



HEADTEACHER: MELISSA ROBERTS

LONDON ROAD, TRENT VALE, STOKE-ON-TRENT, ST4 5NT

TS/hr/Advent
23 November 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As we enter into the Advent Season, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas, we look for ways to prepare as a school community. As part of this, we encourage our students to participate in acts of giving. Once more, we will especially be focusing on reaching out to those in our local community.

This Advent each year group will have a particular focus, please see a brief outline followed by further information below:

Year 7: New toy donation for the Gingerbread Charity.

Year 8: New toy donation for the Gingerbread Charity.

The Gingerbread Centre is a unique charity that works with homeless families to provide them with accommodation and a wide variety of support so all types of needs can be addressed. You can read more about their work at:

<https://gingerbreadcentre.co.uk/>

More Information for the Year 7 & 8 Students will be shared with them in their Virtues lessons in School.

Year 9: Christmas food bank donation for local food banks.

Year 10: Christmas food bank donation for local food banks.

Year 11: Christmas food bank donation for local food banks.

Our food bank donations will support a number of local food bank charities in the local area who do a great deal of work to alleviate food poverty. Charities include the Stoke-on-Trent food bank and the Alice Charity. You can read more about their work at:

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/stokeontrent/>

<https://alicecharity.org/>

Information on the types of items to include will be shared with the Y9, Y10 & Y11 students and will be shared with them by their form tutors. This information will also be available in students team groups.

Sixth Form: Opening Doors Appeal

The Edmund Rice Schools' Network is fundraising to build two preschool classrooms in the township of Mamelodi, South Africa. In a vulnerable area such as this, early years provision can truly transform the community by:

- ensuring babies and toddlers are properly nourished
- educating pre-schoolers into the best primary schools

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- enabling young (often single) mothers to work and support their families
- providing local employment

A video advertising the appeal can be seen at: <https://youtu.be/GndpwUSWXI8?si=NQE7SUpW6pXaFSQf>

We are asking Sixth Form students to support this by bringing loose change – at least a £1 to support the appeal. Just £5 buys a bag of cement! Imagine what the whole of the Sixth Form could buy!

More information will be shared to Sixth Form students by their form tutors and in the year group teams.

Year 7 and 8 have been asked to bring their donations to their Virtues lessons. Everyone else, please bring your donation into school by no later than Monday 11th December, this to allow us to get the donations out to the respective charities in time for the end of Advent and the start of Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Selby
Lay Chaplain