

Dear Parents and Carers

Sir John Talbot's Carol Service

Last night's Carol Service exceeded all our expectations; it was an outstanding event. St Alkmund's Church was filled to the brim as family and friends were ushered to the last few seats in the gallery. The congregation opened the evening with 'O Come all ye Faithful' followed by a splendid performance from 'Unison'. They sang 'Angels Over Bethlehem', a beautiful song written by Mr Moore, Head of Music. Year 10 Vocal Ensemble added variety to the evening by performing the song 'Christmas Lights' written by Cold Play's key vocalist, Chris Martin. Year 7 students came together to make the Year 7 Choir who entertained us with their version of 'Winter Wonderland' and the traditional Carol, 'Away in a Manger'. The Cross Trust choir closed the evening with a lovely performance of 'Silent Night'. I would like to extend our thanks to Mr Moore, Head of Music, and the Performance Faculty for providing our extended school community with such a wonderful evening of Christmas Carols. Our thanks also go to Revd. Canon Judy Hunt for allowing us to use the magnificent building.

Spotlight on achievement

During the final week of term, a number of events will be taking place to recognise the achievements of our students. On Monday, Year 7, 8 and 9 students who consistently achieve very good lesson gradings will be invited to the hall after lunch to watch a film. On Wednesday, Year 10 students who also achieve good lesson gradings will be setting off to the Trafford Centre, Manchester, for some last minute Christmas shopping or to visit the cinema. Awards Evening will take place on Thursday when we welcome back last year's GCSE and A Level students to receive their certificates and special awards. This event is always a highlight in the school calendar and this year the awards will be presented by our guest speaker Mr Richard Williams, Finance Director at Williams Financial Planning Limited. On Friday afternoon all students will take part in an end of term celebration event where they will be rewarded for their excellent attitude to learning in lessons and for their contribution to house competitions. Students are invited to come to school in their Christmas jumper to help raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. A minimum of £1 donation should be made. It is important to note that students should wear their normal school trousers/skirts/shoes. Ties and school jumpers can be left at home in exchange for wearing a Christmas jumper in aid of this worthy charity.

Uniform

Can we please remind you of the uniform policy regarding hairstyles, piercings and nail varnishes. Haircuts should not be less than a grade 2, 1 pair of small stud earrings can be worn, however, nose piercings are not permitted. Acrylics and coloured nail varnish applied during the Christmas break should be removed before returning to school

Mrs Apperley, Associate Assistant Headteacher

Varsity

The inaugural varsity took place this week as the Marches School visited Sir John Talbot's to compete in a range of sporting matches; including football, netball, rugby, hockey and cross-country. It was a fantastic day with some excellent contests across the Trust, further strengthening the relationship between them in the process. We would like to thank the Marches for an excellent day and Mrs Newey, PE for help in organising and setting up what will become an annual tradition between the schools.



Assemblies

This week, Ben Fry, Head Boy and Hannah Smith, Head Girl have been conducting assemblies to all year groups.

They shared the schools vision and values and gave a Christmas message.

Sixth Form students are looking forward to their annual Christmas Ball at Macdonald Hill Valley Hotel, Golf and Spa.



Mayor Supports Football Team

Students from Sir John Talbot's took part in the Jill Scott Soccer Tournament in the summer. The girls' team took part in the football event in Shrewsbury and were sponsored by Whitchurch 10K, Whitchurch Town Council and Howdens, Whitchurch who also sponsored the kit.

Pictured below: Whitchurch Mayor, Tony Neville, Scarlett Edge, Jess Walley, Chloe Lloyd, Erin Homer and Peter Lee from Howdens.



Senior Mathematical Challenge

Earlier this term, students took part in the UK Mathematics Trust – Senior Mathematical Challenge 2018. Mr Kay, Maths, received the results this week with students who performed exceptionally well receiving certificates.

Harry Rutherford, Bronwyn Poole, Ben Fry, Head Boy and Kieran Martin all achieved Bronze certificates, Ben Fry, in Year 13 was also best in Year 13. Joe Rutherford, pictured 2nd from right achieved a Gold certificate, best in school and best in Year 12. Joe also qualified for the next round and is waiting to hear the result.



Duke of Edinburgh's Award Licensed Centre

This week, Mr Sanders, Geography, Mrs Morcumb, Head of DofE and Dr Thorley, Science, were presented with a certificate to celebrate that Sir John Talbot's School has become a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Licensed Centre.



Higher Education Fortnight

We have now completed 'Higher Education Fortnight' which was organised to give Year 11 students an opportunity to see the courses available at local higher education institutes.

We welcomed visitors from institutes such as Reaseheath College, Harper Adams University, Wrexham Glyndwr University, the University of Chester and Bangor University.



Journalist Visits

The Sixth Form had a visit from John Shone who gave an assembly on his life in journalism.

With 58 years of experience, working in television and radio for the BBC and various other companies, Mr Shone had some valuable advice which he shared with the Sixth Form. He also explained how there were countless opportunities of job roles in journalism and that the students who are interested should start looking at their career paths now.



Sixth Form Christmas Decorations

The Sixth Form students have been busy decorating the Common Room with a Christmas tree, homemade paperchains and snowflakes, they completed with a Christmas countdown that is updated daily! It took the students two days between their study and lesson and used plenty of cello tape the decorations!



Reminders

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