ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

18 DECEMBER 2023 WEEK A





A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

Our penultimate week of term has been a very busy one, filled with trips, sporting achievements, celebrations and our Careers Day. As this is our last newsletter of this term, and of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff who work tirelessly to provide so many fantastic opportunities for our students. As our weekly newsletter showcases, students really are pushed and supported to be the best versions of themselves they can be, and we are extremely proud of all of their fantastic achievements this term. Thank you also to our parents and carers for their continued support. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas filled with love, hope, joy and peace

St John's attended the local round of the National Schools Badminton Championships at Thornaby Pavillion on Wednesday. The Year II team lost their games after coming up against some excellent school teams, but enjoyed the experience and showed great teamwork. The Year 9 team, however, were undefeated and now progress into the County Finals beating both Hummersknott and Egglescliffe. Well done!

Last Sunday our Year 12 and Year 13 students came together for our annual Sixth Form Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful evening of dancing and festive celebrations and it was wonderful to spend time with our Sixth Form students outside of school and celebrate their achievements so far this year.





Our Year 8 students had a wonderful time this week on their residential retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village. The retreat focused on the true meaning of Advent and students took part in arts and crafts, team-building and

reflection time as well as thinking about the special talents which God has gifted to each of them.

A small group of students visited Copenhagen last week with Mrs Watson and Michael, one of our Learning Mentors. The group visited a Christmas market, did some sightseeing, went to Copenhagen Zoo and visited the famous Tivoli Gardens. This was a fantastic opportunity for our students and is the first of our five partly funded Turing Scheme trips taking place this year. Well done to our students for their excellent behaviour, and a special mention to the boys who beat the girls for tidiest room!

On Friday, the whole school took part in a Careers Day which involved enterprise and team building tasks, as well as talks and workshops focused on money, apprenticeships, interview skills, university and CV writing. Our Year 11 students got the chance to experience Sixth Form lessons as they work towards making their next steps post-16, and many of our Year 9 students spent the day in various workplaces to consider future careers.



Some of our girls also competed in a Tag Rugby tournament at Egglescliffe school and our teams finished 3rd and 5th. Well done to all who participated in cold and wet conditions. Next half term, Rugby Club with Mr Smith on a Monday night will be open to girls only from Years 7-11. Cancelled fixtures for the boys due to

recent bad weather will be taking place after Christmas.
Finally, The Year 8 and Year 9 Netball teams (helped out by some Year 7s due to the retreat) both won their matches against Carmel last week. We are looking forward to more friendlies with them next year.







TOMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 18- 'That's Christmas to Me'. There are still tickets available for this year's Christmas Celebration which begins at 6pm. Tickets will also be available on the door at the price of £4 for adults and £2 for concessions, or in advance via www.ticketsource.co.uk/st-johns-catholic-school. This promises to be a lovely festive evening. **Tuesday 19-** We are looking forward to welcoming our parishioners into school for our annual Parishioners

Tuesday 19- We are looking forward to welcoming our parishioners into school for our annual Parishioners Christmas Lunch. As well as a delicious lunch, they will also enjoy festive music from our choir and be served by members of our Student Leadership Team.

Thursday 21- Student Christmas Lunch. All students will have the opportunity to buy and enjoy a Christmas Lunch as well as festive activities over a special extended lunchtime.

Friday 22- Last day of term. Students are encouraged to come into school wearing a Christmas accessory alongside their usual uniform. School will finish early at 1.20pm, with buses organised to leave by 1.30pm.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

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Five

Friday

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Five









Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Five

Brodie K 10Y

Jack R 11H Mia G 11H Alfie J 11A George B 11J Sam W 11N

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- Monday 8 January- School reopens for all
- Monday 8 January- Year 13 mock exams begin
- Monday 29 January- Year 11 mocks 2 begin
- Thursday 1 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- Tuesday 6 February- Options Evening for Year 9 students, 4-6pm
- Friday 9 February- Last day before Half Term
- Thursday 22 February- Year 12/13 Progress Eve
- Thursday 29 February- Year 11 Progress Eve 2
- Thursday 21 March- Year 8 Progress Eve
- Wednesday 27 March- Jaquie Holloway Performing Arts Prize Concert
- Thursday 28 March- Last day before Easter
- Thursday 2 May- Year 7 Progress Eve
- Wednesday 10 / Thursday 11 July- Les Mis

I Heard a Whisper...

As we approach the end of this term, we have been blown away by the number of wonderful emails we have received. Well done this week to Miss Kennedy (Assistant Head of Year 9/RE), Miss Wilkinson (Assistant Head), Mrs Thompson (Head of Year 12/13), Mrs Kreczak (SENDCO), Mrs Gordon (English), Miss Giblin (LSA), Mr Walker (LSA), Mr Cassidy (Network Manager) and Miss Batty (Head of Social Sciences). Their acts of kindness, hard work and thoughtfulness have helped us keep Cadburys in business! iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk



Artist of the Week



Maddison Cheetham, 9H







