ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

21 OCTOBER 2024 Week B



Forty six students represented the school at last week's District Cross Country Competition at Barnard Castle School. All students performed brilliantly on a very challenging, wet and muddy course!



Well done to Grace Richardson (2nd), Matty Richardson (2nd) and Max Pickering (3rd) who all achieved podium places. The Year 10 and 11 girls' team also won the team event, with Year 7 girls and the Year 8/9 girls' teams both finishing second. The following 16 students have also qualified to represent the District Squad at the county event in the new year with more information to follow after half term: Thea Palin, Beau Wilson, Darcey Symes, Chase Northcott, Grace Richardson, Jessica Montgomery, Miylee Allison, Maisy Newby-Higginbottom, Matty Richardson, Tyler Singleton, Maebh Snell, Millie Guy, Maiya Jones, Molly Clay, Max Pickering and Lewis Anderson. A huge well done to all!



On Friday we were delighted to welcome Sam Rushworth, Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, into school to speak to our Year 9 and Year 10 students as well as some of our Year 12 Sociology students. Sam spoke honestly and passionately about his

upbringing, his journey into politics and his hopes and plans for how to improve our local area. Our students listened well and asked thoughtful questions on everything from immigration to cultural deprivation, and of course about what football team Sam supported!



"Kindness is doing what you can, where you can with what you have" Kindness is something we value so greatly within St John's. It costs nothing, but can have the biggest impact on others as well as being proven to actually be good for our health! We see kindness within our Learning Community every single day, from the fantastic charity work our students get involved with to something as simple as a smile in the corridor. No act of kindness is ever too small.

In a bid to spread a little more kindness and joy, on Friday students were challenged to find some mini ducks which had been hidden around school. Anyone who found one of these ducks was encouraged to pass it on to someone they thought might need cheering up or who they wanted to show kindness towards. It was wonderful to see kindness 'take flight' in the form of these little ducks, and we hope it has made our students consider other ways they can pay it forward and show kindness and compassion to each other each day.



On Sunday, members of our

staff braved the elements for a very special little boy and his family. Following on from our Year 12 charity walk as part of their retreat day, our staff walked 20 miles to the RVI in Newcastle in aid of Henry Barber, Mr Barber's son, who was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in September 2023. So far our community has raised over £2000 to help support the family during this tough time, and donations can be made via the Just Giving page linked on our social media pages.



A huge well done to our Duke of Edinburgh students who recently received their Gold Awards from St James' Palace in London. They have worked incredibly hard to achieve this prestigious award and we are all very proud of them! They also put on a fantastic display at Sixth Form Open Evening in order to promote the Gold Award to other students, a testament to their passion and dedication.

COMING UP THIS WEEK

Tuesday 22- Tom's Talks. We are looking forward to welcoming back Tom, a mental health speaker and coach, to talk to some of our students on the important topic of mental health and wellbeing.

Tuesday 22- Year 9 Netball match against Bishop Barrington, finishing at 5.15pm. Good luck, team!

Wednesday 23- Year 7 Welcome Mass, 10am at St Mary's Church. One parent per student is warmly invited to join us for this special Mass which will also be streamed on YouTube for those unable to make it.

Wednesday 23- School Production 2025 Launch, 3.20-4.15pm. Any students interested in being part of this year's school production should come along to the Main Hall after school on Wednesday to find out which show it will be this year, how to be involved and to learn the audition material. Auditions will be held after half term.

Thursday 24- Show Racism the Red Card. Year 7 talk. This talk is rearranged from last week and other year groups will also have rearranged talks prior to Christmas.

Thursday 24- Year 7 Autumn Disco, 5-7pm. Tickets are still available via MCAS priced at £3, with proceeds going towards St John's Project Peru. We are looking forward to an evening of spooky celebrations with our students. **Friday 25-** School closed for Staff Inset. Half term begins- we wish everyone a safe and enjoyable break.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS







ClassCharts Year 7 Top

Achievers

Aimee H 70 Carollena A 70 Francesca S 70 Finley H 70 Hannah K 7A

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Summer B 8H Isla C 8A Tyler T 8A Sophie W 8A Ivy R 8A

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Thomas K 9R Matthew W 9R Esther L 9J Layton H 9Y Nathan A9H

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Hassan S 10J Danae H 10H Isabelle P 100 Eva N-D 10H Lille C 10H

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Anna T 11A April G 11A Lucas S 11H Emilie P 11S Kaden C 11A

MFL Stars of the Week: Wayne L 7R, Lexi K 8M, Sienna N 8A, Samuel J 9H, Nathan A 9H

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 4 November- School reopens
- ☐ Tuesday 12 November- Christmas Market, 6pm
- ☐ Monday 4 November- Year 11 and Year 13 mock exams begin
- ☐ Monday 11 November- Year 8 Retreat
- ☐ Friday 29 November- Disaggregated Day, school closed
- ☐ Thursday 5 December- Year 11 **Progress Eve**
- Monday 16 December- Christmas Celebration
- ☐ Friday 20 December- School closes for Christmas
- ☐ Monday 6 January- School reopens ☐ Tuesday 28 January- Year 9 Options Eve

🦃 I Heard a Whisper...

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As we head towards the end of a very busy first half term, it can be easy for energy to dip and people's patience to wear thin. However, reading this week's nominations with words such as 'support' and 'tirelessly' cropping up, it is clear that our staff are continuing to go above and beyond for our students, families and each other. Well done this week to Miss Kennedy (Assistant Head of Year 9), Miss O'Hara (English and Media), Miss Charlton (Science), Miss Wright (Science), Miss Devlin (Head of Maths), Miss Liddle (Performing Arts), Mrs Moran (Assistant Head of English) and Mrs Thompson (Head of Year 12/13) who will all receive a sweet treat today to thank them for their incredible work.

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

Artist of the Week





Ruby Wilson 12A







