

Respect



Why was Santa sad?

He had low self-esteem



Issue TWO



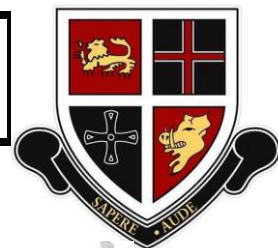
December 2021



Joyeux

A half-termly insight into our wonderful year group

# Excellent Eights Newsletter



National X-C Success



What can we say about our boys Cross-country team.... The boys made the 800 mile round trip to Newquay to compete against the best schools and runners in England. As a team, they earned 108 points, meaning they finished in second place overall. This is the **BEST EVER** finish for any team at this competition. Durham Johnston were the only comprehensive to finish in the top 10 places. Congratulations to all of the boys, Harry Clish, James Ormerod, Jacob Moore, Tom Briggs, Harry Mason (reserve) In addition, Will Jardine (8AK) finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place, such an excellent achievement.

## Simpson says.....

When you're looking back at 2021, what will be the things that stick in your mind? Academic years start in September of the previous calendar year, so a school year review needs to happen in July. Which it does, of course. But in December it's always good to look back on what's happened since January.



Back then we were beginning a second lock down and the coldest months of the year were uncomfortable in many ways. Then came vaccines and other breakthroughs, and a summer where things started to go back to normal. As we head into Christmas 2021 and the New Year, there's still quite a lot of uncertainty about the next few months, but things about our school community always reassure me that we'll turn out ok.

Another is the way students in school keep on doing the basics right. Loads of people in year 8 are collecting housepoints by the pile and their teachers report how well they are coping with their subjects. I hear a lot of examples of people encouraging their peers to speak to someone if they're having problems. This is something we need to keep doing to help people who need extra help. We all need it sometimes.



One of them is the resilience of our year group. We're hearing from parents and carers about the amazing things that people are involved in outside school. All sorts of music, arts, and sport activities on local, regional, and even national platforms. As well as that, so much that's going on in the community. You'll see some of those details and stories in this newsletter and I hope you'll feel as inspired as I do.

Finally, seeing the generosity of students and their families as we gather food gifts for the local foodbank and others, as part of the House system. Christmas is a time for emphasising our interdependence – we need each other to be able to keep on going.

So as we come to the end of our first term in year 8, on behalf of all of us in the year 8 team, I wish you a Happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Mr Simpson

Listening

Nadolig Llawen



Merry Christmas





Selamat Natal



# Special recognition

## Brandon Boxing Club

Well done to Will 8AH, who competed on Saturday 20th November. All of the coaches at BBC are very proud of his performance. This was his first skills bout against a tough opponent. Good luck in your next bout!



Jack Berry 8HH, has recently competed in the North East regional swimming finals at Ponds Forge, Sheffield in the 100m breast stroke. Keep up the good work Jack.

What is green, jumps and is covered in tinsel?

Mistle toad



Amazing effort Year 8, all of the food hampers (above) have been very well received by local food charities.

Congratulations to Jim Twiddy, Erik Meek and Tom Briggs who have all been selected to represent the County at cricket again this year. Good luck for the season ahead boys.

Frohe Weihnachten



Excellent news for Charlie Harrison 8RH, who competed for Ruff Diamonds Academy at UDO Street Dance Championships (Midlands) on 28th November.

Securing a 2nd place at under 18 level for crew and 2nd place for solo at under 14 level.

As result he has been invited to compete in Germany in 2022 at the European championships!



A very impressive turn out for the Santa run from year 8 students.

As a school we raised £700 for St Cuthberts Hospice and our year group raised £389.75!!



On a Monday night after school I go to Brandon and Carside youth club, when I am there we do a bunch of different activities such as baking and crafting. I really enjoy going as both baking, crafting and sports are all topics that I really enjoy. On a Wednesday I go to gym club at our school. Also, On a Friday I go to the youth club for our weekly sports themed activity. At the moment we are doing basketball but in the past we have done dodgeball and Fencing (above). These are incredibly fun. Evie 8AK



What do you call a kid who doesn't believe in Santa? A rebel without a Claus



Feliz Navidad







## Maths Olympiad

메리 크리스마스



A huge congratulains to Will (8DA) who received a high score in the junior maths challenge. Only 1200 students in the country qualify for the Olympiad in the first place. Of those 1200 only **25%** achieve a medal so this is a great achievement. Well done Will.

## NATIONAL CHILDRENS ORCHESTRA

In November, Leo Bruce (8MK) was selected after a competitive audition process to be one of the bassoon players in the National Children's Orchestra, which is a UK wide orchestra open to young people aged 8-14.

He will be joining two residential programmes later in the year and will perform in concerts in the Poole Lighthouse in Dorset and the Portsmouth Guildhall in Hampshire.

Best of luck Leo, amazing news.



## Police Cadet Presentation



Maddison (8AK) has recently joined police cadets and volunteered to deliver a solo presentation around the dangers of taking drugs and highlighting the number of drug related deaths across the UK. In addition, Maddison showed great courage to give a practical and informative demonstration in the use of Naxolone for the purpose of saving lives.

Well done Maddison for showing such confidence and courage for such a worthwhile session.

Well done to.....8RH for having the most House Points this term with 456 and receiving a Champions Breakfast!!



Honesty

Emily Hodgson (8RH) received the highest number of House Points this term. Keep up the great work Emily.



Who hides in a bakery at christmas?  
A mince spy



## NATIONAL GYMNASTICS MEDALS

Bethany Blackburn and Sophie Waite (8DA) have competed in a national final gymnastics competition achieving a gold and silver medal. Bethany and her partner achieved the highest score of the whole weekend. Amazing achievement for both girls who train very hard consistently.

Excellent achievement.



In August Ross (8JW) took part in The Try The Tyne Junior Duathlon and came 10<sup>th</sup> place overall. Ross has also taken part in the St Cuthbert's hospice 5k fundraiser and finished in 1<sup>st</sup> place.

In addition, Ross completed the junior great north run this year.

聖誕節快樂

Don't forget to check our our 'Excellent Eights' Teams for weekly updates on all extr-curricular clubs and activities.

Would you like to write an article/subject review for the next newsletter? Please get in touch with Mr Kidd via email/Teams



Helping others



Christmas cracker jokes supplied by Leo Bruce