

19 December 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are fast approaching the end of term and find ourselves in the season of Advent preparing for the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

We have had a very enjoyable but busy term in school. As ever, the best way to keep in touch with regular news is to follow us on Twitter or Facebook as these will tell you all about the various events and activities that have taken place; there has been so much to celebrate.



This term our new Combined Cadet Force (CCF) unit has been set up and established. They meet every week and are in the process of being issued with uniform and equipment. I know the students involved have a great time and it has proved to be very popular.

Our new debating society has also met several times this term and hosted both our local MPs to debate political issues of the moment.

We had a very successful food bank collection in October where we were overwhelmed with gifts offered from



across the school.

We contributed to the York Food Festival in a variety of ways, supporting food stalls with prepping and making food and playing live music to accompany the diners.

Our mathematicians took part in a brilliant team maths challenge with ridiculously hard problems being worked on and answered in record times!

It was great to welcome back last year's prefects for a celebration dinner organised by our catering and hospitality students as part of their GCSE. The food was delicious and the atmosphere very convivial.



YoYo came in to work with year 7 for the day doing prayer spaces, it was a great opportunity for them to spend time thinking about their faith and prayer life and what that means to them.

Our Open Evening was the busiest ever this year and we have had record numbers of students applying to join us in Year 7 next year. It is good to be popular!

Our Performing Arts department did some amazing concerts and performances just before half term which were really well attended and enjoyed by so many.

Year 7 had a great time at Carlton Lodge getting to know each other and bond as a group. They all tried new activities and had a great time.



We also gave the charity Cry in the Dark lots of Christmas boxes to give to the children and young people in Romania that we helped last half term. They were so grateful to receive them. Thanks so much to all of you who made one. They promise to send pictures of the children receiving them and we will put them on Facebook when they do.

As ever there have been a whole host of sporting events and fixtures this term with all age groups being represented in inter-school competitions. The u12 football team and u15 hockey team were both runners up in their respective district competitions. Both KS3 and KS4 boys and girls badminton teams have qualified for the regional finals in the new year and the u16 netball team represented the district at the regional finals. Finally, congratulations to the Year 9 rugby team who have reached the semi-final of the Yorkshire cup following their 57-0 victory over BBG Academy.

Our trip to Malawi has been a real highlight. The students visited the Minster to showcase making reusable feminine hygiene products then represented our school brilliantly whilst in Malawi. This has led to a range of fund raising events since.

We also had some students and staff who went to Melbourne, Australia as part of the National treasures programme. Mr Tasker managed to go to Malawi and Australia this term (how did he manage that?!) I know they all had a fantastic time and did great work whilst they were there.

Our presentation evening for last year's Year 11 leavers was a great success with Margaret Sentamu as our guest of honour and Lt Colonel Moorhouse who was the Commanding Officer of Marine David Hart who died in action serving for the Royal Marines, David attended our school as a student. We inaugurated the Marine David Hart Award, and this will be given out every year from now on. This year's award was presented to Sam Woodall. We had an enjoyable evening as the students received their certificates and prizes for their GCSEs. They told us what they are doing at college or work and how things are going. We are so proud of them and were really pleased to see them.

Our Christmas Fair was an amazing success happening at the end of November, earlier than usual. We had tremendous support from parents and raised over £2000 for school funds which was great.



Our Young Leaders have been trying to "Be the change they want to see" in our community by organising tea, cake and games in the Ainsty pub and visiting Armana House to support the residents there.

The Performing Arts trip to London was a success with shows and workshops and the attractions of the capital enjoyed by all.



Our Christmas Carol Service in the Minster was a wonderful event with the primary schools and representatives from the secondary schools in the Hope Trust joining us this year. The Minster was packed out and a great time was had.

Our Senior Citizens Christmas meal was a great event too and our students looked after our guests wonderfully. We were inundated with thank you letters afterwards.



Of course, all these events would not happen unless our wonderful staff organised them and they do a superb job. I would like to say a huge thank you to them all for the hard work they have put in this term and for the way in which our parents also support us. We couldn't do it without you. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

We look forward to seeing and working with you all in 2018, school will reopen on Tuesday 9th January, please remember Monday 8th is an INSET day.

Simon Barber

Principal

