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Mr D Samson Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carer

30 September 2024

Re: Year 7 Cathedral Visit Workshops and Service of Welcome

On Friday 11 October, Friday 18 October and Friday 25 October 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 11 October it will be 7KMO, 7LHA and 7NSE. On Friday 18 October it will be 7JNI, 7JRB and 7SBD and then on Friday 25 October it will be 7JHO, 7JBR and 7KWI. 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 Friday 8 November during period 5 and Tutor time, starting at approximately 2.00pm.

You are very welcome to join us at the service on 8 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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