



Dear Parents & Carers,

Finally, we are here at the last day of term! It has been a long, hard December as there has been so much going on but it has been joyful and inspirational too. Many of our students have thrown themselves into **Faith in Action** activities;

- Students in Y7 visiting the Porter Brook Care Home, Darwin House and Bridgedale to meet the residents, sing Christmas carols, spread holiday cheer and bring joy to the residents.
- Advent Winter Wonderland where there was an array of stalls organised by 6th form and lower school students. What made this Winter Wonderland special was the unmistakable sense of unity among the students. It wasn't just a fundraising event; it was a testament to the power of teamwork, creativity, and the joy of coming together to create something magical.

All proceeds from Winter Wonderland will be sent to a mix of charities chosen by our students. Some charities they have already chosen are Dementia UK and CAFOD for the Israel/Palestine crisis.

- Supporting the Sheffield S6 foodbank. This organisation supports a nationwide network of food banks and together they provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty. They also campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK

All of these activities serve as a reminder of the importance of community, togetherness and our duty to live out Hallmark 4, 'we commit ourselves to community service.'

The Advent Service at St Vincent's Church during the week and our Advent Services in school today, have provided us with much needed time to pause and reflect on what is really important at this time of year. Themes have been around Joy and Hope but also an examination of our conscience and a call to be the good people that God created us to be.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Advent Carol Service at St Vincent's and to Fr Paddy Walsh for hosting us again. I share with you below, what was the final Prayer at that service which has an important message that sums up really well the theme that has been shared this Advent.

God of Salvation,
Wake us up Lord!
The night is nearly over,
Let us begin our Advent journey.
Move us from our lives
Of greed and selfishness,
From our globalised world of inequality and exploitation,
To your kingdom
Of righteousness and mercy.
To a transformed world,
Where peace is built on understanding not weapons.
The poor are empowered to live lives to the full,
Businesses are built on need not greed
And your Creation is nurtured not abused.

Wake us up Lord!
Let us live as people of the light.
Amen.



Drama – The Great Gatsby

The opening night for The Great Gatsby is the second week back after the Christmas break!

“Step into the roaring '1920s with our school performance of 'The Great Gatsby,' adapted for the stage by Mr O'Farrell!

Experience Fitzgerald's iconic tale brought to life with captivating performances, a live band, and a journey through glamour and tragedy. From lavish parties to poignant moments, witness the drama unfold in a spectacle that celebrates the timeless allure of this classic. Get your tickets now to be transported to the heart of the Jazz Age.”

The link to buy tickets for this classic: www.ticketsource.co.uk/notre-dame-high

Miss Carrigan -Head of Drama

Remembrance Day English Writing Competition Winners

Congratulations to the winner of the Remembrance Day Writing competition - Orla Pickup from Y7. Orla's piece of writing is included below:

Rip the Rescue Dog

Rip, a crossbreed terrier, was discovered alone and hungry amidst the chaos following a heavy air raid on a popular London area by a local air raid warden in 1940. The warden, Mr E King, took pity on him, fed him some scraps and the pair became inseparable. Rip was the warden's search and rescue dog.

Rip was a stray when Mr King first found him but was soon adopted by the Air Raid Precautions (ARP). During the Blitz, he helped locate people and animals buried in the debris after an air raid. Rip was awarded the Dickin Medal for bravery in 1945 but died the same year. He was buried in 1946 in PDSA cemetery Ilford, England.

There are many examples of brave animal in war. Dogs are just one example of how loyal animals can be. There were horses, pigeons, cats and even a bear. Rip's story was a very emotional story but he saved many lives together with his friend Mr King.

The English Department

Eco Club

During the last half term eco club has concentrated on what we could forage and recycle in different ways. We started with completing a tree survey to look at all the species on our school grounds. We are very lucky to live in a city and go to a school which has such a wide variety.



We collected horse chestnuts to play conkers with and then used them in some crafts as shown below and to make mobiles which we then hung back in the trees.



In the last few weeks we have turned our attention to recycling things we already had into new Christmas decorations.

In the spring term when the ground is not too hard we hope to concentrate on planting and growing. Come and join us!

Ms Nicholls, Mrs Wilkinson, Miss Gennard

Round up of Sporting Activity and Achievements



Basketball

All Years/Mixed

Lots of fantastic play from our teams so far. Highlights have been a wonderful display of skill & teamwork from our Y11 basketball team. They won all three of their league matches against Mercia, All Saints and Birkdale.

They will now face a play-off match as league winners. We are hopeful the team will make the Sheffield Final in February.

The photo is our Y8 basketball team

Mr Downs

Badminton

KS4 Girls

Mina Fowkes
Emilia Sawicka
Erin Beare
Esther Shaw
Miriam Vas

Came 3rd in City in a whole day tournament.

The team beat All Saints in a close-matched Catholic School Derby!

Miss Giampalma



Cross Country

Mixed Year groups and genders

Congratulations to all our runners that are regularly turning up in the freezing cold and rainy conditions. Currently the Y8/9 boys' squad are high up in the league looking at second place in the City at present. Our top 3 finishers at Castle Dyke were:

Harry Kirkman Y9 2nd place at Castle Dyke

George (in picture) Y11 1st place at Castle Dyke

Grace Igoe Y10 Girls winning her race at Castle Dyke

Elsbeth Buchanen Y8 finishing 3rd place at Castle Dyke recently

Mrs Kay

Headteacher's Breakfast Club

Thursday 7 December 2023 - attendees:

Stephanie Cooray, Faye Lee, Inacio Mariano, Marta Mariano, Dominic Tanswell and Daniel Martinez (all Y10s) for excelling in their RE studies - Mrs Otieno reports these students are "Absolutely smashing RE all the time!"

Also, in attendance were: OJ Ochieng (Ethan Oyugi Ochieng) and Kadija Bah for completing the South Yorkshire Police (SYP) - Inspiring Youth Level 2 Award 2023. OJ was one of the finalists from several hundred young people who participated in this level 2 project!

Thursday 14 December 2023 - invitees:

Entrants of the St Catherine of Alexandria Essay Prize competition Benji Owusu-Sekyere, Joseph Storf, Elizabeth Henok, Kayleen Odobi, Chrisy Savvidou, Joanne Paul and Yeukai Azumah. As the Y11 students (from this group) were busy with their mock exam revision on this date only some of the above group attended breakfast.

Staff News

We are saying goodbye to 3 members of staff at the end of this term and on your behalf, I would like to thank them for their contributions to the school in the time they have worked with us.

Mrs Waller, who has taught Physics here for 14 years is leaving to become an Advisory Teacher for students with Autism, which is her area of passion. She has supported much of the teaching school work and helped to train the next generation of Science teachers which is so important to us.

Mrs Hesslewood, came as an agency temp to support SEND Administration but then became a permanent member of staff as a Pastoral Admin Manager and more recently a Pastoral Manager. It is fair to say that she discovered her true vocation while she has been with us and she is moving to another school to continue with Pastoral work.

Mrs Lonchar, has been here as a temporary Pastoral Manager this term, and has become very much part of the community in a short time and provided much needed support to staff and students. It is excellent news that she is also moving on to another pastoral role.

My thanks goes to each of them for the mark they have left on the school and the impact they have had on staff and students. We wish them all great happiness and success in the future.

I would just like to finish on a note of thanks to all staff. Their hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed and I am very grateful for all that they do. As we look back on the challenges and triumphs of the past term, it is evident that the strength of our community lies in the collective commitment to our school ethos, and I include parents in this too. The commitment I see from both parents and staff has created an environment where so many students thrive.

Wishing you all a merry Christmas and a well-deserved break. I hope that 2024 brings everything that you wish for.

Headteacher

Dates for your diary		
First Day of Spring Term	Monday 8 th January	
School Production Drama Studio, University of Sheffield	Wednesday 17 th to Saturday 20 th January 2024	7:00pm (2:30pm Sat)
Y11 Parent's Evening	Thursday 25 th January	5:00pm -7:00pm

Events happening in School over the coming weeks

Y12 Assessment week

8th to 12th January

Enrichment Day 2

Wednesday 24th January

