

28th November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Christmas events during the month of December

If you are like me, December seems to have sprung on us quickly this year and Christmas is fast approaching! The Academy will be taking part in a number of events/celebrations throughout December and will as usual be supporting local charities.

Performances

The Choir, BSL group and Dance Company will be performing on **Wednesday 4th December 10.00am** as part of the annual Christmas Tree festival held at **St Paul's Church, St Paul's Square, Bedford MK40 1SQ.**

Parents/carers/friends are most welcome to attend this event and there is a small fee of £2.50 (donation) to enter and view the performances and Christmas trees on display. Students should come to school as normal and will travel by coach to and from the church. Mr Boast sent out a letter outlining the details for those taking part. We wish them all the best in their performances in what is already becoming a Wixams Academy tradition.

Our own Academy Christmas concert will be held on **Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th December** starting at 7.00pm. Many of our students will be taking part, and I hope you will be able to come to celebrate all their hard work. Tickets will be available to purchase from the dining hall during lunchtime from Monday 2nd December. Cash is preferred but cheques, made payable to BCAT, will be accepted. Tickets cost £3 for adults and £2 for children and concessions. Babies in arms are free. Tickets are sold on a first come first served basis, so please ensure you get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. Please endeavour to arrive by 6.50pm as late entry to the concert can be distracting for the students who have worked so hard. It is wonderful to see so many students from different year groups working together to produce performances of such a high standard. I am always proud of their work, and this year is no exception.

Christmas Lunch

On **Wednesday 18th December** the normal lunchtime menu will be replaced with a traditional Christmas dinner (or vegetarian option). A letter has already gone home to parents via students and ParentMail. If your daughter/son would like to participate, please return the slip at the bottom on that letter as soon as possible. The deadline for ordering Christmas dinner is 10th December.

Charity:

Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 13th December** the Academy will once again be supporting 'National Christmas Jumper Day' in aid of Save the Children. Students may wear non-school uniform and a Christmas jumper. A donation of £1 per student will be collected by form tutors.

Wixams Academy 'Giving Tree'

The aim of this tree is that families would purchase a new, small gift (unwrapped but with wrapping paper) to be donated to children (of all ages) in need over the Christmas period via the FACES charity. Your child will personally place their gift under the Christmas tree located in the Assembly Hall.

Gifts can be sent in to school from **Monday 2nd December to Wednesday 11th December**. The PTA have once again kindly volunteered to wrap the gifts in preparation for collection by the FACES representative, and any offers of support for wrapping would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Dani Higginson at dhigginson@wixamsacademy.co.uk if you can help.

Reverse Advent

As part of our understanding of different faiths within the Academy, students have been learning about the Christian meaning of Christmas and of the period called Advent. This year, students are taking part in Bedford Foodbank's Reverse Advent Calendar scheme. Each year group will receive a ParentMail message with a list of items, and a specific week in the run up to Christmas in which to kindly donate something from their list.

There is no obligation to take part in any of our charity events and we have been grateful for your support with all the charity events we have held this term.

End of term arrangements

The Academy will close for the Christmas holidays at **1.15pm on Friday 20th December**. School buses will collect students at 1.15pm.

The Academy opens its doors to students at 8.40am on **Monday 6th January 2020**. Breakfast club will operate as usual.

The staff at Wixams Academy would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and peaceful holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mrs L Pearson
Assistant Principal