



# Newsletter

## Saint Bede's Catholic High School

### December 2022



## REFLECTION

Through Advent we spend more time in prayer to become better prepared to welcome the birth of Christ, yet it takes no time for our human nature to lead us to turn away from God in an attempt to wrestle back control. We strive to have more rather than be more. In his letter, 'Laudato Si'. Pope Francis warns us against extreme consumerism when he says, 'people can easily get caught up in a whirlwind of needless buying and spending'. So at this point we need to remember the greatest gift that God sent us in the birth of Christ, and the life of Jesus that was spent out of love for us at the Crucifixion.

This year, instead of spending on an ill-judged present, a better idea might be to choose for them a CAFOD World Gift that provides struggling communities with access to water, energy, healthcare, housing, education or the like. Or, instead of making lame excuses, spend some quality time with family, friends or neighbours. Choices like these condition our hearts. Choices like these make our hearts a fitting place for the Christ Child to rest his head.

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## PRAYER

**Father in heaven; help us to remember that  
all our gifts come from you.**

**When we think we are in charge, remind us  
that we are your people and that you are our  
God.**

**Let us put no gods before you — let us not  
put our love of material things before our  
love of people so we may live a life that  
pleases you.**

**Holy Spirit, inspire us to live each day as if  
Christmas were just a moment away.**

**We ask in Jesus' name,**

**Amen.**



## Mr Marsden

### Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

*There is a very welcome sense of 'normality' at the end of the Autumn term for the first time for a couple of years – aided by the very cold but traditionally wintry temperatures this week! I write on the morning after our Carol Service, which was a truly joyous occasion befitting the beautiful surroundings of St Peter's Catholic Church. This came after a very busy term of events, activities and successes for the school – many of which you can read about throughout the pages of this newsletter. There has been a great deal of 'Being a Bede' to celebrate.*

*At the end of term we say thank you and goodbye to Mr Harding, who is moving on to a new opportunity after many years of service both to our RE department and the wider Catholic life of the school. We are also saying farewell to Mrs King, who is leaving us having been a very valuable member of both the Science and Maths teaching teams. We wish both colleagues every success and happiness in their new roles.*

*Thank you for the wonderful support that our parents, carers and families have provided during 2022. On behalf of all my colleagues I wish you a happy and holy Christmas. May I leave you with some words from Mother Teresa (now St. Teresa of Calcutta):*

*"It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you. It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you... yes, it is Christmas every time you smile at your brother and offer him your hand. The coming of Jesus at Bethlehem brought joy to the world and to every human heart."*

### Best wishes

**Mr Marsden**

**Headteacher**



# CHRISTMAS

## Parcel Liturgy

During the last half-term, all forms put together Christmas hampers to give to a number of local charities. Hampers were provided for Fylde Foodbank, SVP, Streetlife, Vincent House, Harbour House and St. Cuthbert's Soup Kitchen and Family Centre at a liturgy attended by Year 10. Representatives from Fylde YMCA, Harbour House and the SVP (St. Peter's) attended the liturgy and thanked our pupils for their contributions. The event was led by Paula and her SVP group. A big thank-you to everyone who so generously donated non-perishable goods to help those who are less fortunate at this time of year.



## Christmas Carol Service



We were delighted to hold our school Carol Service again at St. Peter's R.C. Church in Lytham. It was a superb evening celebrating the true reason for the season. It was a superb evening which highlighted the high calibre of musicianship from our singers and instrumentalists and skilled, expressive readings from the Bible and poetry. Mr Warrington who led the evening thanked all who participated and gave up many of their lunchtimes to rehearse.

## Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas Lunch held on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> December brought staff and pupils together to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner with all the trimmings! As well as enjoying the fine food, everyone enjoyed pulling crackers and wearing Christmas hats. As always, our dedicated team of catering staff did a wonderful job and helped to get us all into the festive spirit!





## CHAPLAINCY

### Mass of Remembrance 2022

Year 11 took part in a day of reflection around the theme of Remembrance that culminated in a poignant Mass attended by 6 veterans from our local and school communities. During the Mass the Act of Remembrance, led by our Head Boys and Girls, was assisted by 2 standard bearers from the veterans with the Last Post played by Emily Warrington with great proficiency and reverence. Mr Frankel and Amelia laid the Remembrance wreath this year. Some of our pupils then joined the veterans for light refreshments when they had an opportunity to share some of their experience of service in the armed forces. Our teachers of history and their team of volunteers raised money for the Royal British Legion from the sale of poppies and accessories.



### Mass for Feast of St. Andrew & Mini Advent

To conclude the liturgical year, our Year 7s enjoyed a special Mass for the Feast of St. Andrew which was followed by a mini-retreat to encourage making daily Acts of Kindness throughout the season of Advent. All pupils spent time thinking of 25 small acts they could do to make things better for the people around them and arranged them into a very special personal Advent Calendar.



### Advent Services of Reconciliation & Sacrament of Reconciliation 29th Nov. - 2nd Dec.

Advent is a time of waiting and preparation and we are encouraged to use this time to return to a right relationship with God. Many of our pupils visited Chapel for Paula to guide them in a 20 minutes' service of reconciliation: to shine a light onto the dark areas of sin in their life, then to bring that healing to perfection by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation from our new priest Chaplain, Fr. John Millar or Fr. Pat Hibbert one of our Foundation Governors. Over two half days, nearly 100 pupils received this Sacrament in school.



## CHAPLAINCY

### SVP Leadership Team Elections

SVP have been busy this term leading on the charity donations in school by holding a Bake Sale to raise money for CAFOD, leading forms in collections for the Christmas Hampers and sending Christmas cards to the Retired Sisters of the Cross and Passion and Stella Matutina Nursing Home. The following pupils have been elected to the leadership team for this year:

President – Edie Bridgeman

Vice-President – Elliott Hatton

Secretary (Joint) – Bridget Boylan and Freya Wilson

Treasurer – Edie Bridgeman

Promotions – Elliott McCombie

**Congratulations to all of you.**



### Christmas Hampers

Over 50 Christmas hampers were made up from the collections in forms which have been collected by the SVP at St. Peter's, Lytham; St. Cuthbert's Family Centre, Blackpool; Fylde Foodbank; Vincent House; Harbour House and Streetlife. Currently, these charities are under incredible pressure as they are seeing higher numbers of referrals than in previous years. A huge thank you to all our pupils and your families as your donations have provided welcome support for people in most need.

### Castlerigg Altar Servers Retreat

Please could you add the Castlerigg Altar Servers Retreat to the newsletter.

Inviting all altar servers to an Open weekend retreat at Castlerigg Manor Youth Retreat Centre, Keswick CA12 4AR between 13-14<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Cost £35.00 per person. Want to find out more contact us on 017687 72711 or find us on Snapchat, Instagram and TikTok at @castleriggmanor or on the website [www.castleriggmanor.co.uk](http://www.castleriggmanor.co.uk)

We'd love to see you there.



## ENGLISH

### Quantum Theatre Company

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December, we were fortunate enough to welcome Quantum Theatre Company into school to perform a special production of 'A Christmas Carol'. This was an abridged adaptation in order to include key quotations and plot points whilst providing a vital revision opportunity for our Year 11 students ahead of their final English Literature mock.



### Effervescent English Awards

The following pupils have been recognised by their English teachers this term due to their consistent effort and positive attitude to learning. There were many worthy winners but we could only select two per teacher. Well done to the Autumn Term recipients. We are very proud of you!



Mr Barnett:

Cian 10BA

Katie 11CO

Mrs Blackburn:

Finley 8HA

Darcey 7HY

Miss Beswick:

Aiden 11CO

Penelope 9BE

Miss Rodgers:

Myles 9CO

Rhys 8FI

Miss Murphy:

Shakeel 9HY

Edie 9HY

Mrs Holmes:

Zuza 10FI

Hettie 7BA

Mrs Tankard:

Lucy 10BE

Georgina 10H

### Festive Word Competition

The annual competition returns with the stakes being even higher than they were last year. Doors are adorned with sophisticated, Christmas related words which pupils have to learn, along with definitions and context which will culminate in the recall competition in the last week of term. Some members of staff have resorted to questionable tactics in order to promote their word but it's all in the name of literacy, so we encourage the friendly competition! Mr Jack is desperate to retain his title as reigning champion, as are 10BE who won last year. Will they succeed?



## HISTORY

## Black History Month

The History Department were overwhelmed by the number and quality of entries to our Black History Month competition. The entries produced were thought provoking, detailed and inspiring. They really captured the significance of prominent black figures and explained the importance of hearing their stories. Well done to all pupils who entered who received a certificate of excellence and some treats! A particular well done to our overall winners who also received a copy of historian David Olusoga's book 'Black and British' in addition to their certificate and treats.



Year 7 - Charlotte B, Amy P, Hettie B

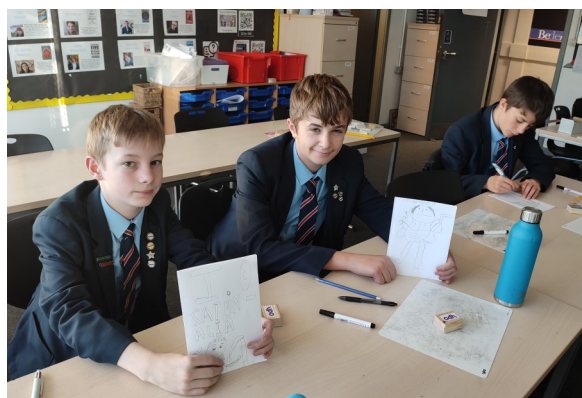
Year 8 - Amelie J, Emily W

Year 9 - Phoenix G, Edie B

## Classics Club

Pupils have enjoyed the first term of Classics Club with Mrs Smith in room 13 on Wednesdays. They started their journey to the ancient worlds by learning about Ancient Greece. Starting with Homer and The Iliad, pupils learned about the Trojan Wars and the fascinating mythology surrounding the gods and goddesses. We then learned about the ancient Olympics and some of the famed Olympic heroes, such as Milo of Kroton, six time wrestling winner. We learned some Greek language and explored the geography of ancient Greece. We finished our journey to Ancient Greece with a 'Come Dine with Me', ancient Greek style where pupils were able to try typically Greek food and taste Greek recipes.

Having looked at the similarities between Greek and Roman gods, we spent our last session creating Saturnalia greetings card to mark the ancient Roman festival that typically happened between 17th-23<sup>rd</sup> December. This festival was an opportunity to give thanks to Saturn, Roman God of Agriculture. Many of the festive traditions we associate with Christmas, such as the giving of gifts, the decoration of homes and feasting have their origins in this ancient Roman holiday.



Well done to all the pupils who have eagerly joined in all the sessions. We look forward to learning some Latin in the new year.

Thank you to Year 11 historians who have worked hard in preparation for their mock exams. Attendance has been pleasing and a particular well done to those pupils who attended multiple times each week in the build up. Well done Lydia Walker, Erin McGlue and MacKenzie Nodwell whose mock results will undoubtedly reflect this dedication.

History revision will continue in the new year with 3 sessions per week focused on: USA 1920-1973; Conflict and Tension in Asia and Power and the People. Keep up the great work Year 11.

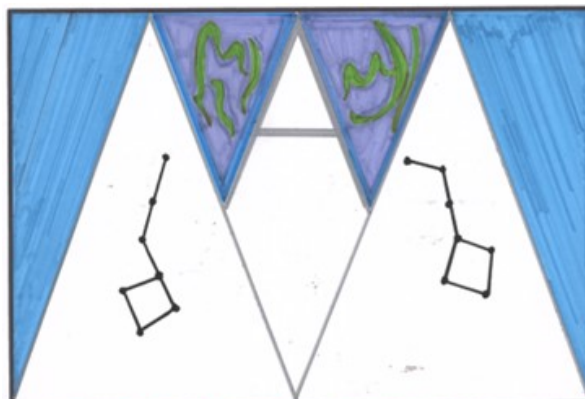
## GEOGRAPHY

### The Polar Network

This term the Geography department ran a competition with The UK Polar Network to have a flag designed by pupils taken to Antarctica.

The winners of the competition were: Victor Lattore-Pukalska (7Ha), William Morgan (7Ba), Dulcie Richardson (7Ba), John McGuckin-Kelly (7Ha), Deborah Doherty (7Ba), and Lily Boardman (7Hy). Well done to the winners and to all who took part. Your creativity and enthusiasm was astounding!

The winning flags are currently on their way to Antarctica!



Have you ever stopped to think about why there are so many countries that use red, blue, and white? Why are vertical and horizontal stripes used? Or why flags of African countries use a lot of black?

The study of flags is called Vexillology and comes from the Latin word vexillum meaning “flag” and the Greek suffix “-logy” meaning “study”. The word “flag” is derived from the old Saxon word “fflaken” which means to fly or to float in the air.

The historical origin of flags dates back to around 1000 BC, when the Egyptians used versions of flags - some were even made out of wood or metal.

When Mount Everest and the moon were conquered, and when new found lands were discovered, explorers would raise flags as signs of their being the first to tread these uncharted lands.

### What does colour on a flag represent?

**Yellow** – A symbol of generosity

**White** – A symbol of peace and honesty

**Red** – A symbol of hardiness, bravery, strength & valour

**Blue** – A symbol of vigilance, truth and loyalty, perseverance & justice

**Green** – A symbol of hope, joy and love and in many cultures have a sacred significance

**Black** – A symbol of determination, often reflecting the ethnic heritage of the people





## Merry Maths

Can you find the answers to Mr Binns' Merry

### Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 1

$4 \times 5$	$12 \times 3$	$6 \times 4$	$3 \times 8$	$12 \times 5$

$5^2$	$4^2$	$2 \times 12$	$5 \times 8$	$3 \times 4$	$11 \times 0$	$4 \times 5$	$10^2$	$6 \times 2$

$9 \times 4$	$7 \times 8$	$6^2$	$8 \times 3$	$10 \times 6$	$4 \times 8$	$11^2$	$3 \times 12$

- Find the answers to the multiplications
- Link your answers to the table below to reveal the message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
100	10	25	80	36	44	21	16	40	63	28	35	20
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
121	32	17	81	24	12	0	9	56	64	54	60	8

### Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 2

- The number in each bauble is equal to the sum of the two baubles below it
- What is the number missing from the bauble at the top of the tree?

### Mr Binns' Christmas Challenge 3

- How many triangles can be made using the lines in the diagram below?

## Science Club

Science club started again after half term with pupils from Year 7 –10 attending. Activities such as the spaghetti and marshmallow towers, the raft racing and making ice cream were enjoyed by all who attended. We look forward to beginning Science club in the new year.

Well done to all students who attended and Merry Christmas from Mr Smith and the Science department.



## Notices

### Parking

Although the vast majority of parents park safely and considerately when dropping off or collecting their children, a small number are still using the zig-zag markings for that purpose.

The markings are a vital safety feature that helps to provide uninterrupted vision for pupils crossing the road to enter/exit the school site.

According to Highway Code Rule 243, you should not park near a school entrance – as well as anywhere that would prevent access for emergency services, at or near a bus stop, opposite or within 10 metres of a junction, over a dropped kerb, and in front of an entrance to a property. Fixed penalty notices and fines can be issued in the event of infringement of these rules.

We ask for everyone's support in helping to keep our children safe.

We are grateful for your help in keeping our children and the pupils at St Peter's safe.

