



# ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Be it known...*

28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Dear Parents & Carers

It has been an exciting start to the year. We were blessed to witness our faith to Year 7 & 12 and to new members of staff as we began the term, with Mass celebrated by Abbot Hugh in Aquinas hall. The rest of our student body returned the following day and a new academic year was soon underway.

Our new Year 7 students are becoming familiar with the school, and I was pleased to present their Bibles in assembly at the end of their first full week. This keepsake is a tradition of St John Payne, providing a lasting testament of the values at the heart of our community, and just one of the many gifts students will take with them at the end of their time with us.

Fencing was installed during the summer to increase security, with a second phase planned to extend along the front of Aquinas building. Last week's fire drill saw a highly ordered evacuation of the building; students responded in a mature and conscientious manner. It is a sobering and regrettable necessity that later this term I must write to detail plans for a practice lockdown drill.

Fencing has also returned to Merici playground, aiding PE lessons and providing a space for ball games during social time. New dining arrangements see seated eating in Aquinas hall, establishing a pleasant, community atmosphere. I enjoy speaking with students at this time - they are always keen to share their experiences of the school.

Thomas Coen, Headteacher

## Events & Notices

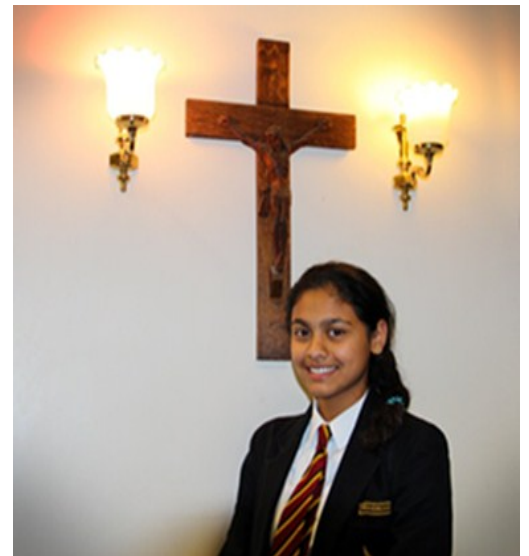
Rehearsals for Julia Caesar have begun.

Today Y7 attended an Online Safety presentation.

4<sup>th</sup> October: Bishop Alan's visit/Open evening. Early closure 1.30 p.m.

5<sup>th</sup> October: closed to students

Students need not visit their HOY when unwell if their teacher has given permission to leave a lesson; they can go directly to the medical room.



## Celebrations & successes

Well done to coach George and the Y11 football team for their success in a penalty shootout to reach the next round of the Essex Cup.

Y9 & 10 students received a letter from Miss Semambo and a prize from Mr Coen for their success in writing accounts of witnessing an event in the life of Christ for the schools' Bible competition. Special mention goes to Praise, selected for a joint national 2<sup>nd</sup> prize, which includes a visit to the House of Lords later this year.

We thank our student readers who share the readings during assembly each week. Students with musical ability are encouraged to see Mr Healey or their HOY if they wish to sing or play as students enter and leave the hall.

Students are encouraged to share their achievements with their Tutor or HOY. Each Friday Mr Coen looks forward to seeing students for an ice lolly or hot chocolate to extend his congratulations.

*...to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school.*

