



# NEWSLETTER

## AUTUMN (6) 2018

Dear parents, carers and friends,

This final newsletter of 2018 contains lots of good news to celebrate. As you would expect, our thoughts have been turning to the feast of the nativity, and we have made good preparations. We invited our elderly neighbours into school for an afternoon of musical entertainment last week; our choir has been performing with great success around town, and our own annual carol service was a beautiful event here on Monday evening. Today, we are celebrating services of reconciliation in St Joseph's, with many of our local clergy. My special thanks to them for all their work with us this year. Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and prayers over the last year, and wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

God Bless.

John Wright  
Headteacher

### Journey to Bethlehem

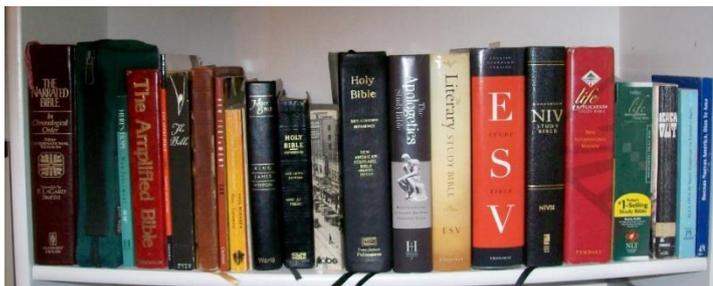
For the last seven or eight years, St Joseph's Parish has organized a "Journey to Bethlehem". The figures of Mary and Joseph from the crib have travelled from one home to another on a journey around our parish. Each evening the host family invites friends and neighbours to a short service with a reading and prayers for those in need. It is a wonderful opportunity to come together a time of quiet reflection at this very busy time of the year. It is usually followed by some refreshment.

This year, the journey included a day at school in the Maths Department, and 7 St Benedict had a short service followed by some chocolate.



### The largest collection of Bibles in the UK?

The RE Department would love your spare Bibles! We use them throughout the school, in every year group and for a variety of reasons. We have class sets, which are in regular use, and in fact have just received £500 from the Jerusalem Trust for a new set!



We would like to build a library of different and unusual versions and translations. (We have many Good News and Gideons versions already!) It is fascinating for students to compare and contrast translations and on occasion to go back to the original Hebrew or Greek to work out what the author had recorded. Our school is blessed with students from around the world, so Bibles in languages that represent our heritage would be a wonderful addition.

Whilst we don't want you to give us the only copy in your house, if you have a spare that could be used more often, we would be very grateful to receive it. We aim to put an 'ex libris' (from the books/library of) plate in the front, so that you or your families name would be permanently recorded as part of the collection.

If you are interested in what's out there, here are a couple of links:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Bible-versions.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_English\\_Bible\\_translations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_English_Bible_translations)

In addition, this applies to any missals or books on the saints, which you have, as they are wonderful sources of inspiration for students when looking for prayers and comparing forms of liturgy and worship. (Reading age appropriate to secondary school students).

Christmas is always a great time to have a tidy up, and books can be given to your RE teacher. We look forward to our collection growing and being used by students now and in the future.

## **Termly Careers Update**

**Interest Forms (Y8 – Y10)** – Pupils from year 8 – 10 have just finished completing their interest forms in their tutor groups. The interest forms allow the Careers Department to try to facilitate the pupil's interests and provide opportunities in the world of work or employability workshops relevant to the career paths of their choices.

**My Student Achievement (Y7-Y10)** – Pupils were given an assembly and presented with the 'My Student Achievement' document. This document will allow pupils to log all the successes they have had and will have in future, which we enable them to build an overall picture of their achievement in school.

### **Year 8 – The Ryman National Enterprise Challenge**

The Enterprise day taught pupils about the key entrepreneurial skills to ready themselves for the world of work, helping them develop strategy, creative thinking, communication, group work and presenting skills as well as many other skills. The whole year group took part and we had a successful group who will go on and represent the school in the national finals in May.

### **Year 9 - Visa Meet the Professionals**

This experience included a speed-networking session allowing students to speak with professionals about their careers in order to find out about job roles and opportunities in Information Technology, including apprenticeship. They also took part in lots of interactive and practical tasks related to Technology.

### **Y9 and Y10 - Creative and Digital Industries at The Ark Centre**

This event provided students with the opportunity to gain a hands-on, interactive experience with a creative and digital employer.

**Year 10 - Careers Interviews** – We are currently working through 10 Anthony, with all the pupils in the year group getting an interview at some point throughout the year.

**Year 11 - College assemblies** with the whole year group attending were from BCOT, QMC, Peter Symonds, Farnborough Technology College and Sparsholt. Apprenticeships assemblies from AIM, Aspiral Learning and ITEC.

**BCOT College** – An Application and Pathway workshop took place to allow pupils who were unsure about their pathways and the process to apply took part in a workshop to support their application.

**Mock Interviews Evening** – Another successful Mock interview Evening took place in school with all Year 11's having interviews from the 40 employers from different industries supporting the process.

**QMC** – College Interviews taking place in and out of school.

**Optional Careers Talks:** Construction, Microsoft, SCL (Education through Sport), RAF.

## Christmas Card Competition

Well done to all who entered the Christmas card competition. Below are the winners, congratulations.

**1<sup>st</sup> Gabriella A (7C)**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Zhenee T (8B)**



**Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Tia Loader (8D)**



**Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Lauren M (11D)**



**Joint 4<sup>th</sup> Katy L (10F)**



**Joint 4<sup>th</sup> Bridy C (8D)**



## Christmas Technology Club

This year, both parents and pupils in year 7, were invited to participate in the first Technology Christmas Club. Working together after school parents and pupils were taught how to design and make a festive decoration for their homes.

This was an opportunity to work alongside your child in order to create something lasting and special, and an ideal chance to work in partnership with teachers in the school.



Working together, decorations were created to hang over doorframes in their homes, above are the products made during the experience.

Parents and pupils were asked to evaluate the course and here are some of their opinions:

- 'It was really good to be able to do something like this with my son. I hope we can do it again next year.'
- 'Thank you so much for a lovely project. I have had a lovely time making something to keep forever with my son. It has been a super thing to do together.'
- 'It was the first experience of a technology workshop for me, it was hard, but I really enjoyed it. It was worth it.'
- 'I loved this club so much I'll come back next year, it was awesome.'

With the initial success of this project, look out for information regarding next year's Christmas Technology Club.

## Sports News

### **Cross Country**

Congratulations to the seven Y7 pupils that ran in the Basingstoke Schools' Championship on 11<sup>th</sup> December. All of them did well, and Lucy S, Annabel S, and Evie W all qualified to run for Basingstoke in the Hampshire Schools' Championship at Down Grange in March.

In November, Iysha M, Poppy G, Stefan O, Anna C, and Boyd J all qualified for the Hampshire Finals in the older year groups. Their race is near Southampton in January.

The Cross Country Club will continue through the spring term, and is open to any pupil, regardless of previous experience. Well-done and good luck to all of our athletes.

### **Netball**

On Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December, the Y8s and Y9s had the Netball semi-finals and finals and out of nine teams within the Basingstoke Schools, all four of our teams made it to the semi-finals, which is such an amazing achievement!

The Y9A and Y8A teams both beat the Hurst and made it through to the final against Costello.

The Y9B team played against Costello, and unfortunately lost, but then played against the Hurst and won, finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The Y8B team played against Costello and lost, and then played the Hurst and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

The Y9A team played amazingly well the first quarter the score was 2-2, second quarter 4-4, third quarter 6-6 and then Costello took the lead and won 10-8 so our team placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Y8A team also played against Costello in the final and played extremely well but just lost out, so they also came 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Such great netball played this season, we are so proud of the girls!

### **Rugby**

Rugby seems to continue to flourish at the school and the U16 Boys Rugby team are through to another Hampshire final. They overcame a strong and physical Henry Cort side to win 53-0. The final will be played after the Christmas break.

The U15 side have also performed well in their matches. They had a 25-0 conceded victory over St, George's Southampton. Beat Henry Beaufort School 17-12 and John Hanson School 36-0 (in one of the best performances seen by any school side and in torrential conditions) but were defeated by Toynbee School 27-5. They will progress further into the competition after Christmas.

### **Trampolining**

Last week we participated in the annual Trampolining competition hosted by Everest and we took seven pupils over for the afternoon.

The pupils had to compete a set routine and then a voluntary routine and this event is growing in popularity every year so our pupils were up against lots of other pupils from other schools.

The results were:

Harry B – 1<sup>st</sup>

Amal M – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Patrick T – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Emily B – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Emma V – 3<sup>rd</sup>

Rhiannon S – 6<sup>th</sup>

Zoe P – 1<sup>st</sup>

Such amazing achievements from our pupils and our Y9 girls also won the team competition.

### **Challoner PTA**

A huge thank you to everyone that supported the PTA's Christmas Shopping Extravaganza by either helping out making teas and coffee, manning the door and welcoming our guests with a glass of something sparkly, or coming along and purchasing goodies from the stalls.

The evening was a great success, with a real festive atmosphere, which helped to kick-start the Christmas season. We managed to raise a staggering £706.81 for the school, which will go towards providing resources and extra-curricular activities for all the students.

**Save the Date:** Our Annual Quiz Night will be held on Friday 1 February 2019. Booking forms will go out early in January – this is always a sell-out, and much contested, so be sure to return your entry form promptly.

### **Bishop Richard Challoner - Meditation for the 25<sup>th</sup> of December**

Consider, that this holy time, calls us to the crib of Bethlehem, there to contemplate our infant Saviour. Place yourselves in spirit near the manger of our Lord, and fix the eyes of your soul upon him. Reflect who this is whom you see here lying before you, as a helpless infant, in this open stall; suffering and weeping, poor and humble, wrapt up in these mean swaddling clothes, and laid in this crib, between an ox and an ass.

O! your faith will inform you that under all these mean appearances lies concealed the Lord of glory! This infant, not yet one day old, is the eternal Son of the eternal God; this weak helpless babe is he, who by his almighty power made both heaven and earth; he who is here wrapt up so straightly, and confined to this narrow crib, fills heaven and earth with his incomprehensible immensity; this speechless child is God's own Word, who called all things out of nothing, and whom all things obey.

O wonderful mystery which has thus joined together the highest and the lowest; all that is great in heaven, with all that is little upon earth, in the person of this infant God! But what is the meaning of all this? What has brought this great God down to this stable, to this crib? O my soul, it is for your sake; it is for the love of you; it is to redeem you, and deliver you; it is to give an example of all virtue; it is to draw your heart to himself, and to engage you to love him.

Amen

