ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

4 DECEMBER 2023 WEEK A





A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

We are now in the season of Advent, a time filled with hope, peace and love. However, we also take the time to reflect on those for whom this time of year is particularly difficult, and as a Learning Community we strive to do all we can to bring a little more hope, peace and love to those in need this festive season. As well as running collections within school for our vulnerable families and members of our community, we are using a portion of our fundraising from last year's Strictly St John's to purchase items for our underprivileged families. We are also grateful for any donations of winter coats you may have to help some of our families get through these cold winter months. Our Staff Christmas Lunch later this month will further help with our fundraising efforts in supporting our local community, and we look forward to welcoming our parishioners into school for our annual Parishioner Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 19 December. Happy Advent, everyone!

Well done to the Year 9 and 10 students that represented St John's at the Spanish Apprentice last week. Both teams worked fantastically to complete a range of tasks using their language skills before creating and delivering a presentation in Spanish in front of the judging panel. Although we did not retain our winning title, all students should be very proud of themselves!

Last week, Our Lady and St Bede's School in Stockton hosted an exhibition and awards evening to celebrate the work of the finalists of the Key Stage 3 Photography Competition, and St John's had representatives in all 8 categories. As a school, the response to the competition was astounding with approximately 250 entrants, so selecting images for each of the 8 categories was guite a task! The Art Department were delighted with the imagery and commend all of those who entered. The exhibition welcomed students and their families with refreshments and the finalists' work was enlarged, colour-printed and mounted for display and looked extremely professional. Mr Quigley, Head of Art, was particularly impressed by the skill and creativity within our students' work and felt very proud to be part of the process, a sentiment he's sure was echoed by our finalists and their families. All of our finalists were presented with a certificate to commemorate their success, however, Maddison Naylor and Matthew Wherry received Recommendations and Miylee Allison and Zachary Proud

received an additional prize as winners in the Colour and Portrait categories respectively. Well done to our entrants and to our finalists!





A huge thank you to our parents, carers and students who attended Year 11 Progress Evening on Thursday, particularly given the weather conditions. It was wonderful to have such positive and productive conversations regarding our Year 11 students' progress and important next steps, and thank you to our staff for their continued hard work and support with Year 11.

TOMING UP THIS

Monday 4- Students with a timetabled 3G lesson for PE should bring indoor footwear for today only. After-school Rugby will also be cancelled due to the snow.

Tuesday 5- Year 10 Information Evening, 5.30-6.30pm. The purpose of the evening is to share useful hints, tips and strategies to support our young people and help them to excel in their education, as well as sharing information about their Work Experience which will take place later in the year. We look forward to seeing many of our Year 10 students and parents and carers there.

Sunday 10- Our first Turing Scheme trip leaves for Copenhagen on Sunday led by Mrs Watson and Michael Stephenson. We wish them all a safe journey and an enjoyable time.

Sunday 10- Sixth Form Dinner Dance, 7pm at Ramside Hall Hotel. We wish all of our Sixth Form students a wonderful evening of festive celebrations. **REMINDERS**

Each week, in assembly, three lucky students will have their names drawn out of a hat and will win a small prize for our 'Be in to Win' initiative. Those same students will also be put forward for a bigger prize at the end of each term. The only criteria for getting their name in the hat is to have had full attendance the week before. We want as many names in those hats as possible so please support us in encouraging excellent attendance at St John's.

Please be mindful and courteous when dropping and collecting your child. The road outside of school has yellow 'Keep Clear' markings around the entrances, markings which are there for the safety of pedestrians and school buses. Please do not park on these markings as this poses a serious safety risk and is against the Highway Code. Please also be courteous of our neighbours and do not park across driveways.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS





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Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Alexis B 7J Ashlene B 7R Milana D 7J Jake L 7Y Tylor S 7Y

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Evie M 8Y Thomas T 8A Kai W 8J Jessica B 8A Finbar H 8R

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Hassan S 9J Jack R 90 Thomas S 90 Harry G 9R Chloe D 9A

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

April G 10A Klaudia T 10J Farrell M 10R Erin W 10M Lexi W 10J

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Teegan H 11A Mya D 11R George B 11J Evan B 11H Alfie J 11A

Five

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 11 December- Year 8 Retreat
- Thursday 14 December- Year 10 Progress Eve Friday 15 December- Whole School Careers Day
- Monday 18 December- Christmas Concert, 6pm (tickets will be available via Ticket Source shortly)
- Tuesday 19 December- Parishioner Christmas Lunch, 11.45am-2pm
- Thursday 21 December- Student Christmas Lunch
- Friday 22 December- Last day of term before Christmas. School will finish at 1.20pm and will reopen for all students on Monday 8 January
- Monday 8 January- Year 13 mock exams begin
- Thursday 1 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- Tuesday 6 February- Options Evening, 4-6pm Friday 9 February- Last day before Half Term
 - Thursday 22 February- Sixth Form Progress Eve

🔊 I Heard a Whisper...

This week's nominations covered everything from the little acts of kindness which make a big difference, to our staff pouring their heart and soul into their job... and even the evacuation of a bird! Well done to Miss Wilkinson (Assistant Headteacher), Mrs Higgins (Maths), Miss Batty (Head of Social Sciences), Susie Denning (Parent Support Advisor), Miss Hayes (Assistant Headteacher) and Mr Parker (Deputy Headteacher) for their nominations.

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk



Artist of the Week



Eve McGrother, 9R









