



Archbishop Blanch  
SCHOOL

**Archbishop Blanch School** Voluntary Aided

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Headteacher: Mrs C Madeloso BA(Hons), MA, PGCE, NPQH

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

In my final letter of the calendar year, I am thankful that we have survived this term. It has been a difficult year for so many people within our school community and I am sure we are all looking forward to the Christmas break.

In this letter, I would usually include the many celebrations and achievements of the school, but as you know we are living in very different times. However, on a positive note our students have in all things continued with an excellent attitude to learning, with attendance remaining exceptionally high.

This term, we have switched to online tours of the school, virtual Parents Evenings and "blended learning". This has at times provided challenges both at home and in school, but I am very proud of the progress we have all made under these much changed circumstances.

During November and December, we welcomed the Army to school to conduct Lateral Flow Testing. As always, the staff and students tackled the challenge head on and we managed to test over 550 students within three hours, minimising any disruption to learning.

Despite the restrictions in place, we were able to welcome a number of inspirational speakers into school this year, both virtually and socially distanced. Visitors included Shaping Futures, The Girls Network, Antony Stagg (Careers Advice) and the Liverpool Law Society. Sixth Form students enjoyed 'Meeting the Professionals', with sessions delivered on Law, Journalism, Engineering, Banking (Santander), Quantity Surveying (Lang O'Rourke) and Accountancy (Grant Thornton). Some Year 12 students also took part in an 'Aspiring Medics Day' with the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

We even managed to squeeze in a bit of charity fundraising, with a very successful McMillan Coffee morning, a 'Hair Down Day' in aid of World Mental Health, Lets Go Neon For Neonatal Event, raising money for these very worthwhile causes.

Although the usual award ceremony has not yet taken place, I am delighted to say the school has been shortlisted as finalists in the North West Educate Awards for 'Most Inspirational Secondary School' and 'Leadership Team of the Year'. This is testament to the hard work of staff at all levels who most certainly "go the extra mile to ensure pupils and students flourish", as noted in our Ofsted inspection.

I was pleased that we still managed to hold our annual Remembrance Day Service through remote access on 11 November. It was great to be able to do this as a school community. We look forward to adapting our worship further in the coming terms.

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FORGIVENESS > FRIENDSHIP COMPASSION > COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING > TRUST

As we are coming to the end of the first full term, our normal experience of the last week leading to Christmas would be to have our rewards trips and cultural capital experiences. We were very aware that the pandemic has not only had a profound impact on the academic experiences of the pupils, but also the cultural capital experiences of going to the theatre, cathedral, visiting museums and many, many more. We felt it only fitting to end the term celebrating all of our individual subjects and immersing the pupils in as many cultural experiences as we possibly can. Over the two days the pupils will take part in tasting cuisine from different countries, watching and performing a pantomime, learning a different language, taking part in a court case, walking the streets of Edwardian Britain and much more. We hope the pupils enjoy the experiences and end the year on a high.

Students will also enjoy a carousel of activities on Thursday, which will include our traditional Talent Show (pre-recorded version), Santa Dash, Quiz, Celebration Assemblies and a Christmas Service broadcast, all whilst wearing Christmas accessories!

#### **KEY DATES FOR NEXT HALF TERM**

Tuesday, 5 January 2021	8.30 am	Return to School
Thursday 14 January	Time TBA	Year 9 Parents' Evening (virtual)
Thursday, 28 January	Virtual	Sixth Form Open Evening

Almost as soon as we return in January, many of our students will be sitting external exams as part of their courses. Some students will also be involved in controlled assessment. At this point it is critical to remember the importance of the health and safety of all students and staff in our school. Sending any child into school with Covid symptoms risks the education and wellbeing of all members of the school community. In so many cases, we may have been able to avoid asking students to isolate if national guidance had been followed. This includes isolating if another member of the household has symptoms, isolating whilst waiting for a test result and isolating if you are experiencing any Covid symptoms. Please use the following email address to report any positive cases: [C19Lead@blanch.org.uk](mailto:C19Lead@blanch.org.uk)

As previously notified, students will be dismissed at 2.35 pm on Thursday, 17 December and I look forward to welcoming the students back to school on Tuesday, 5 January 2021 at 8.30 am.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs C Madeloso**  
**Headteacher**