ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

11 NOVEMBER 2024 WEEK B





On Thursday, a group of ten Year 7 students, were privileged to spend the day working with staff and volunteers at Angel Trust. First, they used their maths skills in Asda, where they had a great time buying £150 worth of essential items that school donated to the local charity.

After hearing from Clair, CEO of Angel Trust, about the amazing work the charity is doing to support our local community, they learnt new transferable skills in a cookery workshop, making a tasty shepherd's pie with vegetables to take home to enjoy with

their families, along with a recipe card. They enjoyed a look in the Food Pantry, which is available to everyone, and learnt about the important work of the Food Bank. After helping to pack some presents and some reindeer dust, the day ended with a sneak peak at the charity's exciting new venture and a look inside the amazing new shop - Angel Trust Emporium. Our students showed great respect, resilience and compassion at all times. A huge thank you to Clair, and all the wonderful staff and volunteers, for making them so welcome and for doing such wonderful work in our community.

On Tuesday, three of our Year 12 students, Leo, Joshua and Ezri, attended an Election Day Conversation at Durham Cathedral. The guest speaker, Chancellor of Durham University Dr Fiona Hill, spoke passionately about her career, stemming from Bishop Auckland to studying at Harvard, living in Russia and eventually working for the US government under Presidents Bush, Obama and Trump. It was incredibly interesting to hear her insight into US and Global Politics and offer advice to our students and their next steps. Our students were exemplary, asking

thought-provoking questions and were superb representatives for St John's. We can't wait to see where their future takes them!

The Arts A huge well done to all of the students who showed the self-belief and confidence to audition last week for our summer 2025 school production, Frozen the Musical. The Performing Arts department were blown away by the number of students who showed up to audition and by the talent on show. Callbacks will take place this week.

Sporting Success A huge well done to the Year 10 Netball team who were outstanding in their fixture last week. The talent and enthusiasm from our students ensured we had 15 girls who played great together and made two teams. We won all games against Bishop Barrington and Teesdale, finished 1st and 2nd out of the four teams, with our B team only losing to our A team! Well done, all!

Academic Excellence Congratulations to our Year 11 and 13 students who have shown such self-belief and resilience through their first week of mock exams. We wish them luck as they continue this week.

A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

Last week I wrote about the community spirit which is so often shown within our Learning Community, and there is yet another perfect example to share this week. At the start of October we made an appeal to our school and wider community to help contribute to our remembrance display by crocheting or knitting poppies. This was an ambitious project thought up by our wonderful School Chaplain, Emma, as not only a way to honour those who have lost their lives through war, but also to demonstrate the fantastic community we have. We were overwhelmed to receive over 1000 poppy contributions from students, staff, families, parishioners and even local knitting groups, and we send a heartfelt thanks to anyone who contributed. The display, which now takes pride of place in our foyer, is a spectacular and poignant sight which reminds us of those we have lost and the importance of peace. But more than that, it also reminds us of the solidarity and togetherness our community brings and proudly showcases the power of community spirit.



TOMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 11- A special Remembrance Service will be taking place, streamed across the school from the Chapel. Monday 11- 90 of our Year 8 students are attending a 3 day residential retreat at the Emmaus Youth Village. They will be leaving school at the end of the day on Monday and returning in time for the buses on Wednesday. Students should bring their luggage to the Chapel on Monday and meet in the Main Hall after school. Tuesday 12- We warmly invite everyone to our St John's Christmas Market, 6-8pm. Help get in the festive spirit with wonderful stalls with Christmas gifts, food and drink available. Tickets available on the door, £2/£1. Wednesday 13- Frozen the Musical callback auditions. Anyone who has been invited for a callback should come along after school on Wednesday until 4.45pm with a short performance of a song of their choice from the musical prepared. They will also be given a short acting scene to perform. Students should see their tutors or Mrs Rose if they are unsure whether they have a callback or not.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS





















ClassCharts Year 7 Top

Achievers

Claudia M 7J Georgie J 7M Ali R 7Y Matilda T 7J Tanatswa M 7J

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Summer B 8H Isla S 8M Kea-Shenell W 8H Ruby M8H Neve Sofia O 8J

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Zachary P 90 Chloe W 9H Maddison S 9A Mina S-E 9J Isabella E 9A

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Danae H 10H Molly C 10Y Jack R 100 Hassan S 10J Seb G 10M

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Mia H 11J Imogen M 11J Adam L 11M Ruth R 110 Alicia M 11S

MFL Stars: Aimee H 70, Callum S 70, Isla H 8Y, Harley G 8A, Eva M 8R, Tyler T 8A, Finley H 9J, Ava A 9M, Millie W 90, Jessica A 9A

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ 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 14 January- Careers Day
- ☐ 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
- Monday 3 March- School reopens

I Heard a Whisper... The power of 'thank you' should never be

underestimated. Working with young people is a job which has many highs and lows, and our staff dedicate themselves to the progress and support of our students to ensure they grow into the best possible version of themselves. Well done this week to the following staff members from a range of roles around school who all contribute so positively to our Learning Community and will receive a sweet treat as a thank you: Mrs Osborn (MFL), Bernadette (Admin-Main Reception), Mrs Hodgson (Science), Miss Gough (LSA), Danielle (Admin-Exams) and Mr McIntyre (Deputy Headteacher). If you would like to acknowledge a member of staff, drop us an email at: iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

Artist of the Week



Daniel Dawson 12A









