



28th November 2024

Dear Year 8, 9, 10, 12 and 13 Parents and Carers,

End of term arrangements – Thursday 19th December 2024

Our Christmas Carol Service is one of the highlights of the school year and will be held in Durham Cathedral at 1.00p.m. on Thursday 19th December. This wonderful event is the only time in the year where 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. Our pupils 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. We are the only state secondary school to hold a Carol Service in the Cathedral. Of course, it is a normal school day for attendance purposes, so all students must attend.

Brunch will be available 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.

Our arrangements are the same each year. From 11.50a.m. teachers and students will travel together by bus to New Elvet. From there, teachers will escort students to the Cathedral for a 1.00p.m. start. Year 12 and 13 students will be dismissed from school at 10:45am to make their own way to the service on foot. The service lasts approximately 50 minutes, after which students will be dismissed home from the Cathedral. If students usually get a school bus, they will depart from New Elvet, and students will be directed there by staff.

Students should not bring their school bags into school. In case of inclement weather, students should bring their outdoor coats with them, and if they will be travelling home on a school bus, they will need to remember their bus pass.

Despite the huge size of the Cathedral, we are unable to fit the whole school in as well as inviting parents and therefore we are able to invite only one member of a Year 7 child's family to attend. Parents and carers whose children are in Year 7 will receive a separate copy of this letter by email, together with a form to complete to indicate which parent will attend and to confirm how their child will get home after the Carol Service.

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 Monday 6th January 2025.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs McFadden
Headteacher



Headteacher: R McFadden MEng

Assistant Heads: H Davies BA
C Robson BA
J Wilbraham BA

Deputy Head: J Bell BSc, MA

Associate Assistant Heads:

S Bowman BTh
A Colquitt BSc, MEd
S Horn BSc
M Simpson BD, MA

Director of Resources: H Charlton BA, MBA

