# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

# 29 JANUARY 2024 WEEK A





## A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

As we continue to share the importance of good attendance, we are going to use our newsletter each week to share the attendance of each year group as well as the Tutor Group who have shown the most improvement in attendance. As we have previously shared, good attendance is directly linked to good exam performance. Attendance lower than 95% is 10 days absence in one school year, so over time this results in lost learning which can have a huge impact on progress and exam outcomes. Students who had more than 15 days of absence last year achieved grades at least one grade lower than those with better attendance. We appreciate your support in continuing to monitor your child's attendance. Well done this week to 100, Mrs Swinbank and Mrs Holdsworth's Tutor Group, who had the most improved attendance. The weekly year group figures were-Year 7- 90.3%, Year 8- 88.8%, Year 9- 88.5% Year 10-85.6%, Year 11-91.2%. This week, the events in the newsletter highlight some excellent examples of our students demonstrating the British Values of Tolerance and Mutual Respect, key aspects of

On Friday, eight of our Sixth Form students began the trip to New York for the next of our Turing Scheme trips which will focus on the importance of Reflection. We look forward to

our Pastoral Curriculum. Enjoy reading!

sharing news and pictures from this exciting trip as they reflect, retreat and explore, including a visit to the



9/11 Memorial and a University in Albany.

Our Year 8 FBM (Future Business Magnates) group were very privileged to spend the day at Lumley Castle on Tuesday where they took part in a workshop which focused on the importance of prototypes and business plans. All students were impeccably behaved and had a fantastic day.

Thank you to the FBM team and our business partners at The Enterprise Agency for such an informative session.

On Tuesday evening, some of our GCSE and A Level Drama students visited Newcastle Theatre Royal to watch a performance of Life of Pi. The production featured stunning lighting.



incredible puppetry and amazing acting, and our students were blown away by the show! All of our students were impeccably behaved and were a credit to the school, showing respect, maturity and fantastic engagement. We're looking forward to this week's theatre trip, Blood Brothers, and to our other exciting trips coming up this year.



On Wednesday
evening, four of our
students had the
privilege of
representing St John's
at an event at
Auckland Castle,
celebrating the work of
Anglican Bishop of
Durham, Right



Reverend Paul Butler, who will retire at the end of February. The students were able to listen to Bishop Paul's story, his thoughts on faith, and his relationship with Bishop Auckland and the wider county, before having the opportunity to ask him some questions of their own.

Well done to Mia, Eleanor, Jessica and Thomas who were fantastic ambassadors for the young people of St John's and our wider community.

## COMING UP THIS WEEK

**Monday 29-** Year 11 begin their next set of mock exams this week, their final ones before their Summer exams begin. We wish them lots of luck and know their hard work will pay dividends.

**Wednesday 31-** Blood Brothers Theatre Trip. GCSE Drama students are watching a live performance of Blood Brothers, their GCSE set text, at Newcastle Theatre Royal, Students will need to be at school for 5.50pm for a prompt departure and will return at approximately 11pm.

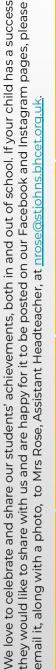
**Thursday 1 February**- Year 9 Progress Evening. Appointments are still able to be made via SchoolCloud and we look forward to seeing lots of parents, carers and students there as we discuss progress.

# **▶** REMINDERS

Full payment for the Year 11 Leavers' Celebration Party is due by this Friday, 2 February. Please contact Finance if you have any queries regarding making payment. Payments can be found by clicking on the Trips link on the left hand side of the My Child at School app and then on 'Available'. A reminder that the date of the Year 11 Leavers' Celebration Party is Thursday 20 June.

# LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS









#### Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Queenmercy A 7J Mollie S 7R Leon W 7A Oli K 70 Milana D 7J

#### Year 8 Top **Achievers**

THomas K 8R Esther L 8J Thomas T 8A Finbar H 8R Joel H 8J

### Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Jack R 90 Hassan S 9J Isaac C 90 James K 9H Lola N 90

#### Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Durga S M 10J Issac C 10J Olivia E 10J Jayden B 10R Aaron M 10M

#### Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Jack N 11J George B 11J Jack R 11H Laksh S 11J Fave G 11Y

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



- ☐ Tuesday 6 February- Options Evening for Year 9 students and their parents/carers, 4-6pm
- Friday 9 February- Last day before Half Term
- Monday 19 February- School reopens Thursday 22 February- Year 12/13 Progress Eve
- Thursday 29 February- Year 11 Progress Eve 2
- Friday 8 March- Charity Fashion Show (Tickets will be on sale soon)
- Thursday 21 March- Year 8 Progress Eve
- Wednesday 27 March- Jaquie Holloway Performing Arts Prize Concert
- Thursday 28 March- Last day before Easter
- Monday 15 April- School reopens after Easter
- Thursday 2 May- Year 7 Progress Eve
- Monday 20 May- Year 10 Work Experience
- Monday 8 July- Year 12 Work Experience

### I Heard a Whisper...

As well as all of the wonderful work which goes on in our classrooms, we wouldn't be able to function as a school without the hard work of those who work behind the scenes- our admin staff, site team and catering staff help ensure everything ticks by smoothly and they do a fantastic job of it! Well done to this week's nominees- Kim Kempster (Health and First Aid Officer), Joanne Dugdale (Attendance Officer), Carol Lowes (Catering Assistant) and Keith Stamp (Caretaker). Why not drop us an email to nominate a member of staff and send a sweet treat their way!

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

### Artist of the Week



Elpida Boutzera, 8H









