

19 December 2024

## HEADTEACHER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Another year has come and gone, the older I get the faster they go. We can now look forward to a well-deserved rest; the prospect of Christmas will cheer us up and lift our spirits away from the cold, dark and depressing weather of the season. As Christmas draws closer, it is inevitable that our minds start to drift away from the hard work of the day-to-day school business to the festive period itself.

The festive season is a time for joy, reflection, and togetherness. It offers us a chance to take a well-deserved break, recharge, and spend quality time with our loved ones. As we prepare for the Christmas holidays, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by our students and staff throughout the year.

Our Year 7 students have made a superb transition to secondary school, demonstrating resilience and a positive attitude. They have quickly adapted to their new environment and have become an integral part of our school community. I am confident that they will continue to thrive and achieve great things in the years to come. The Year 8s and 9s continue to move through their Key Stage 3 curriculums, the Year 10s have made a strong start to their new Key Stage 4 subjects.

For our Year 11 students, the upcoming year will be crucial as they prepare for their final exams. I know they will face these challenges with determination and the support of our dedicated staff. We are committed to providing them with the guidance and resources they need to succeed.

One of the highlights of this term has been the preparation for our school production of 'We Will Rock You.' Over 200 students from all year groups have been involved, and their hard work and enthusiasm have been truly inspiring. I am looking forward to seeing their efforts come to fruition in January.

As we look ahead to the new year, we remain focused on improving attendance and ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed. Good attendance is vital for academic success, and we will continue to strive for excellence in this area.

I am sure you would like to join with me in thanking all the staff at Ecclesfield School for their tremendous hard work and commitment to the students during the year. We have many challenges ahead and we will not stop in making sure we offer the very best experiences to all our children. We don't forget that this is the biggest school in the city and this brings its own challenges but we have stuck together as a community and we can't put a price on that.

I would like to praise our students who have in the vast majority have stepped up to the challenges over the last year. Our school values of aim high, show grit, be kind and work hard are needed more than ever in the world we live in. We understand how important the school is to the community and we strive to make sure we lead and play our part in it.

As always at this time of year we are saying goodbye to some long serving staff who are both retiring and moving on to new jobs and promotions. Ernie Wild who has been a technician here for 34 years, Viviana Barry who has been a first aider for 17 years, Amanda Eaton who has been a science technician for 28 years and Kathryn Davenport, also a science technician, who has been here for 9 years are all retiring. They have all been brilliant and loyal staff to this school and they go with our thanks, love, congratulations, and best wishes.

Claire Johnson , one of our Assistant Headteachers is leaving us after 7 years and is moving to Stocksbridge High for a Deputy Headship, she thoroughly deserves this opportunity and we will miss her immensely.

May I remind you that school will reopen for all students on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 8.40am.**

On behalf of everyone at Ecclesfield School we wish you, your family, and the students a wonderful and peaceful Christmas and all the very best for 2025.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard M. Hall'.

Headteacher