



## The end of a long term

It has been a very long but productive term and we have packed so much into it! This is the final newsletter of 2019 as we are breaking up for the Christmas holidays now until Monday 6 January. In the first week, back we have a Year 12 Parents Evening on 7 January from 4pm – 6pm, so please make appointments in the usual way if you have a child in Year 12.

## Goodbye

We are saying farewell to Mrs Carol Neckles, Science teacher, this week. Mrs Neckles is relocating to another part of the country where she will take up her new teaching post. We thank her for all she has given to the school and wish her well.

We also say goodbye and thank you to Mr Paul Rossi, our chair of governors who is now going to retire fully. Mr Rossi has been a fantastic chair for the school with his wealth of knowledge and experience from many years in education across the Diocese. Mr Rossi stepped into the role in providing the governing body with a clear lead and steer supporting the school in all its efforts and endeavours through years of steady improvement. We will miss him and wish him a long and happy retirement.

## Thank you

Thank you to everybody who has been involved in the Advent preparations across school, including the celebration assemblies, Reconciliation, Christmas liturgies, singing carols, the Christmas meal, donating to charities and the acts of kindness.

*thank you*

I would also like to thank everybody for their hard work and commitment this term. I wish you all a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas.

Kate Pereira

**Academic Tutoring  
Year 12 and 13:  
6 – 17 January 2020**

## Carol Singing at Lavender House

On Monday a small group of Rochester House students, along with Miss Stevens and Miss O'Connor went to Lavender House residential care home to sing carols to the residents. Their visit was much appreciated as many of the residents are unable to leave the home to go to Church and participate in Carol Services. This was part of the wider charitable acts programme that Rochester have carried out this year and they are very much hoping that this will be the start of a close partnership and we will be able to support our local community throughout the year.

Well done to Sean, Conal and Erin O'Shea and Charlotte and Emmi Pollard for using their talents in the service of others.

## EAL and Learning Support Pantomime Visit

On Monday a group of Year 10 and 11 EAL and Learning Support students went to watch *Sleeping Beauty* at the Key Theatre. The visit was organised by Mrs Roberts and is now an annual event. Students who are largely unfamiliar with this very British genre had the opportunity to watch, sing, applaud and laugh. All the students and staff enjoyed themselves (oh yes they did!). Thank you to Mrs Roberts for organising this trip and for the support staff for going with the students.

## News from New Ark

Once again this term students from Years 7 and 9 Learning Support have been going on weekly placements to New Ark City Farm. The students work on the farm and care for the animals and learn about what it is like to co-operate with others in a workplace environment. Godfrey and Hassan are now seasoned workers and very experienced at feeding the chickens and collecting the eggs. Amna, Deivids and Ksenija have been finding out about the routines and enjoying a different way of learning. There will be more students joining them next term.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Our dream team of Mrs Roe and Miss Snart have been working really hard to find places for all the students. After Christmas students will be prepared for attending interviews, answering questions successfully and learning how to present themselves well. Please ask your child where they have been placed. There are still a few placements to be finalised and it is essential that students go and see staff when they are asked to.

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## Celebration Assemblies

Last week we had our termly celebration assemblies, during which each House rewarded students for good attendance, lots of merits, excellent progress and good attainment. It was also an opportunity for some students to showcase their talents.

During Westminster Assembly students were asked to think about acts of kindness they could do over the Christmas period after hearing a story about a child refugee Mevan who received the gift of a bike as a child whilst in a refugee camp in the Netherlands in the 90's. She was later reunited with Egbert who had given her the bike and she said "Small actions can have big consequences. The kindness that Egbert and his family showed me will stay with me for a lifetime, and it continues to shape me as a person"

There were also some fantastic student performances including Jaciara Correia, who played "Away in a Manager" on the violin; a dance performance and Chenai Jackson sang "Someone like You" by Adele. All the students who won the Tutor Award were put into a draw to win an Amazon Echo Dot. The winner was Ruksar Rehman. The best overall form was W2. W8 were awarded overall winners of the Literacy Quiz and Maths in Minutes Quiz which lead to them being crowned Quiz Masters. W9 were awarded overall Inter-House Quiz Winners.

Cambridge House gave their top award, Pride of Cambridge, to Elizabeth Lukenuk because she is the Year 11 student who has made the most progress between the Year 10 PPEs and the recent Year 11 PPEs. There were performances by Ben Chapman (bass guitar) and Isabel Cuenca (guitar), Camila Santos Teixeira (piano) and Rebecca Smith (vocals).

Beverley House began their assembly by listening to a fabulous poem from Mrs Wilmore titled 'A Christmas Thank You' by Mick Gower and then were treated to a wonderful performance of the Jungle Book's 'Bare Necessities' by Kajus Rackys in B4, who played on his guitar and flute and sang as well. The awards were given out, with B3 winning the best form and B1 winning the prize for the form with the best attendance. Special congratulations to Sanna Hussain for winning the Beverley House Christmas special gift of an Amazon Echo.

Rochester House celebrated the success of their acts of kindness during December. From greeting students as they came into school, to offering homework help and postal deliveries, to delivering gingerbread men, the students and staff deserved to be recognised for their efforts. There were performances by Emmi Pollard and Chorum and the top House Awards went to Isaac Heppell and Gustas Serapinas.

All of the house staff would like to wish students and their families a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year.

## Sixth Form Applications

The deadline for sixth form applications is today and all students should ensure they have made their choices via SIMS options online or on the paper form provided. All students will have a letter of confirmation by the end of January and please also reassure your children that if they change their mind about their choices, it is not a problem at all. Their primary focus, now the applications are in, is to achieve the best they can in their GCSE exams. They will find that everything else will fall into place.

## Into Film Competition

We have the opportunity to enter a competition run by the Into Film Foundation. It is inspired by the musical Cats, which is to be released shortly in cinemas. Students are asked to write a short piece, of no more than 500 words, answering the following question:

Do you think that your school is the most welcoming and inclusive community in the country?

*Tips for writing:*

- Write from your point of view (use 'I')
- Use your descriptive skills
- Be as persuasive as possible

The deadline for entries to come into school is 8 January. They need to be returned to Miss Wilson or staff in the Study Centre. Prizes include a box of goodies and a private screening of Cats. In the past we have had students win this competition so you are definitely in with a chance!



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