# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

4 MARCH 2024 WEEK A



Our Year 11 students had a special assembly on Thursday to receive their most recent mock exam results. We are extremely proud of their fantastic attainment and progress and the continued commitment and hard work they are showing as we head towards their final exams.

It's been a busy and exciting week in the Performing Arts Department! On Tuesday our wonderful choir took part in a retreat day, focusing on the role of music in worship. The choir work so hard throughout



the year to provide music for the liturgical life of the school, and the retreat day was a great chance to have fun, explore and write new music and enjoy an Italian meal together.



On Wednesday we then held auditions for the second annual Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts. Jaquie Holloway was a champion of the arts at St John's, and she certainly would have been proud of all of our auditionees this year. The mix of artforms and styles on display was

simply amazing, and Miss Bell certainly has a tough job deciding on the 12 finalists for this year's event, which will take place on Wednesday 27th March (tickets coming soon!)



## A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

There have been some incredible displays of our Virtues in school this week, from the Self-Belief and Resilience of our Year 11 students, to the Confidence of our sporting stars and the auditionees for this year's Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts. Our students also got the chance last week to use their voice in the Make your Mark election, a county-wide vote on the issues that are the most important to young people in County Durham which helped to highlight the key British Value of Democracy, Finally, last week's assemblies focused on the importance of Tolerance, another of the British Values, and how we should accept and embrace each other's differences.

We have also seen a huge improvement in attendance this week, so well done to everyone for showing Resilience and commitment. A special shout-out to 11H and 8A who had a huge 10% increase.
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There have been a lot of wonderful sporting achievements both in and out of school this week. Three Sports Hall Athletics teams from Years 7 and 8 competed in the County Finals on Wednesday, after qualifying by winning the district event before Christmas. The boys finished 4th and the girls teams both finished with bronze medals. Well done to all involved! Then on Wednesday night, Year 7 and 8 Rugby teams played four games at Bishop Auckland Rugby Club, winning three and drawing the other. Both teams unfortunately lost in their respective County Cup matches with two narrow defeats, but should be proud of their performances and the progress they continue to make this season. Last week saw four of our Year 9 boys attend the County finals of the Badminton National School Championships following their success at the local round. The boys won all of their matches and finished the competition with a 3-2 victory over Durham Johnston with the deciding match going to 20-20 and a sudden death point to decide which school would progress. St John's did manage to come out on top and now progress through to the Regional Round next month. An outstanding achievement for a group of boys who only started the sport at the after school club in Year 7; well done to Evan Baker, Seb Gardener, Lewis Wood and George Elliott. Finally, our Year 7 and 8 Netball teams both beat Bishop Barrington without conceding a goal, continuing their fantastic run of matches this year. Well done, everyone!







## TOMING UP THIS WEEK

**Monday 4-** This week is National Careers Week and there will be activities taking place in school and shared on our social media pages to encourage students to think about future careers and next steps.

Tuesday 5- Chateau Beaumont Trip Parent Information Evening, 5pm.

**Thursday 7**- World Book Day. There will be various activities taking place in the LRC all week, alongside our Booked Potato competition which is open to all staff and students. On Thursday all classes in Years 7-10 will also be taking part in a special Reading Relay at the start of each lesson to promote a love of reading.

**Friday 8**- A group of Year 8 students are travelling to Toronto, Canada for a special Literacy Experience trip as part of the Turing Scheme. We wish them a safe trip and wonderful time.

**Friday 8-** Charity Fashion Show, 6.30pm. We are looking forward to an enjoyable evening and raising lots of money for Cancer Research. Tickets are still available and we are accepting clothing donations for Angel Trust.

# LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS











### Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Stephanie W 70 Jack O 7O Grace N 7N Zak H 70 Bokani N 70

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

Evie M 8Y Grace I 8N Robyn S 8H Lexi-Mae B 8A Karol O 8N

## Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Maebh S 9R James K 9H Olivia W 9N Hassan S 9J Andre C 90

### Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Ethan R 10Y Jayden B 10R Evie W 10Y Isla D 10A April G 10A

### Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Marco H 11J Eleni B 11N Lilv D 11N Mia G 11H Jack R 11H

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Thursday 21 March- Year 8 Progress Eve
- Performing Arts Prize Concert Thursday 28 March- Last day before Easter

Wednesday 27 March- Jaquie Holloway

- Monday 15 April - School reopens
- Thursday 2 May- Year 7 Progress Evening
- Monday 6 May- Bank Holiday
- Thursday 9 May- A Level/ GCSE Exams
- Monday 20 May- Year 10 Work Experience
- Thursday 20 June- Year 11 Leavers' Celebration
- Monday 8 July- Year 12 Work Experience
- Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 July- Les Miserables (tickets available after Easter)

## I Heard a Whisper...

"Appreciation can change a day, even change a life. Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."

Well done this week to Cynthia and Bernadette (Admin), Miss Briscoe (Cover Supervisor), Thomas (Learning Mentor), Mrs McGee (RE), Mrs Harding and Mrs Hardy (Geography), Mr Vicary (History) and Mrs Coulthard (Head of Year 7) who all had their day brightened with a sweet treat. Our inbox is always open and we love receiving new nominations each week, so if you think a member of staff deserves a

shout-out and sweet treat, drop us an iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

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Artist of the Week



Eva Turnbull, 11Y









