DURHAM JOHNSTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

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26th November 2026

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

End of term arrangements – Friday 18th December 2026

As you will be aware, we traditionally take Years 7 – 10 and 12 – 13 to Durham Cathedral on the last day of term for our Christmas Carol Service. Despite the huge size of the Cathedral, we are not able to fit the whole school in as well as inviting parents of performers and Year 7 pupils. As in previous years, students in Year 11 will therefore remain in school whilst the rest of the school attend the Carol Service.

We have organised some sessions on study skills and next steps, as well as an end of term celebration assembly. Students will attend their usual timetabled lessons for Periods 1 and 2 before going to this event.

Please note that there will be no food service during morning break.

Students should not bring their bags into school.

Brunch will be served for students in Year 11 at 12.00 p.m. They will then return to event for the final part of the session.

With regards to arrangements for transport home, school buses (Garnett's and Danny's Travel) will be re-directed to New Elvet (opposite the Police Station) to collect students returning from the Carol Service. All students will leave the Cathedral to either walk home or catch a school bus at New Elvet. Year 11 students will be dismissed from school at 1.30p.m. to walk down to the city to catch their usual bus. Buses will leave promptly at 2.00p.m. Please ensure your child has a clear understanding of how they are getting home on this day.

As the majority of staff, except for those leading the in-school sessions for Year 11, will be occupied in the Cathedral, we cannot offer any supervision for Year 11 students in the city centre. It is important that students who are walking into town go directly to New Elvet to catch their bus and not to Palace Green to wait for friends or siblings. These arrangements have worked very well in previous years, and we hope that they will do so this year.

Thank you as ever for your support this year. Term ends after the Carol Service in accordance with the arrangements above and the new term begins on Wednesday 6th January 2027.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McFadden
Headteacher