ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

4 NOVEMBER 2024 WEEK A





Before half term we held our Year 7 Welcome Mass, our official welcome of our Year 7 students into our Learning Community. Students and tutors walked down to St Mary's Church to celebrate the Mass and we were delighted that Father David Coxon was able to lead the Mass for us, his first school Mass since moving to Bishop Auckland. We warmly welcome Year 7 and Fr Coxon into the St John's community. A special thank you to the parents and carers who joined us and to our wonderful choir who sang so beautifully.

We were joined before half term by the people from Show Racism the Red Card to talk to our Year 7 students on this important topic. Our students listened carefully and respectfully and we look forward to other year groups receiving this talk during the course of this half term.



Our Year 7 and 8 students had a fantastic time at their Autumn Party on the last day of term. There was lots of dancing, treats and some fabulous costumes on display. A great way to celebrate a fantastic first half term at St John's.

A huge well done to our Year 9 Netball team who won all three of their games against Staindrop, Bishop Barrington and Teesdale School in the last week of term. They played superbly securing victories at 23-1, 22-0 and 13-2, but also showed fantastic

sportsmanship, even playing outside of their usual positions to challenge themselves.

Well done, team!



In the last week we also welcomed Tom's Talks into school to speak to some of our students on the important topic of mental health. Tom talked about his struggles after his brother's suicide and looked at how we can improve our mental health and remove the stigma on the topic. Well done to our students who listened well and showed respect and maturity for such a sensitive topic.

We can't hold it back anymore and are delighted to officially announce that, following the huge success of Les Miserables last summer, our next school production will be... Frozen the Musical! Over 70 students attended our launch event before half term to find out about the show and learn the audition songs and it was wonderful to see both old faces and new from all year groups wanting to be involved. Auditions take place on Wednesday and all are welcome to come along, with the show itself in July.



We continually promote ourselves to be 'A Learning Community Guided by Gospel Values', a mission statement of which we are very proud. But what does it mean to be a community? For us, community conveys a sense of togetherness and positivity. It speaks both of solidarity and homeliness, of working in partnership and helping each other in times of need. There are so many daily examples of this community spirit within our school, but in particular I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who have contributed in any way to our fundraising efforts for Mr Barber's son, Henry. Mr Barber has been an English and Media teacher at St John's for over 15 years and he is a much valued and loved member of our school community. Sadly his son Henry was diagnosed with neuroblastoma in September 2023.

Despite a year of gruelling treatment, Henry sadly relapsed and the cancer has returned. In order to show our support for Henry, our Year 12 students and staff members took part in charity walks during October and we are delighted to have raised over £3000 for the Barber family. To anyone who has donated, sent messages of support or kept Henry and his family in your thoughts and prayers, and of course to our amazing staff and students who took part in the walks, we thank you for your community spirit.



COMING UP THIS WEEK

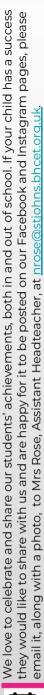
Monday 4- Mock exams begin for Year 11 and Year 13 students. We wish them lots of luck.

Monday 4- Any entries for the St John's flag competition or applications for the Student Leadership Team are due in by the end of the day on Monday. Flag entries are to be given to Mrs Rose and applications via email link. **Wednesday 6-** St John's presents Frozen the Musical, coming in July! Auditions for lead roles and solo parts are taking place after school on Wednesday in the Main Hall under 4.45pm. All are welcome to come along and we look forward to seeing some amazing talent on show! Students should see Mrs Rose with any queries.

Wednesday 6- Some of our Year 10 GCSE Drama and A Level Drama students are attending a performance of War Horse at Sunderland Empire. Students should be at school for 5.45pm to ensure a prompt departure.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS









ClassCharts Year 7 Top

Achievers Tommy S 7N Aimee H 70 Oliver C 70 Lawrence J 70 Yevanhelina T 70

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Isla S 8M Ollie A 8Y Shay M8M Holly R 8Y Emme R 8Y

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Charlie B 9H Mina S-E 9J Joel H 9J Nathan A9H Olivia J 9J

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Hassan S 10J Lillie C 10H Jack B 10N Jack R 100 Isabelle P 100

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Mia H 11J Jaimee R 11J Sophie C 11Y Joshua C 11N April G 11A

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Monday 11 November- Year 8 Retreat
- ☐ Tuesday 12 November- Christmas Market, 6pm (tickets on the door)
- ☐ Friday 29 November- Disaggregated Day, school closed
- ☐ Thursday 5 December- Year 11 Progress Eve ☐ Monday 16 December- Christmas
- Celebration (tickets available soon)
- ☐ Friday 20 December- School closes for Christmas
- Monday 6 January- School reopens
- ☐ Tuesday 28 January- Year 9 Options Eve ☐ Thursday 30 January- Year 12 and 13 Progress Eve
- ☐ Thursday 13 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- ☐ Friday 21 February- Staff Inset, school closed to students. Half term begins

🐉 I Heard a Whisper...

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Last half term was an extremely long and busy one, filled with events, activities, opportunities and achievements. But none of these things would happen without the amazing work of our staff. Well done to Sharon (Catering Team), Mrs Palmer (Health and Social Care/ Social Sciences), Miss Springhall (Maths), Miss Urwin (RE), Mrs Hannant (Humanities), Ms Somers (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Walker (LSA), Miss McAdam (English) and Miss O'Hara (English and Media) who were all recipients of sweet treats in the week before half term.

If you would like to thank a member of staff for their hard work and efforts so far this year, drop us an email at:

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

Artist of the Week





Maddie Chatt 113









