

December 2008

Dear Parents,

Seasonal Greetings!

This term has seen an accreditation visit, some serious educational discussion across the sections on issues pertaining to whole school development, a whole day inset on SEN with reference to the gifted and talented to which PACT were invited, and working committees considering different models and their implications for extension of the secondary school timetable from Years 10-13. Teachers from the secondary school section have visited their colleagues in different areas of the primary school and there has been cross sectional dialogue between teachers of the secondary and Portuguese sections of the school regarding schemes of work at year 10 and 9^o ano levels. Debate has also been started about the nature of what we offer to our 11x group of students in their preliminary year before IB.

It is worth stressing that these debates have taken place in the free time of the teacher's concerned and I offer them my thanks for that. Our gratitude in the secondary school is also offered to Liz Wood from Primary who did such a dedicated and brilliant job in preparing the whole school for accreditation, in this she was assisted by many colleagues who took responsibility for our self study and will be, we hope, a gratified group of professionals when the accreditation report arrives here in the New Year.

Meanwhile the school has been functioning at a high level throughout what has been, as always, a busy term. There is no doubt that educational debate is a refreshing exercise but it inevitably depends for results on the achievement of consensus. The professional response of colleagues to some tough issues at the heart of school development has been instrumental to levels of consensus being achieved. You are always working to deadlines in education, whether you are a student or a teacher but it takes a very special staff to engage with this kind of work-load in addition to their primary responsibility to students.

In thanking those staff and students who have added color to what we do in the classroom by working beyond the classroom to produce three day sporting events, plays, jazz nights, MUN, concerts, and movements like Eco-forum and Global issues, not forgetting bodies who work for the school like prefects and student council, I am thanking those students and staff who make St Julian's special and build an identity we can celebrate and be proud of. A marvelous example of what I mean here could be seen at this year's Christmas concert which was simply superb.

On behalf of all the secondary school staff, I wish you and your family a peaceful and fulfilling Christmas and New Year.

N. Connolly
Secondary School Principal