ST JOHN'S WEEKLY NEWS

A Learning Community guided by Gospel Values

7 APRIL 2025 Week B



On Friday afternoon we were honoured to be joined by Sam Rushworth, Labour MP for Bishop Auckland, to host a special focus group on issues that have arisen from the Netflix documentary, Adolescence. Sam is keen to make positive changes within our local area and for our young people and we were proud to have been chosen as the focus school for this which was also filmed for ITV News. Our Year 10 students spoke articulately, confidently and insightfully about some incredibly sensitive and important topics and we were so proud of how they conducted themselves.





Thursday was a day of rugby with girls from all year groups competing in the County 7s Tournament. Our Year 7 team won and are the newly crowned County Champions! A special mention to Beau Wilson who was awarded Player of the Tournament, Year 9 and Year 8 were both entered into the U14 tournament, with Year 9 finishing as runners up and Year 8 in third place, despite playing against teams a year older than them. The Year 10/11 team also finished in third.

The girls have made amazing progress and their success is well deserved.

Our Year 7 students took part in an insightful and important session on Friday focused on hate crime and discrimination. The talk helped raise awareness about the impact of hateful behaviour, both in person and online, emphasising the importance of kindness, respect and standing up for others. We are proud to be creating a school environment where everyone feels safe, valued and empowered to speak out against injustice. Thank you to Ben and Stephen from Durham Constabulary for delivering such a powerful message. Let's continue working together to build a more inclusive community- both in school and beyond.



A WORD FROM LISA BYRON, HEADTEACHER

Respect is one of our eight school Virtues and is something we see as crucial that our students show to each other and to everyone within our Learning Community. Without respect, all that exists is hate, discrimination and injustice, something we see far too much of within society. It is therefore so important that we encourage and reward respectful behaviour, through our High Fives, our 'Good Egg' awards and through our annual Virtue Awards. It is also vital that we give our students opportunities to show and learn respect and that we challenge them to listen to and engage with important societal issues surrounding respect. It is wonderful to see such discussions happening last week in school, as well as instances where our students have shown incredible respect to each other in and out of the classroom.

Attendance Matters

Last week's attendance figures were: Year 7- 92.8%, Year 8- 91.5% Year 9- 92.8%, Year 10- 90.8% Year 11- 90.6%

During Pastoral last week it was the turn of our Year 9 students to take part in the Easter Hunt in aid of CAFOD,



once again organised by our fantastic Year 12 CAFOD Young Leaders. Year 9 raised over £100 for this great charity and had an eggcellent time.

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COMING UP THIS WEEK

Monday 7- Easter liturgies. All students will be walking down to St Mary's church for Easter liturgies during the course of the day. This is an important celebration for us as we approach Holy Week.

Monday 7- 150 students from Years 8, 9 and 10 are taking part in enrichment sessions at Bishop Auckland College in areas such as ceramics, fashion, brickwork, catering, hairdressing, nursing, childcare, motor vehicles and e-sports.

Tuesday 8- Year 8 will have the opportunity to take part in a charity Easter Hunt for CAFOD. **Wednesday 9-** We wish our PE GCSE students lots of luck in their GCSE moderation. **Wednesday 9-** Frozen rehearsals this week are for Elsa, Anna, Hans, Weselton, Kristoff, Olaf and Sven.

Thursday 10- We send lots of luck to our Year 11 Drama students in their GCSE practical exam.

Friday 11- Easter holidays- we wish all of our staff, students and families a wonderful Easter.



All are invited to take part in our easter egg raffle in support of the Friends of St John's fundraising. Tickets available via MCAS

LAST WEEK'S ACHIEVEMENTS









ClassCharts Year 7 Top **Achievers**

Carollena A 70 Allan T 7M Saule K 7M Maggie W 7J Nathan M 7M

Year 8 Top **Achievers**

Imogen K 8J Sienna J 8H Kea-Shennell W 8H Ellie-Rose F 8J Neve O 8J

Year 9 Top **Achievers**

Oliver B 9Y Phoebe W 9H Thomas K 9R Harry M 9M Maddison S 9A

Year 10 Top **Achievers**

Freddie C 10A Chloe E 10Y Jorgia P 10A Jack R 100 Nadia I 10M

Year 11 Top **Achievers**

Niamh C 11Y George B 11Y Poppy W 11R April G 11A Spencer V 11A

MFL Stars of the Week: Yana H 7R, Kai D 8N, Harry M 9M, Trevor B 9J, Christina J 8N

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- ☐ Monday 28 April- School reopens
- ☐ Monday 5 May- Bank Holiday
- ☐ Wednesday 7 May- GCSE Exams begin
- ☐ Monday 12 May- Year 7 Residential Retreat
- ☐ Monday 19 May- Year 10 Work Experience
- ☐ Thursday 22 May- Year 7 Progress Evening
- ☐ Friday 23 May- Last day before half term
- ☐ Monday 2 June- School reopens
- ☐ Monday 2 June- Year 12 Work Experience
- ☐ Thursday 19 June- Virtue Awards 2025
- ☐ Monday 23 June- Year 10 and Year 12 mocks
- ☐ Wednesday 2 July- Year 13 Peru Trip
- ☐ Wednesday 2 July- Year 9/10 Summer
- Monday 7 July/ Tuesday 8 July- St John's presents 'Frozen the Musical'
- ☐ Thursday 10/Friday 11 July- Year 6 Induction

🔊 I Heard a Whisper...

Musician of the Week: Grace l'Anson 9N

Computer Scientist of the Week: Lacey Meadows 9.

Support, dedication and compassionthree words which are so often said about our staff and are a recurring theme in our I Heard a Whisper nominations. We really are so lucky to have the committed and passionate group of staff that we do. Well done this week to Mr Smith (Head of Year 7), Denise Grant (Catering team), Miss Bell (Head of Performing Arts), Miss Heads (Assistant Head of Year 7/ LRC Manager) and Mike Metcalf (Site staff) who will all find a sweet treat in their pigeon holes this morning as a reward and celebration of their hard work. If you think a member of staff deserves a special mention and a sweet treat, drop us an email:

iheardawhisper@stjohns.bhcet.org.uk





Isabelle Parry 100









