



ST ALBAN'S RC HIGH SCHOOL
The Park, Pontypool, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

YSGOL UWCHRADD GATHOLIG SAIN ALBAN
Y Parc, Pontypwl, Torfaen, NP4 6XG

Headteacher: Michael Coady BSc.

06 April 2017

EASTER LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parents

I am sure that you are aware by now that Torfaen LEA has put forward proposals to reorganise post 16 education in the borough. There have been many objections to this from the Governing Body at St Alban's, from the staff, the students and many parents and while others may argue the case for the post 16 reorganisation, as Headteacher I feel the objections are well founded.

Our sixth form provides a special environment that I think is pretty unique and I am reminded of this almost daily. Let me describe just a few examples. Our sixth form mock trial team were crowned Welsh champions for the second year running and have recently participated in the UK finals in the Royal Courts of Justice in London. We are still waiting the final placings but we believe the team did very well. Our sixth form engineering team have also become Welsh champions. Their design of a new braking system for lorries using lasers to guide how efficiently brake pads can be applied and removed, leading to less wear and tear and a significant reduction in harmful dust particles, is indeed a worthy winner. The team now go forward to the UK engineering final in Birmingham in a few weeks and they are hopeful of success. In addition to these exceptional successes, there are activities that we have taken for granted as a routine part of our sixth form life such as our Choir and our School Productions, and the Cast of 'Joseph' excelled again this year. Our students have also participated in visits to Westminster and Auschwitz and played a very active role in raising money for CAFOD.

Being in St Alban's sixth form is being part of a special environment and a special culture and you have only to read the Facebook message boards of our many alumni to realise how important St Alban's was in shaping their lives. There are many young people who have benefitted greatly from being part of our sixth form environment; it is a great shame that young people in the future may be deprived of this opportunity.

St Alban's R.C. High School may face some changes, however, because the school is built on rock solid foundations of very strong culture and values it will continue to thrive and be successful – whatever comes our way.

Elsewhere there have been other notable successes: Our Senior netball teams both received awards at the South East Wales Netball presentation evening. The Year 11 team won the South East Wales area round of the Ann Smart Trophy and went on to represent the area in the regional finals. They were one of eight teams at the finals from across the whole of Wales. The standard of netball was extremely high and the girls were a credit to the school. The team ended up finishing 4th best in Wales which is a considerable achievement that no other netball team from this school has ever done. The Year 10 team have also had a successful season, winning the Year 10 league. They won their group and went on to play Monmouth Comprehensive School in the Semi-finals and then Caerleon in the final. Congratulations to all involved!



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As we approach Easter, our Lenten journey has been one of hope and change and being alive to Christ's message. The students began their journey with our Ash Wednesday Liturgies encouraging them to take up CAFOD's Lenten challenge. Every morning Forms have been reflecting on CAFOD's Lenten appeal and the global impact their actions can have. Over a hundred students sacrificed their usual lunch and participated in CAFOD's Hunger Lunch to raise funds for those most in need. During the weeks that followed the Reconciliation Liturgies and Sacrament of Reconciliation, celebrated by the priests from our local parishes gave students the time to re-establish their relationships with God in preparation for Easter. During the final week of school our students also participated in the journey Christ took by reflecting on the Stations of the Cross.

The Paschal mystery of Easter celebrating the death and resurrection of Christ is the greatest liturgical event celebrating events from Palm Sunday, through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil. We have supplied some of the local parish mass times and would encourage you and your children to attend your local parish masses during Holy Week and Easter.

I would like to wish all our students and their families a very happy and holy Easter

Yours sincerely

MICHAEL COADY
HEADTEACHER

EASTER SERVICES

St Alban's Parish	Vigil Mass	Saturday 8th April @ 6pm	St Alban's
	Mass	Sunday 9 th April @ 9am	Sacred Heart & St. Felix
	Mass	Sunday 9 th April @ 11am	St Alban's
	Mass of the Lords Supper Maundy Thursday 13 th April @ 7pm Followed by Watching until 10pm		St Alban's
	Liturgy of the Passion	Good Friday 14 th April @ 3pm	St Alban's
	Stations of the Cross	Good Friday 14th April @ 7pm	St Alban's
	Morning Office	Holy Saturday 15 th April @ 10am	St Alban's
	The Easter Vigil	Saturday 15 th April @ 8pm	St Alban's
	Mass	Easter Sunday 16 th April @ 9am	Sacred Heart & St. Felix
	Mass	Easter Sunday 16th April @ 11am	St Alban's



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Our Lady and Saint Michael	Vigil Mass	Saturday 8th April @ 6.30pm	OLSM
	Mass	Palm Sunday 9 th April @ 11am and 6.30pm	OLSM
	Mass	Monday 10 th April @ 10am	OLSM
	Mass	Tuesday 11 th April @ midday	OLSM
	Mass Maundy Thursday @ 7pm Followed by Watching until 9pm		OLSM
	Stations of the Cross	Good Friday 14 th April @ 11am	OLSM
	Liturgy	3pm	OLSM
	Easter Vigil	8.30pm	OLSM

Our Lady of the Angel's	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Friday 7 th April 11am – 12pm	OLA
		Monday 10 th April @ 7pm	(Deanery Priests)
	Sacred Paschal Triduum Holy Thursday	Thursday 13 th @ 7.30pm	OLA
	Good Friday	Friday 14 th @ 3pm	OLA
	Easter Vigil	Saturday 15 th @ 7.30pm	OLA
	Easter Sunday	Sunday 16 th @ 9.30am	OLA

St David's	Sacrament of Reconciliation	Tuesday 11 th April 10am – 11am	St David's
	Sacred Paschal Triduum Good Friday	Friday 14 th @ 3pm	St David's
	Easter Sunday	Sunday 16 th @ 11.15am	St David's