

December 2021

Hi All,

Happy Christmas holidays!

I hope all families connected to D6A get to have some special times together over the next couple of weeks and get a good break ready for the New Year.

I've spoken to lots of new applicants who are currently in year 11 this last half term. It's brilliant to hear so many of them saying they've heard great things about our college from friends, relatives and siblings that are students here. Certainly our reputation as the place to come to for A level study in Bradford continues to grow.

We enjoyed record numbers applying for medicine and Oxbridge this term and in the New Year student will start to receive their offers for university places. While these destinations are important I'm actually more excited by the number of our students selecting Manchester and Leeds as their first choice universities – having two of the country's top 10 universities so close to us is a real asset – especially for students that want to live at home, or those that want to come home at weekends (no doubt with their washing from the week!).

Despite the ongoing Covid challenges, this last term has seen the start to the College's competitive sports teams. Playing colleges that are larger and have more students to select teams from will always be a challenge for us. We don't do 'over-praise' so it's fair to say this year we are learning the standard required and busy developing students through additional coaching and training. Our men's first team at football are at the top of their table so it's looking good for promotion at the end of the year to the elite level. Our first netball season has started with a couple of tough games, but just last week we defeated Bradford New College so it's great to end the year beating our good friends down the road.

With our academic reputation it will be no surprise for families to hear that we've performed well in a number of subject competitions – perhaps most notably the National Senior Maths Challenge where we have 8 students taking on the Senior Kangaroo competition. In Physics we've also just heard that all five students taking the Physics Challenge examination have received top outcomes.

Each year in the run up to Christmas we use our building as an art installation – this year it will be on the 16th December and switch on will be at 4:30PM – so if you are going up or down Manchester Road look out for our message.

In terms of the absolute heart of our College – the academic progress of your son or daughter – many of you will know that students sat very significant key assessments at the start of December – you will be sent the grades your son or daughter achieve in these exams in a separate letter. I would encourage all families to discuss these grades together and then after Christmas students will be working with teachers to plan how they will be able to continue their development.

Wishing you all a restful break,

Mark

