A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

5 DECEMBER 2022 WEEK A





A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

This week we enter our second week of Advent and focus on the theme of peace. In a world filled with conflict, tragedy and uncertainty, peace within ourselves and our own lives can be a source of stability, hope and joy. The build up to Christmas in particular can be a time of chaos and pressure, but sometimes we need to step back from it all and remember what is important and what we are celebrating. We hope to be able to encourage our students to do this throughout Advent with our daily reflections, Advent Angels and Bags of Kindness. Early last week I had the pleasure of meeting our Student Leadership Team to discuss priorities for this academic year and how to further improve school life for our students. It is an absolute pleasure to work with such a passionate and creative group of students who care so much about St John's, and we are excited to be soon recruiting new members to join such an important group. Finally, I would like to thank the parents and carers of our Year 11 students who attended Progress Evening last week. Thank you for your continued support at such a crucial time in our young people's education.



LAST WEEK'S EVENTS



A huge well done to our Year 9 and 10 students who represented our school at the Spanish Apprentice Event. The ten students participated in several Spanish challenges throughout the morning. They also had a chilly walk around Bishop Auckland town centre where they located points of interest for Spanish tourists to visit. In the afternoon, the two groups presented a sales pitch in Spanish to the judges to persuade them why tourists

from Spain should come to Bishop Auckland whilst visiting the UK. Both teams presented fantastically, and the Year 10 team performed so well throughout the day that they won the competition! A special mention also to Laksh in Year 10 who impressed the judges with his presenting skills and won an additional prize.

In more MFL news, on Monday we hosted A Level Spanish students from our fellow Trust schools, English Martyrs and



Carmel College, for our first Spanish Masterclass. The masterclass was taught entirely in Spanish, led by Miss Garcia Antelo, and all the students got the chance to participate and practise their speaking skills with a native. They also got the chance to

try 'Tortilla Española' (Spanish omelette). The students had a great day and their passion shone through.

December

COMING UP THIS WEEK



- Monday 5- Year 13 mock exams begin- good luck to all of our students.
- Monday 5- Ski Trip Information Evening for all students going on the Easter 2023 Ski Trip and and their parents/carers. Main Hall, 5pm
- Tuesday 6- Duke of Edinburgh Celebration Evening, Main Hall, 6pm
- ☐ Wednesday 7- Drama workshop in school for GCSE and A Level Drama students, 1-3pm
- Wednesday 7- Our Vocal Ensemble are participating in the Durham Music Service Secondary School Choir of the Year Competition at Ushaw College. We wish them all lots of luck!

Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10/11 Netball teams who both won their fixtures this week against Teesdale, with 20-6 and 27-7 victories. Player of the match went to Ella Wright and Charlie Mustill. All students were highly praised for their effort, skills, teamwork and attitude.

The last scheduled match is Parkside away on Monday 12 December, with an approximate return of 5.20pm. Apologies for the short notice on any re-arranged fixtures.

Monday 19 December - Netball Christmas Social for all years, 3-4pm.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Netball sponsors, Enhance Beauty, for their extremely generous donation which has provided three teams with brand new dresses, which the students have worn throughout their incredibly successful season so far.



Trampolining club after school on Wednesdays has now finished for most students as the next two weeks will be spent preparing for Regionals. After Christmas, Trampolining will be replaced with Gymnastics club every Wednesday 3-4pm.

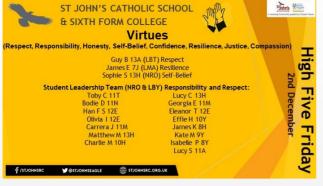






LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS





















DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Tuesday 13 December- Parishioners' Christmas Lunch, 12pm
- ☐ Thursday 15 December- Christmas Concert, The Queen's Christmas Message, 6pm
- ☐ Friday 16 December- Student Christmas Lunch, more details to follow
- ☐ Monday 19 December- Sixth Form Dinner Dance, 7pm, Ramside Hall
- ☐ Tuesday 20 December- Last day of term
- Wednesday 4 January- School reopens
- Thursday 12 January- Sixth Form Progress Eve
- Thursday 19 January- Year 9 Progress Eve

JLRC BOOK OF THE WEEK

After the Snow, S.D Crocket

Fifteen-year-old Willo has been left alone in the freezing and snow covered hills that have been his home for years. Willo doesn't know where his father has gone, but donning the skull of a dog, whose spirit guides him, he resolves to try and find them. Willo's journey takes him into the dangerous world of the city, where people live in

fear and poverty. Soon Willo discovers some unnerving information about his father and must draw on reserves of strength he never knew he had.









