



Bishop Douglass Catholic School Parent Newsletter

9th December 2022

Introduction



"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

This week we celebrated the second week of Advent, the week of preparation. John the Baptist warns everyone to prepare the way for the Lord. When the Lord comes, he will bring the salvation humanity needs and we will not be worthy to be in his presence. As we move towards Christmas, we must remember the importance of the message. Are we really ready and prepared to welcome Christ into our lives once more? Let us ensure in the upcoming weeks that we prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of the Lord.

We value our community links and are proud of our Year 10 pupils who have been closely involved in organising our annual Senior Citizens party which took place on Tuesday evening. Having raised an amazing amount to pay for the event, pupils prepared the hall and then served and entertained our guests. Thank you to everyone who helped make this a truly special evening. Our guests praised our Sixth Form and Year 10 helpers saying that they thoroughly enjoyed the event. We are very much looking forward to the Carol Service next week and hope that as many parents as possible can attend. Thank you to the PTA for organising the Christmas Movie Night on Thursday, a fun time was had by all.

A reminder that our Christmas lunch is on Tuesday 13th December. This is a tradition held every year at Bishop Douglass where the year groups will sit down together to have a meal and celebrate Christmas. There will be no charge for all pupils and there will be no other food served on the day. After lunch, pupils will be dismissed to go home. Years 7 to 9 will leave by 1:30pm and Years 10 and 11 will leave by 2:15pm. Sixth Form can leave at 1:30pm or they have the option to stay for Christmas lunch and depart at 2:15pm. If Sixth Formers wish to stay, they should inform Ms Binz.

As you will be aware, the end of term is Friday 16th December, and will be a non-uniform Christmas Jumper day. Pupils will be asked to make a small charitable donation to Aid to the Church in Need. Pupils will be dismissed at 12:30pm. Please ensure that if your child has free school meals, he or she collects this during break time. Evening Study has ended for this term and will resume at the start of the new term in January.

The Spring Term begins on Wednesday 4th January 2023 and all pupils should return to school on that date in time for registration in their form bases at 8.50am.

This will be the final parent newsletter of 2022. Please look out for The Douglass arriving in your email next week. On behalf of the staff at Bishop Douglass, we wish you and your family a happy and holy Christmas and best wishes for 2023.

**Mrs Henderson,
Head of School**

Good News

Christmas Extravaganza



Last week we held our 'Christmas Extravaganza' which was a brilliant event with lots of singing and dancing. Primary schools came to visit our students perform the nativity, and two students from primary school students did a wonderful write up for the event.

'The trip to Bishop Douglass was absolutely terrific. It was a nice walk to the secondary school. When we got there, the teachers kindly introduced us to their lovely school. They seated us in a big hall with a magnificent stage. Then they performed an extraordinary song (Last Christmas) with such lovely singing voices and talented musicians.

After the song, we sang along a few jolly Christmas carols to get us in the Christmas spirit and more performances by their school choir. Then Santa came and kindly gave everyone a candy cane. There were a few more sing-alongs and at the end they gave us an envelope with another candy cane and two chocolate coins. Even though that sounds so amazing already, after they did a lovely play about Bethlehem by their drama group.'

-- Nefeli and Gavrik from Martin Primary School.

Christmas Party



On Tuesday night we held our annual Senior Citizens party! It was a fun packed night with songs from the Choir and a few rounds of Bingo. Our fabulous Choir sang 'Jingle Bells', 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas', 'Deck the Halls', 'All I Want for Christmas is You' and a beautiful rendition 'God Rest Re Merry Gentlemen' with solos from Naylah 8F, Kiana 8F, Tanaka 8F and Esther 7A.

A Christmas dinner was served with all the trimmings, plus a delicious dessert of chocolate cake and custard. A big thank you to our Year 10s who helped fundraise for the event (and those who helped out) and a big thank you also to our Sixth Form top team for serving food with a smile!



Announcements...

PSHRSE Theme of the Half Term PSHE Focus: Unhealthy Relationships

This week students learned about what characteristics can cause a relationship to be unhealthy.

This compares with what students learned last week, about what they can and should expect from relationships.

This enables students to ensure that the relationships they have (regardless of the type) are good for them, and they know how to gain support if they are concerned.



Liturgical Theme:

Happy is the man who does not lose faith in me.

At this time of year at school as we continue through Advent and look forward to the coming of our Lord at Christmas. At Bishop Douglass we have been proclaiming the Good News throughout our lessons and assemblies, but also in the service we have shown to others and our commitment to the Catholic Social teaching of the Common Good. We remember the words of St. Francis that we should preach the Gospel at all times, and only if necessary, use words. We are grateful for the work staff and pupils have done in living out our Catholic values of solidarity with those in need, and the preferential option for the poor at our Senior Citizens party last week and we hope you can all join us in celebration for the Advent Carol Service on Monday. We hope your pupils will enjoy Mass on Wednesday and will dress up well for Christmas Jumper Day on the last day of term in support of those persecuted for their Christian faith. The recommended donation is £1.

In this week's Gospel reading, John the Baptist sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the Messiah. Christ asks them to report that what they had seen, that "the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor; and happy is the man who does not lose faith in me." This recalls the Israelite practice of Jubilee, where every 7 years debts were forgiven and prisoners released, and Christ marks himself as the new beginning for the nation of Israel and the people of God. In our weekly readings, the prophet Isaiah asks God to "Strengthen all weary hands", and we hope as this term draws to a close that we are granted the strength and faith to carry on living out our school mission to follow the footsteps of Christ and we look forward to a spiritual, as well as physical, renewal at the coming of Christmas in preparation for the New Year.



This week...

WORD OF THE DAY



Monday

Stint (Verb and Noun)

Supply a very ungenerous or inadequate amount of (something) & a person's fixed or allotted period of work.

Tuesday

Acquittal (Noun)

A judgement or verdict that a person is not guilty of the crime with which they have been charged.

Wednesday

Proffer (Verb)

Hold out or put forward (Something) to someone for acceptance.

Thursday

Litany (Noun)

A tedious recital or repetitive series.

Friday

Languid (Adjective)

(of a person, manner or gesture) having or showing a disinclination for physical exertion or effort.

HISTORICAL FIGURE OF THE WEEK

Empress
Matilda



Life: 1102 -- 1167

Country of Origin: England

Historical significance: When her father Henry I died, she raised an army in 1139 to fight for her right to become England's first female Queen. She was partially victorious, and placed her son Henry II on the throne, assisting rule from the background instead.



"Je pense, donc je suis."

-- I think, therefore, I am.

GEOGRAPHY FACT OF THE WEEK

Russia has 11 time zones.





Clubs & Societies

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Nessy's Maths Club All Years (Library Form Time)	Nessy's Maths Club All Years (Library Form Time) Basketball Years 11-13 (Sports Hall)	Nessy's Maths Club All Years (Library Form Time)	Nessy's Maths Club All Years (Library Form Time)	Mass All year (Chapel) Basketball + Fitness All year (Sports Hall)
Lunch	Year 9 Sports Hall Computing Club Years 7-9 (C1.1) Maths Club Years 7-11 1:45 - 2:05 Mental Well-Being All Years (D0.1) Logic Club Years 7-11 (E0.6) Bookclub Years 7-9 Years 10-11 B3.2 Medical Society Club- Years 7-13 S0.5	Year 7 Sports Hall Maths Club Years 7-11 1:45 - 2:05 Mental Well-Being All Years (D0.1) Spanish Cinema Club Years 7-9 (A3.1) Music Theory Club Years 7-13 (E0.6) Chemistry Olympiad Club Years 12-13 (S0.1) Science Club Years 7-9 (S0.8) Fitness Suite All Years	Year 8 Sports Hall Maths Club Years 7-11 1:45 - 2:05 Art Club Years 7-9 (T1.3) Mental Well-Being All Years (D0.1) BD Live Lounge Years 7-9 (E0.6) Cultural Exchange All Years (D0.2) Engineering Club All Years (S0.8)	Year 10 Sports Hall All Years (Sports Hall) Maths Club Years 7-11 1:45 - 2:05 Mental Well-Being All Years (D0.1) Spanish Cinema Club Years 7-9 (A3.1) K-POP Club All Years (B1.4) KS3 Ukulele Years 7-11 (E0.6) Fitness Suite All Years	Maths Club Years 7-11 1:45 - 2:05 Mental Well-Being All Years (D0.1) World Music Choir Years 7-11 (D0.1) Logic Club Years 7-11 (E0.6) F1 Club All Years (C1.1) Music Listening Club All Years (B1.3) Year 11 Sports Hall All Years (B1.3)
PM	Boys Football Years 7-8 (Sports Hall) Time Management All Years (C1.1) Debate Mate All Years (B3.3) Gardening Club All Years (Outside Sports Hall) Girls Basketball All Years (Sports Hall) Table Tennis Club All Years (Sports Hall)	Girls Football Years 7-9 (Sports Hall) Drama Years 7-9 (E0.4) Time Management All Years (C1.1)	Girls Netball Years 7-9 (Sports Hall) Cooking Club Alternating Weeks Years 7-9 (T0.1) Years 10-11 (T0.1) Time Management All Years (C1.1) Boys Football All Years (B1.3)	Boys Football Years 9-10 (Sports Hall) History Club Years 7-9 (C1.1) Time Management All Years (C1.1) Choir All Years (E0.6) Youth Club All Years Main Hall/ Dance Studio Maximising Progress Club All Years S0.1 Boys Basketball Years 9-11 16:10 - 17:00	Multi Sports Years 10-12 (Sports Hall) Boys Football Years 11+ 12 (Sports Hall) Chess Club Years 7-11 (S0.3) Forensics Club Years 9-11 (S0.3)

Club Focus

This week in cooking club, we made Christmas cupcakes, featuring lots of Santas upside down in the 'snow'.

Here's a photo of a very happy Narin in 7F with her cupcakes.

