

Our ref: MMC/GHR

15 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As Christmas draws near, we are reminded daily of the importance of a community and togetherness. This week we have seen students busily filling Christmas hampers for those most in need, learning the BSL Christmas song and the sign language that goes along with that song and a keenly contested Christmas bake off. These events do not happen in every school, and I am thankful to the staff and Parents who support these endeavours.

The culmination of our Christmas events will see our whole school come together for the annual Family Christmas Dinner where the whole school will enjoy games, food, songs, and festive cheer.

### Teaching and Learning

Thank you to those who provided us with feedback on our homework strategy through the survey link we sent out. Many felt that students were sometimes missing the rewards incentive to complete their homework. In response to your feedback, we will be trialling a fortnightly lucky dip prize for Year 7 students who complete all their homework. We have surveyed students about how they would like to be rewarded across the year for consistently completing their homework and we will be shaping our next steps using their ideas.

### Events and Enrichment

#### Beauty and the Beast

What a fantastic night we had at the Beauty and the Beast pantomime with over 400 KS3 students and STWA staff! What a wonderful way to start the festive season, especially when our very own Mr Campbell took to the stage! We are getting closer to fulfilling our pledge to take every STWA student to the theatre this academic year.

#### Year 11 Driving School

On Friday, 48 of our Year 11 students experienced their first driving lesson courtesy of LWA Driving School! These students were rewarded for their high levels of investment, including the highest performance on our revision apps, Tassomai and Sparx, attendance to October Half Term Achieve sessions and nominations by the Year 11 team. Despite their initial nerves, we were pleased to see such mature and responsible learner drivers navigating the academy car park. All Year 11 students will have another opportunity to be rewarded for their investment in the second round of STWA Driving School, which will take place in March 2024.

#### Year 11 Trial Exams Results Day

On Wednesday 20th December, Year 11 students will receive their trial examination results in a special assembly, as we look to celebrate students' achievements and the progress they have made since Year 10. Students have already commenced the closing the gap process in lessons and are eagerly responding to their feedback to close gaps in knowledge and refine the skills that will be essential in the summer examinations.



## Christmas Bake-Off

The Technology department were overwhelmed by the number of entries for the Christmas cupcake decorating bake off. Each cupcake was judged on taste, decoration skills, and originality of design. The standard was extremely high so it made the judge's job exceedingly difficult, and every single person that entered should be very proud of their creations.

	1st Place	2nd Place
Parents/Carers	c/o Ethan R	c/o Rares L
Staff	Miss Rusby	Mr Campbell
Year 7	Amelia B	Joseph Y
Year 8	Theophan K	Jessica B/Theo I
Year 9	Tobias W	Gracie D
Year 10	Jasmine S	Sophie W
Year 11	Marley J	Ruby W
Sixth Form	Ruby H	

## Better Learners, Better Workers

This week, our Year 9 BLBW students visited Wath Academy to participate in a Finance seminar. They looked at taxes, wages, national insurance and completed a budgeting exercise to think about their potential outgoings. We finished with a Christmas quiz as this is our last event before the Christmas break.

## Enrichment updates

On Monday after school, the Eco Warriors met with Mr McDonald to pitch an idea about the introduction of Sir Thomas Wharton's very first Bug Hotel. The students presented their ideas with passion and confidence. Miss. Shelton is so proud of them all! Every week they amaze her with their efforts, dedication, and teamwork. Watch this space for our first bug hotel!

## Standards

Uniform has been a big strength so far this year and students have been entering the building ready for learning each morning. Please can we remind the small number of students who have borrowed items from the uniform store that these need to be returned at the end of each day.

## Post 16 News

## Festive Fundraiser

On Friday, Year 12 and Year 13 students joined together in festive themed fundraising events such as, Christmas Karaoke, Raffles, Hot Chocolates, Christmas Quiz, Bingo and more, raising funds for our local charity organisation ECO (Edlington Community Organisation). Contributions are still coming, and the total is yet to be finalised, but we are incredibly pleased with the efforts of students and the organisation by the Post 16 Student Council.

Yours faithfully

Mr. M McDonald  
Principal





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