

22 December 2023

## HEADTEACHER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

I can't quite believe it, but we have come to the end of another year. 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.

It has been a good year for us but a challenging one too as we continue to try to be the best we can. The term itself has been extremely busy with lots of changes taking place but as usual, our staff and students have given their best. We have had a hard, but rewarding time that sets us up for the Spring Term and the challenges that lay ahead.

The transition to Secondary School is never easy, but our Year 7s have settled in nicely and continue to impress everybody with their positive attitude. We have been particularly impressed with how they have adapted to their new environment and have demonstrated resilience and independence in adapting to this. They have proven to be a strong, positive and resilient bunch of students and I have great hopes for them as they progress in their Ecclesfield careers.

Our Year 11s will enter into the final calendar year of their Ecclesfield careers and this will bring a lot of challenges that will need to be met head on but as always they will do so with a huge support from school and the experience and expertise that exists in this building.

The school is really excited about our whole school production of, '*Grease*' in January that involves over 200 students from across **all 5 year groups**. The students along with the dedicated staff have worked tirelessly for months to make sure they put on a great show.

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. Our biggest driver as we enter the second term is attendance, we are determined to get back to pre-pandemic levels. We are not there yet but as a school we will strive for this every day. I can't express how important this is to us.

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.

Be aware from January our uniform supplier has lowered their prices and these can be seen on the website.

I would like to end by saying thank you for your continued support as we work together to offer the very best learning opportunities and experiences for your child.

School will reopen for all students on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 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 2024.

Take care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Walkden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Headteacher  
**Richard Walkden**