ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

3 FEBRUARY 2025 Week B



Padel tennis is the fastest growing sport in the world. On Friday we were given an amazing opportunity to go and try Padel at True Padel Sunderland with comedian Jason Manford. Jason has been trying to increase the profile of padel tennis among young people and is hiring courts around the UK to let young



people try Padel tennis. Our Year 10 students were fantastic and picked up the sport very quickly, hitting the ball off the glass in no time.

On Thursday, enthusiastic performers joined renowned, London-based vocal leader, Aga Serugo-Lugo for an afternoon of singing in Durham. They learned some fantastic new music and harmonies and there was even a bit of dancing too! A huge thank you to Durham Music Service for organising the event - everyone had a great time!





On Friday, Year 9 students competed in the District Dodgeball Tournament held at Bishop Auckland College. Students did amazingly well, with the girls' team finishing as winners and the boys in 3rd place. It was also great to catch up with former students and Sports Leaders Joe and Tyler who are studying for their Sports Coaching Degree at the college.

We are proud and delighted that another five of our students have completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and are awaiting their visit to Buckingham Palace this summer. The group, now in Year 13, have collectively been together to complete all three awards since Year 9 and have demonstrated excellent teamwork, friendship and resilience. Two members of the group are now leading and volunteering with DofE groups delivering navigation and campcraft training, all of this alongside completing their A Level studies! This is a tremendous achievement and an outstanding demonstration of a cohesive team who approached their award with positivity and determination throughout. Well done to Thomas Smurthwaite, Maia Stanbridge, Daniel Tomlinson, Freya



Our winning House from last term was

Aidan, and on Friday they received their reward of a Pizza Party. Year 7-10 students from Aidan were joined by 116 students with 100% attendance last term and two nominated students from each tutor group, chosen for their hard work and good behaviour so far this year. 115 pizzas in all possible flavours were delivered and enjoyed by students as a celebration and acknowledgement for their efforts.

On Tuesday, Year 12 students had an eye-opening visit from County Durham and Darlington Fire service, learning about the risks of driving and how to stay safe on the roads. The fire service shared real-life experiences and important tips on preventing accidents, handling emergencies, and understanding the serious consequences of risky driving. Thank you to the fire service for their valuable insight in helping our students stay safe and make responsible choices behind the wheel.

A WORD FROM LISA BYRON. HEADTEACHER

Once again our newsletter is filled with examples of our students living out the Virtues. Whether it is the Confidence of our sporting and Performing Arts students trying out new hobbies and skills, the Self Belief and Resilience of our Duke of Edinburgh students in achieving their Gold Award, or the Respect demonstrated by our Year 8 and Year 12 students during their NHS and driving safety talks, this is just a small taste of how our students showcase our eight Virtues every week. We truly believe that these Virtues are the core values of what it means to be a well-rounded member of society, and we are incredibly proud of how well our students embody them. I would also like to extend a special thank you this week to our Year 9 and Sixth Form parents and carers for their attendance and support at last week's Year 9 Options Evening and Sixth Form Progress Evening. The partnership between home and school is so important to us and is crucial to students' success. It is wonderful to be able to have such

positive and constructive

conversations as we work together

to support your child to be the very

best version of themselves.

Year 8 students were treated to an interactive 'Careers in the NHS' performance during their Pastoral lesson last week. This fun show introduced the different roles within the NHS and the various routes that are available. We are challenging students in Years 7-9 to create a job advert showcasing one NHS role of their choice as part of a national competition 'Step into the NHS'. Full details will be given soon.

TOMING UP THIS WEEK

Wednesday 5- Frozen rehearsal until 4.30 for Young Anna, Young Elsa, Middle Anna, Middle Elsa, Pabbie, Bulda, King Agnarr and Queen Iduna. Cast members should see Mrs Rose if they don't have a rehearsal schedule A reminder that students must have a valid bus pass to travel on a school bus. These are checked daily.

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS





















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ClassCharts Year 7 Top Achievers

Evelyn K 7M Pola K 7N Hannah K 7A Nathan M 7M Isla T 7M

Year 8 Top Achievers

Leo B 8R Summer B 8H Millie B 8M Sophia R 8H Ruby B 8A

Year 9 Top Achievers

Halle M 9Y Tejaswi S 9A Niamh S 9R Leah W 9A Harrison M 9O

Year 10 Top Achievers

Jack R 100 Skye H 100 Hassan S 10J Monica M 100 Madelyn A 10N

Year 11 Top Achievers

April G 11A Kirstie W 11J Jaimee R 11J Julia W 11O Klaudia T 11J

MFL Stars of the Week: Michael Igwebuike 7R, Chloe Whitaker 9H, Milana Dolia 8J

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Monday 10 February- Year 11/13 Mocks begin☐ Thursday 13 February- Year 9 Progress Eve
- ☐ Friday 21 February- Staff Inset, school closed to students. Half term begins
- ☐ Monday 3 March- School reopens
- ☐ Thursday 13 March- Year 11 Progress Evening
- ☐ Saturday 15 March- FLAME Trip
- ☐ Thursday 20 March- Year 8 Progress Evening
- Wednesday 26 March- Jaquie Holloway Prize for Performing Arts
- ☐ Thursday 3 April- Year 10 Progress Evening
- ☐ Friday 11 April- Last day of term before Easter
- ☐ Monday 28 April- School reopens
- ☐ Monday 5 May- Bank Holiday- school closed
- ☐ Wednesday 7 May- GCSE Exams begin
- ☐ Monday 12 May- Year 7 Residential Retreat
- ☐ Thursday 22 May- Year 7 Progress Evening

🔊 I Heard a Whisper...

'Thank you' is one of the easiest things to say but can have the biggest impact on those we say it to.

Well done this week to Mrs Noon (SENDCO), Mr Malkin (BHCET Director of Maths), Mrs Thompson (Head of Year 12 and 13), Mrs Rose (Assistant Headteacher), Danielle, Bernadette and Anna (Main Reception Admin) and Miss Springhall (Maths) who were the recipients of last week's sweet treats after their nominations from parents, colleagues or students.







Isabelle Parry 100

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk









