# ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

9 DECEMBER 2024 WEEK B



On Thursday, as part of our involvement in the Enrichment Pilot Project with the DfE, Mrs Rose and seven students went along to Blackwell Grange Hotel in Darlington for a special Enrichment focused morning. While Riley in Year 8 worked with the chef from the hotel to make sandwiches for the afternoon's business lunch, Skye from Year 10, Ava and Zachary from Year 9 and Ellie-Rose, Millie and Lucy from Year 8 got to work with vocal coach Claire from Voices of Darlington Choir. The students then showcased their morning's work at the business lunch which was attended by representatives from businesses across Darlington and the surrounding area. This was a fantastic experience for our students and they behaved impeccably and showed such confidence and self-belief. As part of our continued work on this project, we are keen to reach out to local businesses and facilitators who may be able to help us with our Enrichment offering within school. If you are interested in being involved, please email nrose@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

Over the last ten weeks, 15 of our brilliant Year 7 and 8 students have taken on a new challenge of learning to play the trumpet with support from lan Sanky, teacher at Jack Drum Arts music tuition. They have learned a whole range of musical notes and two contrasting pieces of music which they got the chance to perform in front of their specially invited friends last week. Well done to our students for showing such resilience, confidence and self-belief!

Well done to members of our wonderful choir and Hand Chime Ensemble who performed at

Bishop Auckland Christmas Town and can also be heard at next week's Christmas Concert.





# A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTFACHER

Enrichment is such an important part of life at St John's, and we are proud to offer over 70 different clubs during lunchtime and after school. This week's newsletter alone showcases some of our amazing enrichment opportunities in Performing Arts, Sport and Duke of Edinburgh. We are also delighted to have been selected as one of only 10 schools in County Durham and Darlington to be part of a DfE funded project looking at improving enrichment for secondary school students, in particular those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with barriers to education.



Tickets are still available for our Christmas Concert on Monday 16 December to see our Performing Arts enrichment in action.





A huge well done to our Rugby teams who played against Durham Johnston on Friday night. The girls won and the boys narrowly missed out by just one try. All teams showed fantastic team spirit and sportsmanship and we are extremely proud of their continued efforts.





On Tuesday 17 December, the new Duke of Edinburgh enrolment will start. Information will be given out during Pastoral this week and any students interested should collect an application pack from nominated leaders to be filled in over Christmas.

## TOMING UP THIS WEEK

**Monday 9-** Pre-Loved Uniform Event, 3.30-4.45pm. Entrance is via Student Reception only, not the Main Entrance. Please do not arrive any earlier than 3.30 in order to allow students to leave site. Please note we rely on donations so will only have limited amounts of stock. If possible, please confirm via email if you wish to attend in order for us to accommodate parent and carers: sdenning@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

**Wednesday 11-** Frozen rehearsals for all cast until 4.30pm. This is our last rehearsal before performing at the Christmas Concert next Monday so all cast must attend.

**Friday 13-** Christmas Karaoke- Staff Edition! Following the huge success of Karaoke Club this half term, we are holding a special staff edition this week in celebration of Christmas and in support of our Hygiene Hamper appeal. Students are encouraged to come along for some festive entertainment and can show their support of our local community and families by bringing along a hygiene or dried food item as their 'ticket' into the event. **Sunday 15**- Sixth Form Dinner Dance, 7-11pm. We look forward to a wonderful evening of festive food, dancing and celebrations with our Sixth Form students for their annual Dinner Dance.

# LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS

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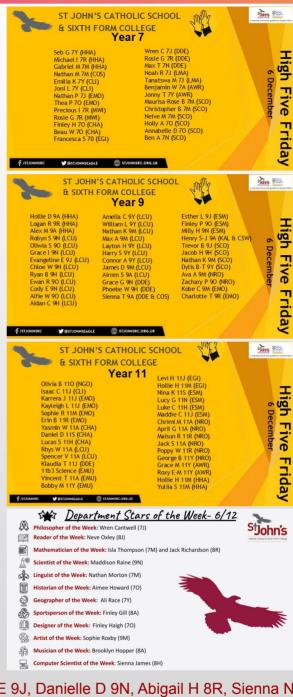
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ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL



#### **ClassCharts** Year 7 Top **Achievers** Hannah K 7A Georgie J 7M Kai D 7A Caitlin L 7J Claudia M 7J Year 8 Top **Achievers** Ruby M 8H Milana D 8J Leon W 8A Frankie B 8J Jessica N 8H Year 9 Top **Achievers** Mina S-E 9J Lucie H 90 Niamh S 9R Danielle D 9N Iona A 90 Year 10 Top **Achievers** Ava R 10H Jack R 100 Isabelle P 100 Skye H 100

### Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Jack B 10N

Mia H 11J Scarlett H 11N Lucy O 11M Eleanor B 11A Kaden C 11A

MFL Stars of the Week: Nathan M 7M, Evangeline E 9J, Danielle D 9N, Abigail H 8R, Sienna N 8A, Aidan C 8H

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Monday 16 December- Christmas Celebration (tickets available now)
- ☐ Tuesday 17 December- Parishioner Christmas Lunch
- ☐ Wednesday 18 December- Student Christmas Dinner- details to follow.
- ☐ Friday 20 December- School closes for Christmas. (Please note this will be a half day with students finishing at 1.30pm)
- ☐ Monday 6 January- School reopens
- ☐ Tuesday 14 January- Careers Day
- ☐ Tuesday 28 January- Year 9 Options Eve
- ☐ Thursday 30 January- Year 12/13 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...

It is wonderful to once again receive so many emails thanking our staff and celebrating their unwavering efforts towards our young people and our school community. Whether a teacher, Head of Year, LSA or member of support staff, every member of staff is a valued and crucial member of our Learning Community, and it is wonderful to see this being acknowledged by parents and colleagues. Well done this week to Mr Walker (LSA), Sean Sedgwick (IT Technician), Mr Smith (Head of Year 7), Mr Oxberry (Head of Year 11), Danielle Lawson (Admin) and Mr Morley (Maths) who have all received well-deserved nominations. Email nominations to: iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

## Artist of the Week



**April Greenup 11A** 









