

The Douay Martyrs Catholic Secondary School



Wednesday 9th January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly I would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

It seems to have been but a matter of only a few weeks ago that I was expressing a similar greeting for the beginning of 2018, and yet a whole year has passed. I am sure that I am not alone in my opinion that a year seems so much shorter than it ever used to be!

With the passing of the winter season and the lengthening of the days we become aware that spring (new life) is on the horizon. Gardeners begin to prepare the land for planting and awaiting life to burst forth as a result of longer days and warmer weather.

Christians are also looking forward with hope, awaiting the arrival of the Risen Lord. Every great event or accomplishment requires preparation, effort and sacrifice. We like the farmers must prepare ourselves to receive our Risen Lord and Saviour when he comes.

The season of Lent commence on Wednesday 6 March – **Ash Wednesday** – and every student will have the opportunity of receiving ashes. As this is a day when the Catholic Church asks her members to abstain from meat, and to make it a day of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, the school canteen will not be selling any form of meat, cakes, deserts or sweets on this day.

Lent is a time of spiritual preparation, of prayer, of digging deep to discover and become more like how we were created, in the image and likeness of God (Gen 1). Lent is more about cultivating our growth in love and forgiveness. Lent is that invitation to draw closer to Jesus and to renew within us the life of faith. The first fruit of faith is prayer, along with two other traditional dimensions of Lent: fasting and almsgiving. However, Lent is not essentially about 'giving up things', Lent is essentially about a giving of; it is a change of mind and heart, having a different attitude to everything. All our students will have the opportunity for prayer and the opportunity for self-giving – directed to those in need. There is no greater sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God among us than the compassion we show to others in need.

During the season of Lent the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) has been organised for all students from Years 7-13. Also, during this beautiful season there will be opportunities for silence, for prayer and reflections for the whole school community.

Yours sincerely,

Luisa M. Foley
School Chaplain

Headteacher:
Mr Anthony Corish
B.A, M.A, P.G.C.E, N.P.Q.H

Edinburgh Drive, Ickenham
UB10 8QY

01895 679400

office@douaymartyrs.co.uk
www.douaymartyrs.co.uk