



11 December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

## Re: 'Routines of comfort' (December 2024)

Tradition is such an important part of Christmas celebrations. 'Routines' turn into magical experiences at Christmas and regardless of what or who our students believe in, I hope that each and every person finds some magic and hope during the Christmas period.

Our school has a great sense of tradition and pride in its routines and high standards, whether they be in our preparations for our annual Christmas Graduation Concert in the last week of term or simply in our routine quality assurance processes. We had our termly 'health check' inspection this term and welcomed an Ofsted inspector into the school to examine in particular our provision of science teaching and learning as well as Sixth Form life. It was heart-warming to hear how the students spoke with such pride about their school. The inspector said that in all the schools he had visited, he had never heard students speak with such eloquent insight about their school. We are committed to continually improving our school, listening and learning from others as we help our young people prepare for life beyond our walls. Our bid submitted this term, to be re-accredited as an International School will help that continual improvement as does the parental feedback we are currently gathering ([Parent Voice Questionnaire – Autumn '24](#)). (Click the link to add your voice).

Our students performed remarkably in 'Matilda Jr' this week. Our Christmas Jumper Day this year is held in support of Coventry Foodbank whilst our advent Finham Bake Off raised money for Myton Hospice. Our Christmas Graduation Concert next week will be attended by over five hundred people at Coventry Cathedral. It's always a joy to see students growing in confidence as they get older and get more and more involved in giving back to their communities.

We have been talking with students about how the most precious thing at Christmas is not the presents or the things we eat and drink, though they may be wonderful! One of the most precious and magical things about Christmas is the time spent with family and friends, reflecting on what we truly value in life. Traditionally, Christmas is a time where family and friends get together, it can be a time for reflection and of setting new goals. However, it will also be a time of difficulty and perhaps sadness for many of us and our young people. Our foundations can come in many forms: faith; family; friends; rule of law... and when these are shaken or tested, it can be hard to see and appreciate the good that we have in our lives.

I do hope you get time to pause over the Christmas break, feel refreshed for the New Year and are able to move into 2025 with enthusiasm and optimism for the future, knowing that the foundations that have been set will support you well with any challenges that may come. In the words of my favourite Christmas movie, 'The Polar Express' (which is now 20 years old), *"Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see."*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully,

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