

S. Peter's Collegiate School

ISSUE 05 04/12/2020

-Parent Bulletin-

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



The start of advent is always an exciting time for children and at home my own children have been no different. To get home in the evening and have full descriptions of exactly what was in their advent calendars is wonderful. This week it was also amazing when my eight year old son presented me with an advent calendar that he had made for me, I was totally surprised and genuinely speechless at the effort that went into this. Children are capable of amazing gestures like this and our students are no different at all. Earlier this week three of our brilliant students who help run the Christian Union, Emily Cox, Bonita Walker, and Joel Uppal came to ask me if they could make a set of wooden plaques to put up around the school that included inspirational excerpts from the Bible, in order to remind everyone that God is with them watching over them and that in times of trouble he is there to guide us.

This week also marked the end of the National lockdown tier system, I hope that in some ways all families have been able to have some release.

In school last week I witnessed the fantastic presentation to Year 11 and Sixth Form Students from judge Carole Burgher. What an impressive pleasure it was for some of our aspiring law students to learn about her career path. Through hard work and determination, she defied all the odds and expectation to forge a career path that makes her both a trailblazer and a role model.

I look forward to the upcoming Girls' Empowerment events that we have planned for the last week of term and also the visit of one of the countries leading Boys' Achievement experts, Gary Wilson, in the new year. Through these inspirational guests we have a real chance to encourage and inspire our students to aspire and achieve.

On a sad note, we lost a valued colleague and friend this week. Tina Mills was one of our treasured Support Staff and our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

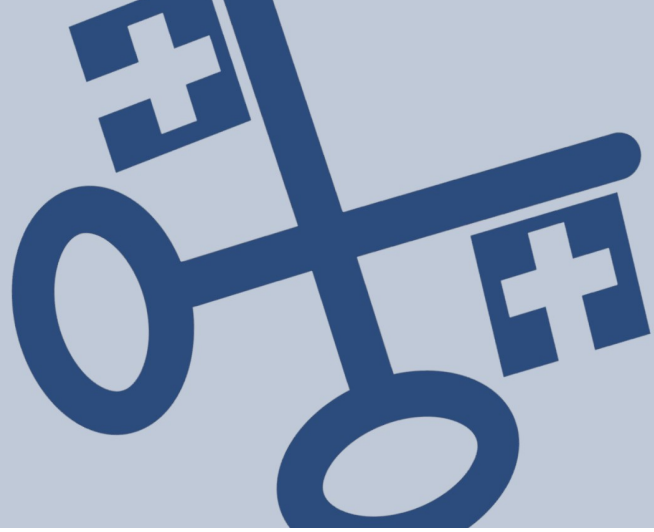
This week we have launched a new rewards initiative in school called Star Student. Students can be nominated as a Star Student in lessons, in extra-curricular activities, for uniform standards, for homework or even for contributions to school life. All tickets gained will be entered into a prize for a student in each year group. Hopefully your children will soon be able to explain how this works so that we get some positive momentum behind rewarding achievements.

Following the recent announcement by the DfE (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summertime-exams>) informing schools and the public about the plans for the examination series in the summer of 2021, I wanted to discuss how we present the information we gather from assessments to students and parents.

Recently students throughout the school have been sitting assessments as seen on the assessment calendar. These series of tests are a standard part of the school calendar but last year took on increased significance due to the use of Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) to formulate the GCSE grades awarded to Year 11 and 13 students.

REMINDER:

- Christian Union (open to pupils in Years 7- 13) meet after school on Thursday 3-4pm in the theatre
- The Frog Blog is available for all to read [here](#)



Written into the announcement by the DfE is the acknowledgement of the possibility that this may be used for some students again in combinations with examinations, although the intent is to move forward with supported examinations.

It has been very pleasing to see how well so many students have performed in these assessments. I do want to ensure that realism is applied, always, to the grades that are given however and want to provide examples to be considered.

In any given subject there are many components that make up the full examination course. These are found on the different examination papers that are sat for a subject, and may include practical or written coursework as well as performances. It is essential that we congratulate and celebrate the students for attaining a pleasing grade in any test, but we have to consider that all of the elements of a course are considered together when formulating a final grade and this includes when we predict final outcomes, as we did with CAGs. As such the assessment grade is not necessarily indicative of the overall grade that will be awarded, but only part of the information used.

A good example of this is in one of the subjects that I teach, GCSE PE. In their most recent assessment, Year 11 students performed very well in a written paper, which is part 2 of the course and has 40% of the marks available. The overall end result grade however, also takes into consideration student performance in part 1 and both the written coursework and practical skills sections. A great examination result needs to be backed up with similar performance in all aspects to ensure that the grade obtained on the paper does not get impacted by lower grades in other sections.

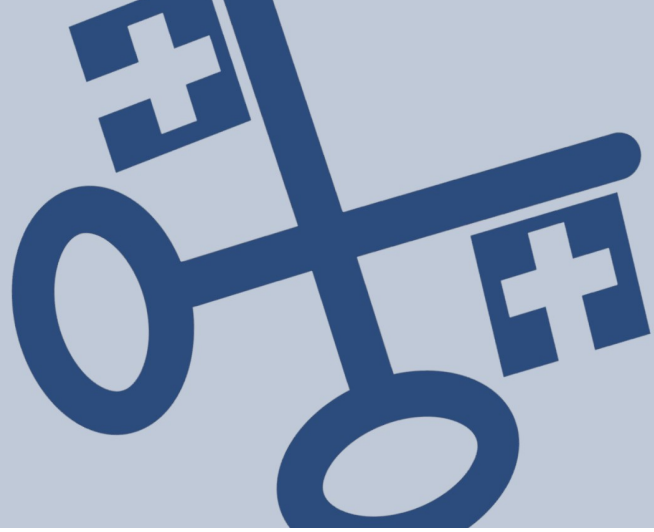
Year 9 Head Boy & Head Girl decided



This week saw the appointment of our Year 9 Head Boy and Head Girl. Congratulations to Josef Maslanyj and Amy Kirkby on your new roles. Josef was a prefect in primary school and was also on the school council. Amy hopes to make a positive contribution to the school in her new role. Mrs Johnson spoke of her pride and excitement for the newly appointed leads in Year 9, and hopes to see them involved in many exciting projects. Mr Arnold met with the two students and congratulated them on their achievement.

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MEET OUR CHAPLAIN

"No matter what age you are, starting a new school can be a daunting and difficult experience. To be honest, I wasn't keen on the idea myself! So, after meeting the Head Teacher for the first time, in their office, I had a tantrum and pushed a load of paperwork off their desk in protest - I was only 5!"

Thankfully, this was NOT the experience I went through when I joined the staff at S. Peter's School. (There was no paperwork on the Head's desk, just a laptop so it didn't seem appropriate to hurl it to the ground on this occasion!) The welcome and encouragement I have received from everyone has been amazing and I am so grateful to have the opportunity to serve the students, staff, parents and wider community in the role of Chaplain. I was born in Brixham, Devon and moved to Wolverhampton when I was two - it was quite a big step for a toddler so I am glad my family came along too. After attending Palmers Cross Primary (yes they kept me despite my protest)



my next new school was the BOYS Grammar school as it was then - Girls only joined the school the year after I left. Moving on from there I started a business degree at the Compton site of Wolverhampton Polytechnic (now St Edmunds School) but after failing the accounting and computing modules (I never thought computers would catch on anyway!) I decided a complete change was in order and so started at St Mary's University, Strawberry Hill, Twickenham to train as a PE teacher, with RE as my second subject. In my final term, I completed my dissertation (using a state of the art 'green screen' Amstrad PC) and married my wonderful wife Nikki (on April 1st - after 12noon!) then settled back in Wolves starting another new school in Tipton (Alexandra High School) teaching PE, RE and randomly, a double lesson of Performing Arts which was definitely improvised and certainly dramatic!

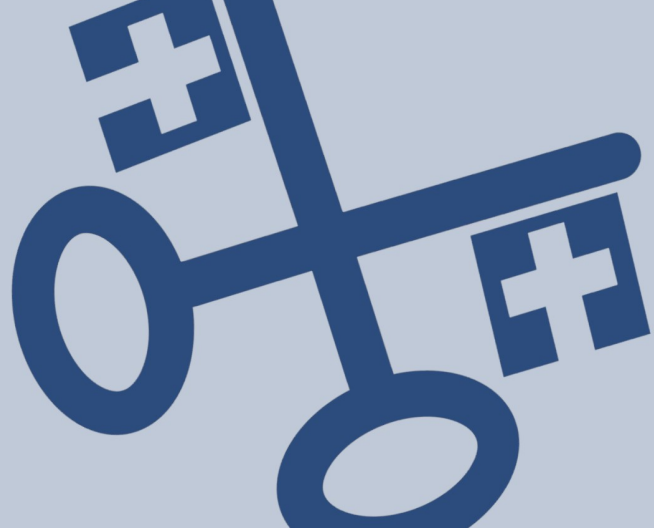
Also during this time Nikki and I started a new family, having three amazing children, who all came to S. Peter's School and are now all grown up and married to three equally special people - I love my kid-ults! But as they now have their own life, I am able to have more time for other things too.



I love playing football, anywhere, though not yet tried it in the tennis courts at school, and am still awaiting an England call up at ANY LEVEL (which, in reality, walking football is fast becoming the only hope left) I enjoy outdoor activities, walking, cycling, volleyball and anything on a beach! I am also a volunteer at Wolverhampton Bike Shed, as well as being active in a City wide youth network called Relentless and a member of City Church Wolverhampton.

What brings you joy today?

Christians sometimes call Jesus 'God's gift to us' - that's why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. Make a list of the people your family will give gifts to this Christmas. Thank God for each person.



WHY DID YOU BECOME A CHAPLAIN?

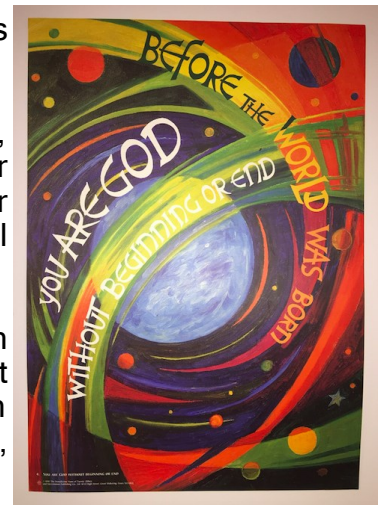
Life is challenging and scary, exciting and thrilling and never stays the same!

2020 has highlighted this starkly, on an individual and Global scale, as our world has been shaken, broken and pushed to the limit of our human endurance and enterprise...and yet there is another dimension that Jesus spoke of in his teachings, our spiritual relationship with God.

I believe that the active decision to explore, understand and live in relationship with God not only gives purpose, direction and fulfilment to life but also, in that relationship, we find one in whom we can trust; He is our calm in the storm and the rock on which to stand, through all circumstances.

For me living life as a follower of Jesus means 'trusting in God with all my heart and not always relying on my feelings or intellectual understanding but rather, acknowledging Him in all I do, allowing His direction for the way ahead' (Prov 3:5&6)

Who wouldn't want to encourage others to find such hope and security?



WHAT DOES A CHAPLAIN DO?

As Chaplain in a Christian school it is essential to demonstrate and live out what it means to believe in God. For me, **it's less about religion and more about relationship with God.**

How do we bring honesty, integrity and humility to the way we follow the teaching of Jesus in scripture and the practice of worship in real, everyday life? This is no easy feat, and at times is a personal battle which is definitely not one that can be achieved alone! So please, pray for me and with me in sharing the teaching of the Bible in order that as community and individuals we may see and respond to God's love for us. One way we are able to consider worship across the whole school is through the Holy Frog Blog which you can read more of [here](#).

[Watch Joe's Video](#)

CONTACTS

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Head of Year 8 - dsherriff@speters.org.uk

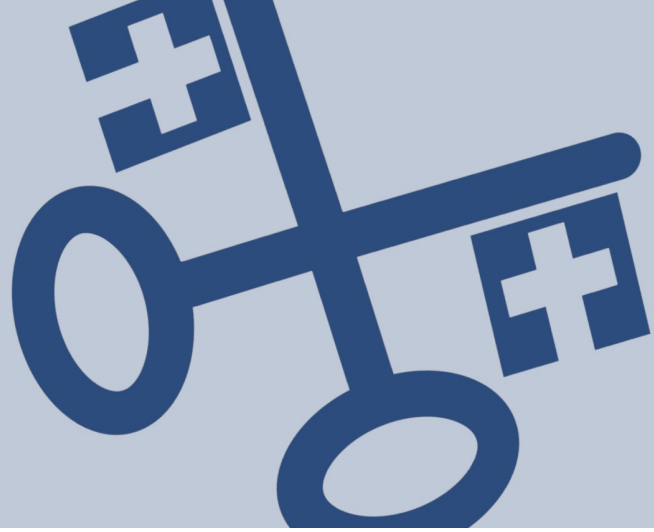
Head of Year 9 - ajohnson@speters.org.uk

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Head of Year 11 - gsmith@speters.org.uk

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SPOTLIGHT ON MUSIC — Mrs. Lacey Head of Music

COVID has had a huge impact on the music department curriculum. As a result key stage 3 schemes of work have been redesigned and key stage 4 & 5 classes have been focussing on the theoretical aspect of their respective courses. Any opportunity we get though we have accessed practical work - this has involved the year 12s performing socially distanced in the sports hall and during the recent year 9 absence both year 11s and 13s accessing the composing software in the music department. We are incorporating plenty of listening opportunities into lessons so that students are still experiencing music within lessons. We are immensely proud of the positive approach students are taking to their learning in lessons, despite the restrictions.



▲ Some of Year 7 Choir in socially distanced rehearsal



Year 7 have spent their first weeks at S. Peter's learning about the musical elements, pitch and graphic notation and instruments of the orchestra.

They also experienced one very noisy lesson where they were able to create 'Stomp' inspired rhythmic compositions using equipment from their pencil cases!

HOUSE AND TRANCE MUSIC SESSIONS FOR YEAR 8

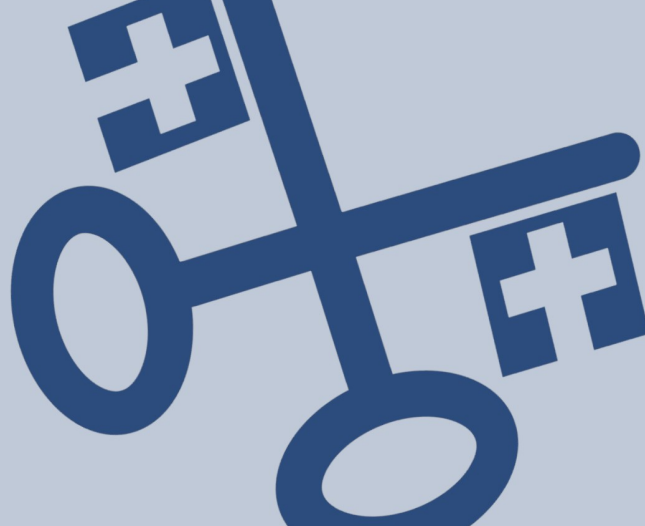
Year 8 spent the first half term learning about the different genres of popular music and the styles, structures and instrumental use associated with them. Certainly my year 8 classes should now know the difference between house and trance music - brought back happy memories of my university days!

KEY STAGE 4 UPDATE

GCSE students have been focussing on the Areas of Study and assessments in this term have been listening based. Year 9 on popular music, Year 10 on The Concerto and Year 11 recapping all of the Areas of Study in preparation for their mock.

REMINDERS:

- Have you signed up for our Parent app yet?
Email speters@speters.org.uk
- Sixth Form 2021 application process is now open [click here](#)



MUSIC LESSONS RETURN!

While larger rehearsals cannot happen yet we are pleased that String Ensemble, Jazz Group, Year 7 Choir and A Capella group have all been able to restart with COVID-safe rehearsals! Keep an eye on emails for other ensembles restarting!

In music we offer extensive Enrichment opportunities, see the timetable below for more information.

[Extra-Curricular Timetable](#)

Online Instrumental Lessons

Face to face instrumental lessons returned to S. Peter's following October half term and we were thrilled to welcome back our team of 9 peripatetic staff who teach our students throughout the week. Due to students isolating and year groups working from home, I recently set up online instrumental lessons which have been working successfully with a number of students. Students working from home can now access lessons via the link in the instrumentalist google classroom at their allotted time.

Celebrating Musical Success

Huge congratulations to the music cohort who left in July, and particularly those who have gone on to study music at University:

Miles Swinden (pictured right) - University of Oxford (Organ Scholar at Exeter College), Alex Hall - University of Birmingham, Tom Gibbons - University of Salford

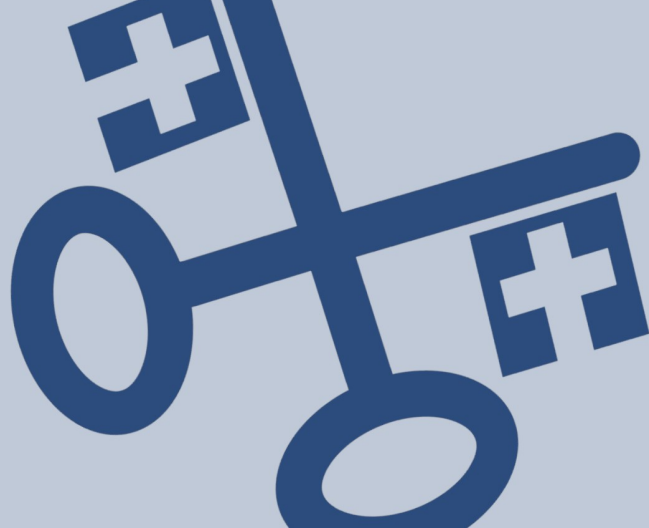
Following in their footsteps this year are the current year 13s. A number of the students recorded solo recitals earlier in the term to be sent off as part of their conservatoire applications. Anya Bradshaw (harp) has already received offers from both the Royal Welsh College of Music and Birmingham Conservatoire while Charlotte Clews (Flute) has too been offered a place at Birmingham Conservatoire. It cannot be underestimated how competitive these places are so they deserve huge congratulations.

Many students were not able to complete instrumental examinations that had been planned for the summer term due to the obvious cancellations. Very well done though to Edie Beech in year 8 who recently passed her Grade 5 Clarinet online with flying colours!



REMINDERS:

- Weekly uniform checks take place in school, please make sure your child is wearing the appropriate uniform at all times
- Our Enhancement and Enrichment programme is now running again



MUSIC STUDENT VOICE

We are currently running a student voice survey on google classroom. If your son/ daughter is in year 8-13 and studies music please encourage them to fill it in. We appreciate any feedback. Here is some we have received so far...

“I really do enjoy music lessons and seeing my teachers”

“Lessons are generally interesting and not just for the sake of passing exams”

“I love the music department and value it a lot. Definitely makes me feel at home and supported.”

Music Alumni Cameron Chin-See

Cameron left S. Peter's in 2019 after gaining an A* in music to study at the RNCM. We are hugely proud of the part S. Peter's played in Cameron's musical journey and we are fully expecting his music to bring joy to others for a long time to come. Here is his account of life at the RNCM during these strange times we are living in!



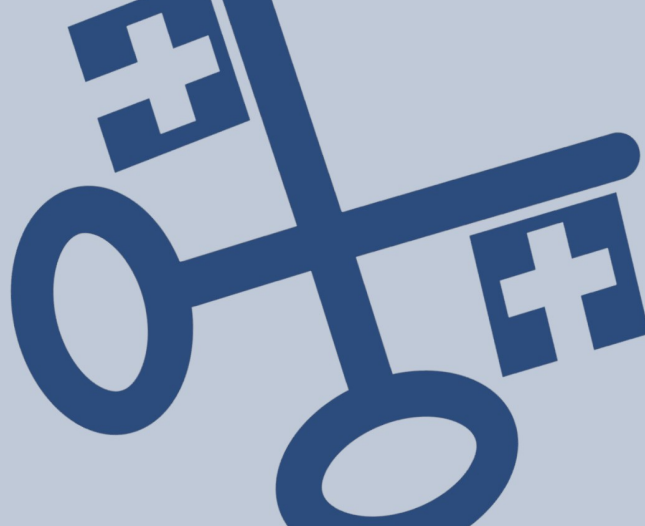
“It's safe to say that the start to my second year at the Royal Northern College of Music has been a strange one, as I'm sure it has been for all of you! Returning in September, we were sceptical about what the term might bring for us studying on a music performance course, with audiences and large gatherings being an integral part of what we do. Despite these doubts, RNCM have pulled off an honestly quite brilliant term, utilising technology to allow us to not only continue our academic studies online, but also to carry on connecting with audiences with performances online. I was lucky enough to be involved in a broadcast live from the concert hall with my Brass Septet back in October - this was genuinely the best fun I've had playing the trumpet all year and was fantastic to dust the performance cobwebs off after six months in the practice shed!”

Take the Music Quiz

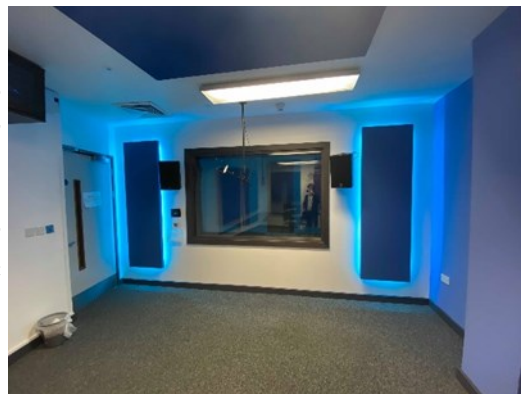
We have put together a short Quiz.

You've heard of Elf on The Shelf - Try These (They get gradually harder - year 7 students should be able to work out the first one, sixth form music students should be able to answer them all! No pressure)

[Complete the Quiz here](#)



Because of the government's guidelines when it comes to brass playing, we have had to rethink one-to-one tuition and the college have completely renovated their teaching spaces to allow us to see and hear our teacher whilst actually being in the room next door! I can't help but be impressed at the way not only RNCM, but also the rest of the world, have adapted and come together to help things carry on I'm loving my time at music college and am so grateful to the fantastic music department at S. Peter's, without whom I wouldn't have been inspired to pursue this career! Sending my best wishes to everyone at school, it's been really impressive seeing (through my brother Callum) the way you've all carried on regardless of the circumstances and I'm in no doubt that the amazing teachers at S. Peter's have made it a term to remember. Have a great Christmas and thanks for reading!



Chamber music and small group playing have been the focus this term, as it's the only way we can play together in a safe way, in compliance with the government's rules (string players must be 2 metres apart, wind and brass 3 metres). Because of this, we've had time to really get the septet off the ground and have been rehearsing lots and pumping out arrangements almost weekly. It's certainly a strange time and could

have easily been a time of low spirits, little productivity and little motivation, but thanks to RNCM, I feel more motivated than ever and am grateful for all the time I've had to practice this year! Saying this, I can't wait to get back to big performances again and to be sat in a symphony orchestra with a full audience!



APPLY NOW FOR 2021

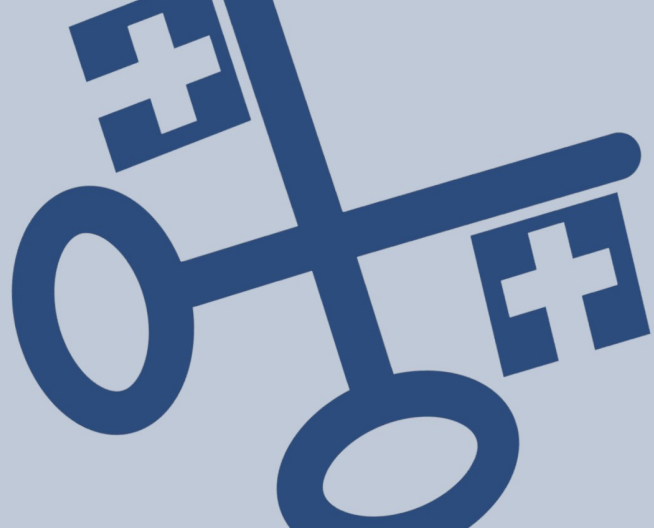
240 Plus students currently on roll

40 Plus courses on offer

96 % overall pass rate (summer 2020)

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, during the Christmas season, perhaps more than other times, we hear about the advent of hope that comes through your son Jesus Christ. Born in humility, his death and resurrection offers hope to those who believe. Hope of an eternal relationship with you God that starts the moment we invite you into our life. May we have courage and faith enough to entrust our hearts, our mind and our lives to you, who loved us enough to send your Son to us. This truly is a season of hope.



SIXTH FORM NEWS

Mrs Leek

Our Year 12 students have been busy this week registering for the Unifrog service. The Unifrog product described as the ‘complete destinations platform’ will allow students to make smart choices when it comes to picking the 5 UK universities to put on their UCAS forms.

Mrs Tranter our in school Careers Lead has posted in the Google classroom several virtual work experience opportunities this week including, a week at Spotify the online music streaming company, office communications with Ofcom and a Thameslink Railway opportunity.

Last week we welcomed Her Honour Judge Carole Burgher into school. Judge Burgher spoke openly about her role and her path to becoming the first ever African-Caribbean Circuit judge born in the UK.

Judge Burgher currently sitting as a Circuit Judge in the Family Court at Birmingham shared her experiences including attending Wolverhampton Polytechnic and how the judicial process has had to change due to COVID.

We hope over the coming weeks to bring more news of exciting opportunities for our young people in Sixth Form.

And finally we are introducing a weekly ‘Bingo’ session during the Sixth Form lunchtime on Thursdays. Our students work extremely hard and we want to give them a moment for something more light-hearted.

FAITH MATTERS

The ADVENT of HOPE...

Every year around this time we have a certain character join us in our house. He doesn't do a great deal, just sort of hangs about really, but his presence in our kitchen brings excitement and anticipation for what lies ahead. His arrival means that over the coming days, we will be full of hope and, more importantly, full of chocolate! The Snowman Advent calendar is the legend that reminds us Christmas is coming! We hope! We all need hope right? But when all else seems to have failed can you still have hope? Oppressed by a ruling power that you didn't elect; subjected to ‘unfair’ local restrictions and political agenda; living under constant fear of death; risking punishment if you step out of line; coping with recession; limited resources, disease, illness, social restrictions and living in an atmosphere of misery, doom, no hope, and despair, might well describe life in 2020 but actually, this was Judea around the time that Jesus was born!

Everyone in Judea knew that Rome was the power behind the rule of the local government, King Herod and his forces. Rome was a source of wealth and innovation but also corruption, tyranny and fear. The Jews were desperate to see God do something. The Old Scriptures spoke of God's promise that there would be ‘one sent from God’, who would ‘set captives free’, ‘establish his kingdom and reign forever’.

[READ MORE](#)