



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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Dear Parents and Carers

This term, our charity focus is No.11 and we will be working with our family of schools. No.11 is based at Swan Bank Church in Burslem and works with the homeless in our area. Their motto is, 'Building hope, restoring lives.' More information can be found on <http://number11.org.uk/>

No.11 works with the most vulnerable in our area, trying to understand the root causes of homelessness so that people who are caught in this cycle of poverty can rebuild and reshape their lives. No. 11 offers support through friendship, counselling and guidance. This means addressing and facing the problems that many homeless people face. Statistically, we know that Burslem is in the top 5% of the most deprived areas in the Country where 40% of the population of the town is unemployed. This is reflected throughout the City.

No.11 does not look for the 'quick fix', but strives to help people to become independent. This process takes time. It is a journey of understanding and self-help. In the initial stages support is offered to those in need to identify problems and addressing the need. Then moving and helping people look and prepare for job interviews. However, this has all been very difficult in the current Covid climate.

No.11 has asked for specific help. They have now re-opened their café. The café is an important contact for the homeless. Over lock-down, the homeless become more isolated. The café has provided them with the opportunity to re-engage with people and access support. The café needs tea, coffee, biscuits, cleaning materials, face masks, vinyl gloves and hand/sanitiser.

However, they also need funding in helping to run their programmes of support. We know this is very difficult at this time, but whatever you can do to help the most vulnerable will be most gratefully appreciated. We have asked our students to think about what they can do around the number 11. We have suggested they try to ask 11 people to sponsor them £1. We have suggested they undertake a sponsored activity around the no 11. Do something for 11 minutes over 11 days. Undertake 11 chores and donate the money to No.11. Or an 11 minute or 11K walk. We have asked our students to be imaginative and creative.

Could you help? Could you join in our efforts to raise money and help support those who are struggling? Sponsorship money will be collected in school, but can also be donated via our online payment system.

Please help us to make a difference and live out our Lasallian Values and follow the teachings of Jesus who asked us to make the stranger welcome and feed the hungry. Could you also pray for the homeless, No.11 and our fundraising efforts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours in Christ,

Miss L Grolik

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.

