



FAMILIES UPDATE WEEK 14

15th December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

"Jesus is coming. Look busy!"

At this time of year and at this point in the term many of us are busy. But busy doing what? Busy helping God's kingdom come about. Busy working for the peace we long for. Busy healing the broken, busy finding the lost, busy tending to those who hunger and thirst not just for food and water, but even more for love and attention.

Last Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent the prophet Isaiah cries out "Comfort, give comfort to my people,". "Prepare the way of the Lord" is John the Baptist's cry, calling people not merely to stand still and be passive, but to actively forge a path to holiness of life.

(based on an Ignatian reflection)

How can God build His Kingdom if we are standing idle or if we are busy with other things? How can we more actively respond to God's call to action? How do we give comfort to people? How are we preparing the way of the Lord?

Wishing you and your families a restful and restorative weekend.

Yours sincerely

Daniel P. Murray
Headmaster

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The week beginning Monday 18th December will be **Week A**

General Information



Our Advent Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 20th December 2023 at 7.00pm in The Cathedral Church of St Mary, Newcastle upon Tyne. All welcome

Last Day of Term: The Michaelmas Term ends on Friday 22nd December 2023. As in previous years, the school will close earlier than usual on this day. Pupils in Year 7-11 will have a staggered exit by Year Groups beginning at 1.00pm until 1.15pm. The school office will remain open until 4.00pm.

If for any reason your son needs to remain in school until 3.00pm as usual, please contact your son's Head of Year, so that the appropriate arrangements can be made.

The scholars service will run at the usual time for any pupil remaining in school until 3.00pm.

The first day of the Epiphany Term is Tuesday 9th January 2024.

Christmas Lunch: On Wednesday 20th December the school kitchen will offer traditional 'Christmas Lunch'. Pupils who normally bring a packed lunch are welcome to purchase Christmas Lunch at a cost of £2.30.

Term Dates 2024-2025: The term dates for the Academic Year 2024-2025 are now published and are available on our [website](#).

Year 11 Mock Examinations January 2024: Year 11 received their individual mock examination timetables this week. Revision information and a generic timetable can be found [here](#).

Sixth Form Open Evening: Our Sixth Form Open Evening was a huge success last night. Our Sixth Form students were excellent in promoting the different subject areas along with being fantastic ambassadors for the school. Thank you to all the students who gave up their time to support this event.

Co-Curricular PE Clubs		
Day	Lunch Time	After School
	12.20pm - 12.55pm	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Monday	Table Tennis (Year 9, 10 and 11) Basketball (Year 7 & 8)	Basketball Club (Year 7 and 8) with Newcastle Eagles Coach
Tuesday	Year 10 - 11 Exam PE Table Tennis and Badminton Year 10 & 11 Fitness Club Year 7& 8 Climbing Club	
Wednesday	Basketball (Year 9, 10 and 11) Table Tennis (Year 7 & 8) Year 10 & 11 Fitness Club	Basketball Club (Year 9,10 and 11) with Newcastle Eagles Coach
Thursday	Badminton (Year 9, 10 and 11) Dodgeball (Year 7 and 8) Year 10 & 11 Fitness Club	Year 7 Football Training (Indoors)
Friday	Year 10 & 11 Exam PE Table Tennis	Sixth Form Volleyball Club

	Year 8 Football Training	
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Fixtures this week				
Year Group	Vs	Day/Date	Venue	Kick Off Time
Year 10 Football County Cup	Burnside	Monday 18 th December	Burnside	4.00pm
Year 8 Basketball Junior NBA	Multiple Teams	Monday 18 th December	St Cuthberts	3:30pm

Exit from school: At the end of all home and away fixtures, if pupils are being collected by parents and carers, they should be picked up at the Gretna Road entrance to the school.

PE Kit: Could we please remind parents that pupils/students must bring PE kit to every lesson? If a pupil is ill or injured, please write a note stating what the issue is and the PE staff will provide the pupil with another role within the lesson ensuring that their learning and progress continues.

Lost PE Kit: At the end of each academic week, any PE kit that has been left in the PE Department will be transferred to student reception.



Please follow [StCuthbertsCC](#) on Twitter for updated results.



Careers Development

Careers: This week some Year 9 pupils enjoyed a campus visit to Durham University to support them in choosing their GCSE options.

Job of the Week: Every fortnight we will highlight a different career pathway - follow this [link](#) to look at this week's focus, all about becoming an Environmental Engineer. Also click [here](#) to view a document with further information.

Sixth Form Information

Crisis at Christmas: Our Sixth Form are currently collecting for the charity 'Crisis' which supports homeless people. The Winter Warmer Collection deadline is 20th December. Each form class has a volunteered leader who has taken charge of collecting donations in their form class.

PSHE at Home

In Week 14, pupils and students from Years 7 to 12 were taught our second Contextual Safeguarding topic: Prevent.

Contextual Safeguarding seeks to identify and respond to harm and abuse posed to young people outside their home in their local communities.

Prevent is the Government's strategy to stop people becoming terrorists/extremists or supporting terrorism/extremism, in all its forms. Prevent works with individuals and communities by using voluntary early intervention to encourage them to challenge extremist and terrorist ideology and behaviour. Extremism is defined as: "The vocal or active opposition to British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs."

Big Question	Sub-unit	Week 14 lesson title	PSHE at home Task
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Year 7	Contextual Safeguarding Bonus Lesson: Prevent			People don't just wake up one morning and decide to become extremists.
Year 8				Watch John's story to find out how he was groomed online by the extreme right-wing and the techniques used to influence him.
Year 9				Use the link to access the case study: https://goingtoofar.lgfl.org.uk/casestudies.html
Year 10				Discussion points: What attracted John to the extreme right-wing? Why do you think he was vulnerable? At what point do you think he crossed the line? If John had been a friend of yours, what advice would you have given him? Who else could you contact for advice?
Year 11				
Year 12				
Year 13	How do I become a responsible British citizen?	How can I take care of myself in Britain and beyond?	'I'm thinking of getting a tattoo'- What should I know?	

Words of the Week

Next week, pupils - as part of their vocabulary work in form time - will have their first review. Pupils will complete activities relating to this half term's words. The purpose of this is to ensure that these words become part of your son's vocabulary span. For reference, this half term's words have been:

Year 7	perceive, select, specify, conclude, acquire, estimate
Year 8	regulate, coordinate, facilitate, transfer, implement, parameter
Year 9	conform, inhibit, contradict, arbitrary, reinforce, widespread
Year 10	surplus, diminish, alleviate, preliminary, coincide, analogy

Numeracy Brainteaser

The answer to how many ways you could read snowman was 20 ways. Look out for another festive brainteaser in next week's update.

Prayers

Pray with the Pope: The Holy Father's Monthly Prayer Intentions Brought to you by Apostleship of Prayer the first Friday of each month. You can access these prayers [here](#).

Prayer for the Week: This week's prayer for Advent is from CAFOD and was written by Rachel McCarthy.

*God of hope,
we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son,
our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other
and all creatures
back to your open arms.
Amen.*

*Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us
St Cuthbert, pray for us.*

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