

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE TWO
NOVEMBER 2023



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PARIS TRIP IS
FILLED WITH
MAGICAL MOMENTS



ST FRANCIS
XAVIER SCHOOL

Welcome from the Head of School



I hope that you all had a lovely half-term and that you managed to spend some memorable time together as families.

Recently it has been amazing to see so many of our pupils excel in extra-curricular activities and to see the commitment and passion that they show in order to achieve so highly in their chosen areas. It is a huge job for parents and carers to help our pupils to get the balance right between school and other areas of interest. Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure that pupils are able to meet their full potential in all areas.

Over the next few weeks we will have our school feast day and Christmas Fayre. Please look out for information on social media as to how you can get involved and support these events.

Best Wishes

Jackie Prime



Fun at Ford Castle

Year 7 Residential

Year 7 pupils spent 3 days at Ford Castle in Northumberland away on their residential. Pupils had the opportunity to build their skills of resilience, independence, courage and resourcefulness.

Pupils had a fantastic time undertaking the zip wire, survivor training, Laser tag, Disc Golf, Trapeze and Problem Solving. During Archery Tag some pupils even recreated a scene from the Battle of Hastings! In the evening we let off steam after getting warm and dry with a silent disco and thankfully on one of the nights it stayed dry enough for pupils to have a campfire and sing songs. The pupils enjoyed this down time after a busy day and it has really helped them to build their relationships across the year group.

Some of the activities were undertaken at height and for some pupils this meant

overcoming their fears. We had pupils who at first were initially overwhelmed with the prospect of the tall vertical challenge but were able to surprise themselves with how high they could climb. What was even more impressive was that this was done in wind and rain conditions thanks to Storm Babet which raged across the country while we were away. The determination and courage in these difficult circumstances was a testament to the year group as they all willingly carried on. Thank goodness for waterproof clothing!

Mrs Dunkley is exceptionally proud and pleased with how the pupils behaved during the 3 days and the staff at Ford Castle praised our pupils for their efforts, attitude and behaviour.

A successful trip and a brilliant time was had by all – Well done Year 7!



Careers Fair

Pupils in Years 9 and 11 attended a post-16 careers fair to explore the various pathways and providers that are available to them. Pupils attended an assembly to learn about the different routes of A levels, T levels and BTECs and to prepare questions for the fair in the afternoon.

The event was extremely well received by both year groups with one Year 9 pupil even saying that they would have liked to have spent longer talking to the providers and many Year 11 pupils applying to different providers.

These events are extremely beneficial to our pupils and they would not be possible without the support of the different post-16 providers. Thank you to everyone who supported the event. It was lovely to see so many familiar faces and be introduced to some new providers.



HOUSE SPORTS

Rievaulx tops the house sports leaderboard.

In the final week of each half term, pupils from every year group battle it out in house sports to win points for their house.

The first half term saw pupils compete in football. At the halfway point, Jervaulx trailed by 9 points but their determined efforts propelled them to a very close second.

The current house sport rankings are:

Rievaulx 36, Jervaulx 35, Easby 32 and Fountains 28.

Well done to all pupils who competed and gained points for their house. The next house sport is Netball.

RESTART A HEART

On Monday 16th October, Year 8 pupils actively participated in the 'Restart a Heart' campaign, organised by the NHS Yorkshire Ambulance Service.

The initiative aims to educate pupils about life-saving CPR techniques. This event is a yearly occurrence at St Francis Xavier and is an integral part of our PSHE programme.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and did an excellent job representing the school. A huge thank you to the volunteers who led the sessions.



GOD AND THE BIG BANG

The God and the Big Bang team led a fantastic retreat for Year 10 in October. Pupils embarked on a day of debate, discussion and discovery, as they looked at the compatibility of science and religion.

The day began with a keynote from Matt Pritchard – a scientist, a Christian and a member of the magic circle! Pupils spent the rest of the day in workshops which ranged from debating medical ethics and exploring marine biology to robots and aliens.

GET IN TOUCH



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**ST FRANCIS
XAVIER SCHOOL**



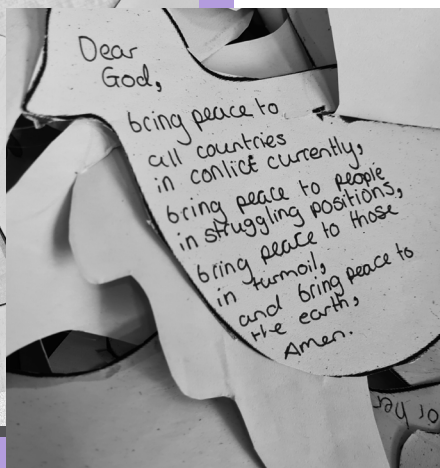
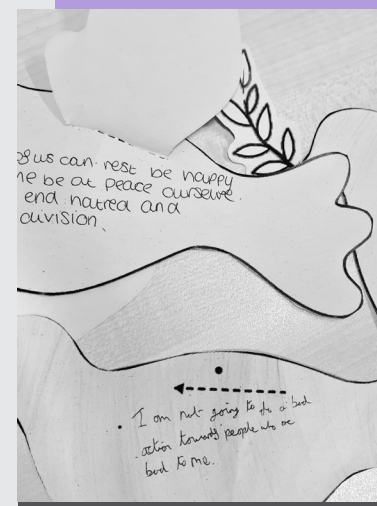
SPORTING SUCCESSES

Congratulations to St Francis Xavier U13 girls who were 14-0 winners in their Hambleton and Richmondshire Area Cup Game against Northallerton. It was an excellent all-round performance from the team, gaining plaudits from onlookers on the quality within the side.

A special mention needs to go to Freya W also of Middlesbrough U14s, who scored 7 goals in the win and to Florence A for an excellent defensive display. Both girls have been chosen to compete for St Francis Xavier's U16 girls team, who play Richmond before Christmas. Also playing were Aoife C, Esme R, Kitty S and Ava H.

Year 10 pupil William P received some great news in October that he has joined his sister, Beth, in being selected to join the Durham U15 County Cricket squad. This is an amazing achievement to break into the squad at this age, considering that 30 other boys attended the trials! William is a hard worker and this opportunity has taken a lot of dedication. He has been invited to the upcoming spin course - a 6-week course that will comprise of a strength and conditioning component, technical analysis, individual drills to work on and a competition ready phase. Well done William, we are very proud of you!

Year 11 pupil Leighton W has recently been appointed Captain of Billingham Stars U16 Ice Hockey team. Number 97, Leighton's position is a forward position and he has been playing the game for nearly 5 years now. Leighton also plays with the U18 team and has been selected from a number of players across the country to attend a trial in Sheffield for the England National Showcase.



UNIVERSAL DAY OF PEACE

Pope Francis declared Friday 27th October as a universal day of fasting, penance and prayer for peace in the world.

All members of our school joined together in prayer as well as writing prayers, messages and pledges for peace onto doves. The doves now hang proudly from our Chapel window, as a symbol of St Francis Xavier's solidarity with all those who suffer due to war and conflict.

We continue to pray for peace in our world:

Lord, send us the gift of peace. Amen.

FOLLOW US



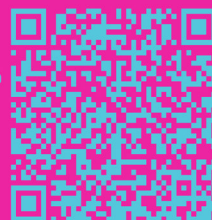
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"FORMING LIVES READY TO FACE THE FUTURE"

Ensuring all NPCAT pupils have a future beyond education.



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ST FRANCIS XAVIER SCHOOL