



FAMILIES UPDATE WEEK 15

22nd December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

The story of the birth of Jesus, is full of joy in the midst of great conflict and sadness - even irony and rejection. It prepares us for the scandal of the cross by helping us see, in such a beautifully told story, that Jesus' mission is revealed to us, in how he came to us - in poverty and humiliation. There, in the manger, we begin to understand. Our God is revealed to us by coming in the lowliest of places.

Throughout Advent, we have prayed, "*Come, Lord Jesus. Come and visit your people. We await your coming. Come, O Lord.*" Now, our eyes are opened to the wondrous joy of his coming to us in that manger 2,000 years ago, so that we will know and understand his coming to us today.

(adapted from an Ignatian reflection)

May God, made visible in Jesus, open you to all love, protect you from all evil and be ever near you, bringing you happiness and peace.

Wishing you and your families a restful and restorative Christmas break.

Yours sincerely

Daniel P. Murray
Headmaster

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The week beginning Tuesday 9th January will be **Week B**

General Information

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

Advent Carol Service: Thank you to all of the boys who were involved in our wonderful, prayerful, and joyful celebration on Wednesday at the Cathedral Church of St Mary. The quality of the music and reading was superb. Thank you also to Mr Anderson and Mr Proudlock for music and to Miss Peacock for arranging the readers. Finally, thank you to all friends and family who joined us in prayer and song.

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](#).

BBCET Autumn Newsletter: The Trust's Autumn Newsletter is available on our [website](#).

Reading Newsletter: Please have a read of our festive edition of our reading newsletter. Here we celebrate the library, the reading opportunities in school this half term, and recommend some festive reads. This can be found on our [website](#).

Michaelmas Term News: It has been a very busy term. Please visit '[Our stories](#)' on the school website to checkout the news over the last 15 school weeks.

SEND Parent, Carer Forum Newsletter from Newcastle City Council - Winter 2023: Newcastle Local Authority welcomes you to their Winter Newcastle Parent, Carer Forum Newsletter for pupils with SEND. They will be sharing Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring editions to show what support is available in Newcastle and bust some myths regarding support, provision and SEND. This can be viewed [here](#).

Co-Curricular PE Clubs		
Day	Lunch Time	After School
	12.20pm - 12.55pm	3.15pm - 4.15pm
Monday		
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 Year 8 Football Training	Sixth Form Volleyball Club

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

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 a journalist. Also click [here](#) to view further information.

ASK Programme: The Apprenticeship Support & Knowledge for schools and colleges programme (ASK programme) is funded by the Department for Education and aims to support schools and colleges in England to increase awareness of apprenticeships, traineeships and T Levels amongst students, parents, carers, teachers and careers advisers. Their December newsletter can be viewed [here](#).

Sixth Form Information

Year 13 Mock examinations: These examinations start on the 18th January. Students have been given timetables for these examinations. If students do not have examinations in this period they are expected to be in their normal timetabled lesson.

External Examinations: We have a range of external examinations linked to our vocational courses. These exams start on the 9th January. Students have been given individualised timetables.

Crisis Winter Collection: Our Sixth Form tutor groups produced a fantastic response to our winter charity collection, with over 150 items being donated. Thank you to our Form Class charity leaders for their efforts in this.

Celebration Assembly: Congratulations to all of our winners. Prizes included Academic Achievement awards and contribution to the Catholic and Sporting Life of the school.

Christmas Lunch: It was a fantastic feeling to sit down with our Sixth Form students and enjoy a lovely Christmas lunch together on Wednesday. A tradition that will be booked in ready for next year.

Christmas Carol Service: It was a privilege to see so many of our Sixth Form students performing and reading at our annual service. Well done to all those involved.

PSHE at Home

	Big Question	Sub-unit	Week 15 lesson title	PSHE at home Task
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Year 7	How do I become a responsible British Citizen?	What are British Values?	What does it mean to be British?	<p>Your son has just started a new PSHE unit where he will study the 5 main British Values. In his lesson this week your son was introduced to these 5 values. Watch this video with your son to remind him of them and then discuss the questions below:</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCvMXBB-nrg&ab_channel=CantColSU</p> <p>Which British Value do you think is the most important? Are there any values that you think should be added to the list of 5? How have you experienced any of these British Values?</p>
Year 8	How do I become a responsible British Citizen?	Why should I respect Emergency Services?	Why should I respect the Police?	<p>This week your son has learnt about respect for the Police. Working for the Police can be incredibly rewarding. Please explore the Northumbria Police careers website together.</p> <p>https://careers.northumbria.police.uk/</p>
Year 9	How do I become a responsible British Citizen?	How does the world of UK politics work?	What is Parliament and how does it work today?	<p>Read this article and watch the video in the link below. It gives a balanced view on the role of The House of Lords in UK politics:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zvwqtfr/revision/6</p> <p>Should unelected peers play a role in UK politics?</p>
Year 10	How do I become a responsible British Citizen?	What laws do I need to know about?	What is the Equality Act 2010?	<p>This week your son will learn about the Equality Act 2010. The Act provides a legal framework to protect the rights of individuals and advance equality of opportunity for all.</p> <p>The link below will give fictional examples of case studies where potential unlawful discrimination has taken place in a school setting. Discuss them with your son:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How are they discriminatory? • How should the people in each example react? • What could be done to stop incidents like those described from happening? <p>https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/secondary-education-resources/useful-information/equality-case-studies</p>
Year 11	How do I become a responsible British Citizen?	What crimes should I be aware of?	What is anti-social behaviour?	<p>The Oak National Academy, which produced many resources for pupils during the original lockdown, have created a lesson on Anti-Social Behaviour. Go through the parts of the lesson (slides and/or video) which you deem relevant with your son.</p> <p>https://teachers.thenational.academy/lessons/anti-social-behaviour-60wkge</p>

Year 12	How do I become a responsible British Citizen? healthy?	What makes a responsible British Citizen?	Why should we bother voting?	This week your son started Unit 3 of the course: 'How do I become a responsible British Citizen?' The lesson title for this week was 'Why should we bother voting?' Explore this website with your son and discuss how he can register to vote and whether we are in need of electoral reform. https://votingcounts.org.uk/register-to-vote
Year 13	How do I become a man fit for the 21 st Century ?	How can I help others and myself?	First Aid- How can I give basic life support?	This week your son has learnt how to give basic life support (CPR and Recovery Position). After watching this video, perhaps you could practice on one another- it could save yours or someone else's life in the future. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mlp5dRIJk4M&ab_channel=StJohnAmbulance

Words of the Week

Please use and encourage your son to use their word of the week around the home. The more your son is exposed to this word, the quicker that word will become part of their vocabulary.
This week's words are:

Year 7	assume
Year 8	effect/affect
Year 9	welfare
Year 10	capacity

Numeracy Brainteaser

The answer to how many ways you could read snowman was 20 ways. There will be more brainteasers to come next half term.

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 is a blessing for Christmas

*May the humility of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,*

*the joys of the angels
and the peace of the Christ-child
be God's gifts to us and to people everywhere
this Christmas.
And may the blessing of the Christ-child
be upon us always.
Amen.*

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

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