ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

15 DECEMBER 2025 WEEK A



Yesterday our wonderful choir took part in the Durham Music Service Secondary School Choir of the Year Competition in the beautiful surroundings of the chapel at Ushaw College. For our

12 new members, this was the first time they had performed in public, and we are really proud of the confidence they displayed in competing against 5 other secondary schools. We may not have won this year, but we are very excited to announce that we will be performing at The Glasshouse in February as finalists in last year's



competition. A huge congratulations to Durham Johnston School on their amazing winning performance of Will Todd's Softly. We look forward to performing alongside you in February.

Our festivities officially started last week with our annual Parishioners' Christmas Dinner. It was wonderful to welcome over 40 of our local parishioners into school to enjoy a delicious lunch, and they were even entertained by some of our talented students. This is always a highlight of our school calendar and a wonderful way of bringing our local community together.



After what has been an extremely busy, eventful and successful first term of this academic year, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our staff, students and parents and carers for making our learning community the wonderful place it is. Reflecting on the incredible achievements of the past 15 weeks makes me feel incredibly proud of every single member of the St John's community. From sports to the arts, academically and spiritually, our students have grown, excelled and shone. They have demonstrated resilience, dedication, self-belief and compassion, and have been guided every step by our committed and passionate staff. We now look forward to what further opportunities

and achievements 2026 will bring, and all of the ways our students will continue to soar.

Wishing you all a peaceful and joyful Christmas in the company of loved ones.

Merry Christmas, one and all.



We continued to award our students for spreading kindness, being excellent role models and being 'caught' being Good Puds last week. These students were nominated by staff for supporting their friends, offeirng help to teachers, looking after the school environment and showing compassion to others, and we are delighted to reward them for it!

Well done to our first Advent Attendance Adventure winner, Daniel from 7J who received his £25 voucher for 100% attendance at the start of December. We are also pleased to announce our parent winner was Miss Jackson, parent of Louis from Year 8, who received a £50 voucher. Our next two draws will take place on Monday for last week's 100% attendance, and our final two draws will take place on Friday where one student will be in with the chance of winning a £100 voucher!



COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 15- Christmas at the Movies, 6pm. We are looking forward to an evening of festive entertainment from our talented students as we bring the silver screen to St John's. Please note that our TicketSource tickets have sold out for this event, but please email nrose@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk to enquire about tickets.

Tuesday 16- Christmas Liturgies. Each year group will be walking down to St Mary's Church during the course of the day for a special Christmas Liturgy. Students are reminded to bring a warm coat for the walk.

Wednesday 17- Whole School Reward. All students will have chance to take part in our whole school Christmas reward, with dedicated sessions for each year group. We are excited to announce that this will be a Silent Disco. and are looking forward to seeing our students throw some shapes on the dancefloor to a range of tunes! Wednesday 17- Year 7 Christmas Disco, 5-7pm. The festivities continue for Year 7 as they enjoy their own

Christmas Disco as a reward for their first full term at St John's.

Thursday 18- Student Christmas Dinner.

Thursday 18- Bishop Auckland College Enrichment Sessions. Selected students from Years 8, 9 and 10 will be attending some enrichment sessions at Bishop Auckland College in a range of areas.

Friday 19- Christmas Accessory Day. Students are encouraged to come to school on the last day of term wearing a Christmas accessory alongside their normal uniform. This may be a Christmas hat or headwear, Christmas earrings, Christmas nails or a Christmas jumper (which can be worn in place of their blazer). All other uniform must still be worn. A reminder that school will finish at 1.30pm on the final day and buses are arranged for this time also. Wishing everyone a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS



bhcet.org and Instagram out of school. If your child has Facebook at on our Headteacher, for it to be posted Assistant Headtea both in and achievements, Rose, happy Mrs are 2 students' to share with us and photo, σ share long \ and like t $\overline{\sigma}$ to celebrate they would email love success Ме







ClassCharts Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Emilia O 7Y Eleanor S 7M Katherine J 7J Richie M 7M Cameron W 7O

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Georgie J 8M Jenson C 8J Saule K 8M Ali R 8Y Hope T8N

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Rhys L 9Y Neave W 9Y Oli K 90 Nancy T 9R Lexi K 9M

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Joel H 10J Nicholas R O 10Y Esther L 10J Mina S-E 10J Isabella E 10A

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Kristian W 11R Nadia I 11M Madelyn A 11N Chloe D 11A Joshua W 11M

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2026

- ☐ Monday 5 January- Return to school
- ☐ Tuesday 13 January- Year 9 Options Evening
- ☐ Friday 16 January- World Faith Day Celebration
- ☐ Tuesday 20 January- Whole School Careers
- ☐ Monday 26 January- Turing Scheme Trip to
- ☐ Thursday 29 January- Sixth Form Progress
- ☐ Thursday 5 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- ☐ Monday 9 February- Year 11 and 13 mocks 2
- ☐ Friday 20 February- Break up for half term
- ☐ Monday 2 March- School reopens
- ☐ Monday 23 March- Year 10 and 12 mocks
- ☐ Wednesday 25 March- Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts

I Heard a Whisper...

Computer Scientist of the Week: Georgie Jackson 8M

We may be approaching the end of term, but the hard work, dedication and incredible care of our staff certainly does not stop and we have heard lots of whispers of some of their fantastic work. Well done to Miss Wilkinson (Assistant Headteacher), Mr Athey (Pupil Premium Lead), Mrs Barnham (Head of Year 11), Mrs Noon (SENDCO), Mrs Rose (Assistant Headteacher), Miss Coulson (Science), Claire Ames (Swimming Teacher) and Sean Sedgewick (Network Manager) who all received nominations. With only one week of term remaining, there's one more chance to pass on a whisper

for a member of staff. iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

Artist of the Week



Emily Lin, 7A









