## ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

Before Christmas we held two Enrichment Taster Days at Bishop Auckland College for selected students in Years 8, 9 and 10. Students took part in sessions in E-Sports, Catering, Motor Vehicles, Construction and Beauty and had a fantastic time, whilst also being superb ambassadors for St John's. A huge thank you to the staff at Bishop Auckland College for hosting us and giving our students this excellent opportunity. This partnership is crucial to our role in the Enrichment Partnerships Pilot with the DfE, focused on improving the enrichment offering for secondary school pupils by utilising facilities, organisations and businesses from the local area. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our Enrichment Programme with more exciting experiences and opportunities in 2025.



As part of the Core RE programme we ask Sixth Form students to "make a difference". Caitlin and Lily in Year 12 did just that before Christmas by contacting Darlington Memorial Hospital Children's Ward for a wish list for the children who were in hospital over Christmas and collecting generous donations. Caitlin and Lily were honoured to be able to hand deliver the gifts to the Children's Ward, including a handwritten card for each child, which were delivered to the children on Christmas morning. A huge well done and thank you to Caitlin and Lily for organising this wonderful initiative and making a difference.



We had a festive and fun-filled final week of term before Christmas, starting with our Sixth Form Dinner Dance at Ramside Hall which was a wonderful festive occasion with our fabulous Year 12 and 13 students. Next up was our annual Christmas Concert which saw an incredible amount of talent on display from our students as they performed a range of songs, scenes and readings based around the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. This was then followed by a day of giving back to our community with our annual Parishioners' Christmas Lunch and members of our choir visiting local care homes to perform to the residents there. The rest of the week saw Christmas Dinner for all year groups, Reward Assemblies, Christmas quizzes, Advent liturgies at St Mary's Church and our Christmas Accessory Day to round off the end of a wonderful term.

6 JANUARY 2025 Week B



### A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

2024 was a wonderful year within our Learning Community, with a successful Ofsted inspection and some of our best exam results on record. It was a year of incredible opportunities and memories, but also some real lows for members of our community who sadly experienced difficulties and loss.

A brand new year brings with it so much hope and possibility, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a 2025 filled with happiness and love. We give thanks for the brand new year ahead and ask for guidance, strength and courage in helping to fill the days and months to come with good things. Here's to another fantastic year of opportunity and success at St John's.



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**Monday 6-** We are looking forward to welcoming all staff and students back to school after what we hope has been an enjoyable and restful Christmas break.

## REMINDERS

As we begin a new term, we politely remind everyone that mobile phones are not allowed out in school and must be switched off and in students' bags if they are brought onto school site. We would also like to begin the new term with excellent standards of uniform and remind everyone that trainers, jewellery, nail varnish and hoodies are not part of our uniform policy.

## LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS





#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ...:\*

- 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

## FOCUS ON... Enrichment



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Last term we awarded over 10,000 positive ClassCharts points for attendance at Enrichment and gave out nearly 100 Enrichment Scratch Cards for engagement, loyalty and contribution. Through their scratch cards, students won a range of prizes including postcards

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home, lunch queue passes and Amazon vouchers. There are more Scratch cards up for grabs this term.

## ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL

🐉 I Heard a Whisper...

Well done to Mr Dunn (Director of Sixth Form), Mr Smith (Head of Year 7), Miss MacDermott (Assistant Headteacher), Emma Ramsey (School Chaplain), Mrs Maddison (Head of Technology), Allan, Morris and Chris (Minibus Drivers), Mr Oxberry (Head of Year 11) and Mr Curry (Computer Science) who all received lovely nominations to acknowledge their hard work and contributions to our Learning Community before Christmas. We look forward to sharing more wonderful nominations in 2025 and being able to celebrate our fabulous staff even more.

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk

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Year 7 Top

**Achievers** 

Daniel W 70

Saule K 7M

Frankie B 8J Evoline S 8A Pippa H 8R Imogen K 8J

Year 9 Top **Achievers** Matthew W 9R Kate T 9Y Mina S-E 9J Zea L 9Y Iona A 90 Thomas T 9A

#### Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Nicole S 100 Jack R 100 Teddy M 10H Jorgia P 10A William G 100

Year 11 Top **Achievers** Lucy O 11M Abi T 11M Mia H 11J Scarlett H 11N Eleanor B 11A

# the Week

Artist of





Poppy Davidson 12A



