and in the Sixth Form has risen considerably this year. We are delighted that the school is growing in this way and continue to work hard to ensure that good reputation of the school continues to spread in to the local community. The conduct of our pupils on their way to and from school has a significant impact on the way that people perceive the school. I know that the overwhelming majority of our pupils are fantastic ambassadors for the school and conduct themselves in an exemplary way on their journey. There have been one or two occasions this term however, when a small minority of students have let themselves and the school down by being noisy or boisterous in public while travelling home. Please do remind your child about the importance of conducting themselves in the right way on their journey. Misbehaviour in school uniform outside of school will not be tolerated.

### **Extra-curricular Programme and Trips**

Since September we have seen the launch of our extra-curricular programme which has proved popular with students. There is a wide variety of activities on offer, particularly popular are Netball, Rugby, Cooking club, Table Tennis, Drama club and Homework club. Students have also had the chance to learn from a range of external speakers including visitors from SAME Academy talking about road safety, the RAF talking about careers and Michael Bartley HR consultant talking about the importance of studying RE for strengthening job prospects.

We have seen a number of successful trips out of school this term with students visiting places as diverse as the 'What Career Show' at Olympia, The School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) in Central London, 'The Lion King' at the Lyceum Theatre in the West End and St George's RC Cathedral Southwark to name a few.

Next summer we plan to run trips to Paris and to Southern Spain. Please contact Mrs Sarah Picton [Head of MFL] at school for more details if you would like your child to be involved.

### **Homework**

Homework is a key part of our students' learning. Please do check that your child is doing their homework every evening and report any concerns to us here at school. Your child should be using the Show My Homework App or website to manage their homework. There were some technical hitches at the start of term but these have now been ironed out. If your child is still experiencing difficulty logging on to the site, please contact their tutor to ensure that this can be resolved quickly.

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Mr Paul Dunne MA

Joint Trustees:  
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Salesians of Don Bosco

### **Keeping Your Child Safe Online**

You will be aware of the need to keep our children safe when they are online and of the challenges this presents particularly around their use of mobile technology. To help support you with this we are running an 'E-Safety Coffee Morning' on Friday 20 October 2017 at 9.00 am here at school. You will have a chance to hear the latest advice and suggested good practice for parents on this issue. There will also be an opportunity to have a coffee and a chat with staff and other parents about how best to support your child in this area.

### **Emergency Lockdown Procedures**

Schools, along with all other public buildings, are required to have appropriate lockdown procedures in place to be able to deal with the unlikely event of a major incident such as an intruder on site. We have an emergency lockdown protocol in place at St John Bosco College and we will be holding a drill for staff and students in the week of 30 October 2017 to ensure that staff and children are fully aware of what they'd need to do if the lockdown procedures are triggered.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We will be having our first parents' evenings of the academic year after half-term. Please note the following dates in your diary:

Year 7 parents' evening on Wednesday 1 November at 5.00 pm

Year 8 parents' evening on Tuesday 28 November at 4.30 pm

It is extremely important for parents to attend these events. If you have any concerns about your child's progress please do get in touch with their form tutor or Head of Year to discuss them.

### **St John Bosco Association**

All our parents are warmly invited to join our Parent Teacher Association (PTA) the St John Bosco Association. It is a great opportunity to get to know other parents and to work closely with key staff to help to raise funds and support the work of the school.

We are also keen to get parents more actively involved in supporting the school for example through acting as ambassadors for St John Bosco College with our feeder primary schools and working with us to review the parents' pages on our website and making suggestions for how these can be improved to support you. Please contact Ms Maria Bud [Assistant Headteacher] at school to find out how you can be involved.

### **Sad news**

We were deeply saddened to learn of death of Mr Desmond Williams recently. Mr Williams worked at St John Bosco College as Cover Supervisor and PE instructor and was a talented dance teacher. He was at the school from its opening in 2011 until earlier this year and was a very popular member of staff. Please pray for the repose of his soul and keep his family in your prayers.

### **Half-Term Holiday**

We break up for half-term at 2.10 pm on Friday 20 October 2017. School starts again at 8.40 am on Monday 30 October 2017. I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, relaxing and safe half-term break.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Dunne  
Headteacher