

Dear Parents and Carers

Christmas Carols at Whitchurch Community Hospital

Mr Moore, Head of Music, six Sixth Form students and a piano set off to Whitchurch Community Hospital to sing Christmas Carols to patients on the wards. Staff and patients thoroughly enjoyed the festive entertainment and students were pleased that their beautiful singing had clearly lifted spirits.

Whitchurch Foodbank Appeal

This week's assemblies were conducted by Sir John Talbot's Interact club. Interact students designed and delivered a presentation about the splendid work of Whitchurch foodbank. The foodbank, established in 2013, aims to help local people in crisis. Last year 834 emergency food supplies were given to families in need. The foodbank works using a voucher referral system obtainable from various agencies including Medical Centres, Schools and the Citizens Advice Bureau. The Foodbank also runs an 'Eat Well Spend Less' course.

The assembly presentation also called for donations of food items for this very worthy cause. We would be most grateful if you could support this appeal by sending in items of food such as tinned meat, tea, breakfast cereals, pasta, tinned fruit and similar foods. Donated food items should have a long shelf life and be placed in the basket in reception. The appeal closes on Friday 7 December. Thank you in advance for your support.

National Citizen Service (NCS)

NCS Representative, Ashley Williams, delivered an inspirational presentation to Year 11 students last Friday. This was followed by a concert and open mic session with singer Esther Turner, in the school dining room at lunchtime. Students and staff joined in with the singing and even some dancing at times! The aim of the event was to encourage Year 11 students to apply to take part in the NCS programme next summer. Established by the Government in 2009, NCS aims to give young people the chance to develop the skills to be active and responsible citizens. The four week programme, which includes two residential weeks, costs a maximum of £50 per student. Photographed below are students from current Year 11 receiving a Gold Award in recognition of outstanding NCS engagement.

Uniform

As the cold weather approaches students can wear plain, dark coloured coats which should be labelled with the student's name. Hoodies and boots are not permitted. Further information on uniform policy can be found [here](#).

Mrs Apperley, Head of Key Stage 4

Religious Education Visit

Year 7 students visited Birmingham last week in support of the 'religious buildings' element of the RE Curriculum. They visited the stunning Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda, modelled in the same style as the Shwedagon Pagoda. This was followed by a visit to the Guru Nanak Gurdwara in Smethwick, a Sikh temple and the largest Gurdwara in Europe. At the end of the visit, students tasted some delicious lentil dhal, chapattis and rice pudding from the Gurdwara Langar.



Raising Money for Hope House

Last year the DT department kindly donated a small amount of wood to help Mr Williams raise funds for Hope House. Over the year sales of products have enabled him to raise the fantastic sum of £1800. This year, with donations of logs from the local community, Mr Williams has made log reindeers. If you would like to purchase a reindeer, please contact Mr Williams: 01948 66185. Reindeers cost £15 each and are approximately 54cm in height and 36cm long. All of the money raised will go to Hope House.



Lantern Parade

Pupils from Whitchurch Infants School spent the day with Miss Lloyd, Art teacher and students at SJT making wonderful space-inspired lanterns. The lanterns were paraded through Whitchurch to the Civic Centre before the Christmas lights were switched on by Whitchurch Citizen of the Year, Arthur Skitt.



University Advice

Mr Moore, Head of Music, has been delivering assemblies to Sixth Form students and encouraging them to start looking for university placements.

Mr Moore recommends looking at the UCAS website as well as the Russel Group list, which is a guide to the 24 best universities around the World. Year 12 students should start looking into the degree pathways that are available so that there is plenty of time to deliberate. Mr Moore applied to five universities including King's College, London. Students in attendance appreciated the advice given to them.



Ambassadors

SJT ambassadors, Lily Davies, Hannah Meredith, Megan Masters, Daniel Brooks and Jack Bebbington were delighted to be invited to Whitchurch Junior School Open Evening which took place on Thursday last week. Students, ex-pupils of the Junior School spoke about their learning journey at the Junior School and their transition to SJT. Mr O'Toole, Headteacher and Mrs Jones, Head of Transition accompanied the students during the evening.



Art Work

These stunning pieces of artwork have been produced by Dylan Depaul, Rebecca Elsey, Will Gilbert and Polly Wales and we are sure you will agree they are outstanding!



Reminders

Term dates for the academic years 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 can be found online [here](#).