



# Malbank School & Sixth Form College

*Rejoice in being the best that we can be.*

2nd December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we move towards Christmas, I wanted to take the opportunity to write to you to thank you for your support over the course of this first term. Students in all years have made a strong start to their learning and we are immensely proud of the fact that the number of students currently on roll at Malbank are the highest in our history with applications to join us in year 7 2025 at similar record-breaking levels to last year.

With regards our final three weeks, there are several events that help to bring a little Christmas spirit to the school calendar. Our **Christmas lunches** start on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of December with year 8 up first (in a change of billing from our previously advertised dates) followed by year 11 on the Friday and 7,9 and 10 on the Monday to Wednesday of the following week. These year group family moments are a lovely way for our students to celebrate the end of term together and tickets are available for students to purchase from the deli counter in the boulevard. Students in receipt of free school meals are encouraged to take up the offer of a Christmas meal as although the cost of the meal is a little higher than their daily allocation, the school will bridge the gap and cover costs to make sure these students are able to take part – make sure you get your ticket!


In the run up to Christmas we have already enjoyed the fantastic performances of our musical superstars at our Winter showcase in November, however there is another chance to enjoy some festive cheer and music at our annual **Carol Service** at St Mary's church in Nantwich at 7pm on Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of December.

We are also excited to host our first PTA event this year - our stall-filled, mulled wine fest of a Christmas Fayre which takes place at 5.30pm on Friday the 6<sup>th</sup> of December in our School Boulevard.

In terms of in-school events, we will for the first time be inviting our senior prefects to help decorate our school tree today (Monday 2nd of December) and this will be swiftly followed by our growing tradition of the House Christmas tree decoration competition in the boulevard! We will also be supporting the national **Christmas Jumper Day** on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December in aid of Save the Children. Voluntary donations are encouraged to this great cause and children in all years are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on the day. Please note – this is not a non-uniform day – all normal uniform expectations are in place; students are simply allowed to wear a Christmas jumper over their shirt should they wish.

**Rewards events** for the autumn term will take place on Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> for years 7 and 8 and Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> for years 9 and 10. These events will be open to the top 100 students in each year based on their lesson monitor scores.

 Headteacher: John D. Harrison B.A. (Hons.)

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Our annual **Live Aid** event at the end of term is something all our community looks forward to and we would like to invite all students to enjoy this final day of term in **non-uniform**. We have reduced the number of non-uniform days we have at Malbank in the last few years, and I am conscious of asking families for money, particularly at a point in the year when things are likely to be tighter. As such, students are simply welcome to give an entirely voluntary donation to their House charity should they wish to do so on the day.

This year our charities (as chosen by our recently elected 2024/25 Malbank Captains Council) are as follows: **Brereton**: Cancer Research UK, **Dorfold**: Children in Need, **Kent**: RDA (Riding for the Disabled Association) and **Wilbraham**: UNICEF. **The Sixth Form** will be supporting Milley's Smiles, a children's cancer charity.

**This Christmas, our term finishes at 1.00pm on Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>.** We have rearranged Mikro routes 1,2 and 84 and all local authority pre-arranged transport e.g. bespoke taxis. As is always the case, unfortunately we cannot reschedule the standard commercial services open to the public, these include the Stagecoach route 84 and D&G Services. We will of course supervise any students until 3.15pm if they are unable to make alternate transport arrangements. Please contact the relevant Key stage if you require this support.

On behalf of our Education for Life and Reading lead Mrs. Thorley, I would also like to remind all parents as we approach the holidays to remember that books make fantastic gifts! Not only do they nurture your child's love of reading, but if you purchase through *LoveReading* or *LoveReading4Kids*, you'll also support our school library with every order.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank a few staff who will leave us before the start of 2025. Mrs. Royle and Miss. Smith from our SEN team and Mrs. Moore who has been with us during Mrs. Scott's maternity all leave, and I wish them the very best in the future. Mr Shore in the PE Department will be leaving us at the end of this term, and I would like to thank him for all the hours he has given up over the years supporting our young sportsmen and women. From our social science team, we also lose Mr Swallow who leaves us to work closer to home – again we wish him all the best. Mrs. Powell leaves the Science team having worked at Malbank since 2014 and finally Mrs. Lunt our SENCO leaves us having worked in a role that has seen her have a significant impact on so many students during her time at Malbank. I would like to personally thank all the aforementioned staff for all they have contributed to our community during their collective time at Malbank.

As always, thank you in anticipation of your continued support for all we do at Malbank. Schools are at their best when they work collaboratively with home and when we support one another to get the best outcomes for our young people. I do not take it for granted that we get the support from home that we do and really appreciate the work you put in as families to remind your young people to revise, do their homework and make the right choices at school. We know Christmas can be a difficult time for some families so would like to extend our offer of support via our connections with the foodbanks to help any family in need of help. If you require any support of this nature, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the relevant key stage who will only be too happy to help.

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There will be an end of term video update from me on the last day and a festive edition of Gaudeamus via Microsoft Sway will also be released for you to enjoy alongside one or two festive TikToks over the next few weeks.

Have a lovely run in to the holidays.


Yours sincerely,

John Harrison  
Headteacher - Malbank School

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