



## Hope

On Monday, we lit the first candle on our Advent wreath, the candle of Hope. Thank you to the Year 7 students involved in this. All students were able to take part in the virtual assembly, which was shown in form rooms on Monday. Our chapel also has the nativity scene displayed, which looks lovely with lights and a backdrop.

In addition, Bishop Allan has recorded his Advent message for students, which was also broadcast this week to students. In it, Bishop Allan talked about Advent being a time of great expectation and waiting. One of the ways students are showing hope and expectation is in collecting food for the hampers in the SJF Showdown, which is being led by Ms Lester. Thank you to everybody for providing something for these hampers which are going to people this Christmas who live in Longhurst Elderly Care home on Friary Court.

## Rochester House Liturgy

Thank you to Rochester House, Mrs Goodfellow, and all involved in the liturgies that took place in form rooms. The themes of Strength and Kindness ran through each liturgy and



students took part as readers in each class. It has been encouraging to experience such positive engagement and respect throughout the liturgies and the student readers have been excellent – well done!

## Parents Evening

Thank you to everybody involved in the Year 11 & 13 virtual parents evening on Tuesday which went very well. It gave staff, parents and students time to discuss individual progress and areas for improvement, which is particularly important this year because of the pandemic. I have been very pleased with the positive attitudes to learning shown by our students in Years 11 and 13, their attendance at Period 5 sessions and their determination to do well. PPEs will take place for Year 11 and 13 in the spring term.

## If your child is ill

Please do not send your child to school if they are feeling ill, particularly at the moment with the risk of COVID 19. It is difficult to tell the difference between a cold and the symptoms of COVID 19 and if someone is at home when they are ill, they will get better more quickly. If anyone in your household has the symptoms of COVID 19 they must get a test, please do not send any of your children to school, even if they are well. The whole household must isolate in this situation.

## Face coverings and hand sanitiser

Thank you for the continued priority given to the wearing of face coverings and for the majority of students bringing them in every day. Please remind your child of the importance of washing their hands regularly and using hand sanitiser at home as well as at school.

## The last day of term

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the last day of term will be a non-uniform day and an opportunity to wear a Christmas jumper if desired. The donation to charity for this is £1. We will finish at 2pm as we usually do at the end of term when students can go home. Students from March who usually travel by train will be taken to the station on the school minibus at 2pm.

## Kate Pereira

### Year 7s perform for Peterborough

Last night Peterborough's Christmas light switch on was streamed virtually for the first time. As part of the presentation a



group of Year 7 students performed as part of a virtual choir, along with key workers and children from primary schools in Peterborough. The students worked hard with Mrs Harmson to rehearse their singing and the event was filmed a couple of weeks ago in the school chapel. The students were fantastic and it was fitting that they ended the song on a high. Well done to all involved and thank you to Mrs Harmson for her hard work. Anyone wishing to listen to the performance can access it via the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/PeterboroughCC/videos/133293678358561>

## Musical Talent

Just after half term Mrs Harmson challenged students to submit an audition video for inclusion in an end of term showcase of the musical talent in school. Lots of students displayed an interest and all the performances have now been submitted.



The showcase will be screened in form time on Thursday, 17 December and will also be available on Teams after that.

Thank you to all students who have submitted performances and for their enthusiasm, we look forward to watching the fruits of their labours.



## SHOWCASE

## Local School Nature Grants

We applied for a local school nature grant before half term and have been successful in our application! This means that we have been given £500 of gardening equipment as well as a free training session for our staff on delivering outdoor education.

We have chosen to receive three large vegetable planters in order to help with the completion of the sensory garden. This is almost completed but was delayed due to lockdown and significant overgrowth. We are planning a final burst of activity in the spring and are looking at how we can establish a student-led garden committee to ensure that the work of the garden is embedded in school life and is sustained over time.



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## Advent

The second candle on our Advent wreath will be lit next Monday.



## Covid-19 Related Absence from School

A Quick Guide for Parents can be found on the school website

<https://www.stjohnfishersschool.org.uk/september-opening/>

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