

9 June 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: School of Sanctuary Award & JSA Bake Sale

I am delighted to share that following the recognition of John Smeaton Academy's excellent provision and support of students who have newly joined us after seeking refuge within the local area, the academy is working towards securing the School of Sanctuary Award. Schools of Sanctuary are a national network 'of over 300 primary and secondary schools all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum' (schools.cityofsanctuary.org).

Becoming a School of Sanctuary will mean that John Smeaton Academy's work in supporting refugee pupils will continue to be recognised and celebrated as an area of strength within our academy. Furthermore, it will allow us to strengthen our provision and support of refugee pupils whilst also extending this expertise to other local schools who are new to welcoming refugee students. The School of Sanctuary Award symbolises the warmth, inclusive and welcoming nature of the JSA staff and student body and is a testament of how our academy is a place for all students to feel content, welcomed and most importantly, safe.

A group of select students will be invited to attend a ceremony during Refugee Week 2022 at Leeds Civic Hall where John Smeaton Academy will find out if we have been awarded the School of Sanctuary accolade.

This year, Refugee Week 2022 begins on Monday 20 June. As part of our plans for this week, we are inviting our staff, students and families to support our fundraising event - the JSA Bake Sale.

JSA Bake Sale

During both break and lunch times on **Tuesday 21 June**, staff and students can purchase a range of sweet treats and baked goods that will be displayed in the **middle playground**. All the money raised will be donated to the Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network – a local organisation which supports refugees and asylum seekers in Leeds.

We would like to kindly ask our students to bring in 'shop bought' baked goods to donate to the JSA Bake Sale by Monday 20 June or the morning of Tuesday 21 June. Unfortunately, as a result of food hygiene regulations, we can only accept 'shop bought' baked goods as donations for the Bake Sale. All donations need to be in their original packaging so any allergens can be clearly displayed.

Students who attend the Y8/Y9 Junior Bake Off as part of Monday's Enrichment++ have also kindly offered to dedicate this session to creating 'Refugee Week' cupcakes to donate to the bake sale.

I hope you will agree that this is an incredibly worthy cause and I look forward to working with our young people in the events leading up to and during refugee week.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Z Hanif
Assistant Principal