DURHAM JOHNSTON COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
DARE TO BE WISE

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Registered Charity No. 516935

26th November 2026

Dear Year 7 Parents and Carers,

End of term arrangements – Friday 18th December 2026

Our Christmas Carol Service is one of the highlights of the school year and will be held in Durham Cathedral at 1.00 p.m. on Friday 18th December. This wonderful event is the only time in the year where almost the whole school meets together in one place. It is a celebratory finish to a long term and a warm way to say goodbye before Christmas. We are the only state secondary school to hold a Carol Service in the Cathedral, and our students have won a reputation over the years for their excellent behaviour in the Cathedral and their outstanding musical contribution. Please join with us in emphasising to your child the importance of sustaining this exemplary conduct. Of course, it is a normal school day for attendance purposes, so all students must attend.

Our arrangements are the same each year. Students should not bring their bags into school. However, any pupil with an AAI, inhaler or other emergency medication will need to have them on their person. Please ensure all medical information is up to date. If your child travels by school bus, they should ensure that they have their bus pass with them. In case of poor weather, students should bring an outdoor coat with them. If your child brings a phone to school, they should bring their pouch as normal. Staff will have mobile unlockers for students to use at the end of the day.

Brunch will be available in school before we leave for the cathedral, and form tutors will advise students when food service will be available for each year group. Please note that there will be no food service at morning break.

From 11.50a.m. teachers and students will travel together by bus to New Elvet, and from there, teachers will escort students to the Cathedral for a 1.00 p.m. start. Despite the huge size of the Cathedral, we regret that we are unable to invite all parents to attend, but we would like to extend an invitation to one parent or carer of every child in Year 7. You will be allocated a seat towards the front of the Cathedral in the South Transept or South Aisle.

We regret that we do not have capacity to supervise students after 2.00p.m. and it is **therefore vital that the school is provided with the details of how every child in Year 7 will travel home**. The service will end at approximately 1.50p.m. All students will leave the Cathedral to either walk home, catch a school bus at New Elvet or be collected by the parent or carer attending the service. To avoid congestion at the end of the service, Year 7 students who are being collected will be seated at the front and will be instructed to remain in their seats until the rest of the school has departed, to be collected by their parent/carer.

Please click on the following link: **Year 7 Carol Service Information** to confirm how your child will get home after the Carol Service and also let us know the name of the family member who will attend the service. Please complete and submit your information by **Monday 7th December**. Please ensure your child has a clear understanding of how they are getting home on this day.

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