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> Mr D Samson Headteacher

A Church of England Academy

12 October 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Year 7 Cathedral Visit and Service of Welcome

On Friday 20 October, Friday 3 November and Thursday 9 November Year 7 will be going, in their forms, on an educational visit to Carlisle Cathedral. As a Church School, our link with the Cathedral is very important. This is where we hold our Carol Service and our Leavers events for our Years 11 and 13 students, plus our Year 9 Awards event. It is a place we encourage our students to get to know and to use for themselves as they grow and develop. The Year 7 visit provides an interactive and accessible experience. Students will learn about the history and life of the Cathedral as a place of prayer and worship.

We hope it will be a time when their imagination might be sparked, as well as their sense of awe and wonder as they spend time in this remarkable building. For centuries Cathedrals have provided shelter, sanctuary and peace as well as promoting an understanding of beauty. We hope that our new students will begin to see our city's Cathedral as a space for them to enjoy and find peace in too.

On Friday 20 October it will be 7SJA, 7KRI and 7GWE. On Friday 3 November it will be 7FDG, 7JCO and 7RBR and then on Thursday 9 November it will be 7JPE, 7JBU and 7RHO. All of the visits will be in the afternoon and students will return to school after the visit and be dismissed from school at the usual time.

Staff (including those trained in first aid) will walk students to and from the Cathedral on both visits they make. Please be aware of weather conditions on the day of the visit and service and send appropriate clothing (e.g. a warm/waterproof coat).

The visit also introduces students to the venue for the Year 7 Welcome Service which takes place in the Cathedral on Thursday 16 November during period 5 and Tutor time, starting at approximately 2.00pm and is led by Canon Michael Manley and myself.

You are very welcome to join us at the service on 16 November. Unfortunately, there is no parking available in the Cathedral grounds but there are always spaces in West Walls car park.

We will be asking for student volunteers to read, write prayers and light candles during the service. We hope students will begin to think about whether they would like to be involved in this way.

If you any questions about this visit or the welcome service, please contact your child's Year group office.

Yours sincerely

Tim Burdon **School Chaplain** 

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