



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE

23 May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

At St Joseph's College, we believe that Religious Education 'should not only be concerned with intellectual knowledge but also include emotional and affective learning'. This is backed up by the RE Curriculum Directory that states without Religious Education, 'pupils would be deprived of an essential element of their formation and personal development'. With this in mind, we held our first 'Breathe Fortnight' whereby our focus was on our Global Community and those most in need of our thoughts and prayers; refugees and migrants. Indeed, in total as a whole school we had walked 550 miles, to keep in mind the refugees and migrant who are making this difficult journey.

For the Year 9 students in the next half term, our focus will be the local community and raising money for our House Charities. This programme will be conducted during normal timetabled lessons and requires students to identify social issues in their local area and engage with our House Charities whose work addresses these issues:

- Shelter from the Storm (Beulah House)
- South Norwood Community Kitchen (Hill House)
- South London Refugees (Dane House)
- Croydon Food Bank (Brooklands House)
- British Home Hospice (Grange House)
- Maudsley Charity Health in Mind (Netherton House)

As part of the programme, students will research the House Charities addressing issues that they care about. The students will then plan some social action to help the charity – this could be awareness raising activities or fundraising. There will be opportunity for your son to use ICT and fundraise to support these charities. In order to do this they will also have opportunity to: research the work of the House Charities, create posters advertising their fundraising, record TV adverts, make business-style pitches to perform etc. Students who are not cooperating with the programme will be put on an alternative curriculum where they will continue studying Religious Education through other means, e.g. textbook work. Please encourage your son to make the most out of this experience and raise money for these House Charities.

Throughout the programme, your son will develop key professional skills such as teamwork, research, public speaking and leadership. We also hope they will find the programme challenging and enriching as they are asked to consider how to make our communities better places. Ultimately, it will make the students think about how to help the community that they are in and will aid in transforming the lives of many people.

If you have any questions regarding the programme please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Arthur
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