

Monday 7 January 2019



Firstly, I would like to wish a Happy New Year to all our students, parents, carers, staff and those who support and work with the school. I hope that your Christmas has had peace, comfort and good will.

Staff returned to school today for a training day and all students return for the Spring Term on Monday 7 January.

All parents and carers have received an email with notice about the roadworks which are taking place on Gracechurch Street on Monday 7 and Tuesday 8 January. School is accessible throughout the day but the roadworks mean that passage through Gracechurch Street will not be possible throughout the day.

After the fun and activities at the end of term, we return focused and positive about the term ahead. In our first week back all students will have the opportunity to spend time in Prayer Space. This is the fourth year that we have run this week long period of reflection and have scheduled this to coincide with Advent in previous years, but in 2018 and 2019, we are using Epiphany to take time out to reflect. Students will visit a number of stations, which each have a different stimulus for reflection. These reflections are linked to Christian teachings but students benefit from taking time to stop and be at peace, whether with a strong sense of faith or with none. As Reverend Bates mentioned in her Christmas address, the time after Christmas can often leave one feeling flat and underwhelmed. We want students to remember what makes them the unique individuals they are, and know that after Christmas, just as before, we are all loved and valued.

At the start of 2019, I share with you all a prayer.

*This New Year*

*We are reminded that by the Lord's grace,*

*Each day is new,*

*Fresh and bursting with love,*

*From here to eternity.*

*Amen*

Julia Upton