



St Augustine's RC High School Newsletter 2024/25 – Issue 7 – Festive Edition



Dear parents, carers and friends of St. Augustine's,

Welcome to the final newsletter of 2024, and what a bumper edition it is. As we approach the end of a busy term, I would like to thank both pupils and staff for all their hard work and, you for your trust and support.

We thank Father David Yates and Father Tim Curtis for celebrating Mass with us this week and offering the opportunity to reflect upon the nativity and recognise the hope it brings to our world.

This Sunday, the fourth of Advent, we pray for all those affected by conflict. It has been heart-warming to see our pupils, and their families, think of those less fortunate than themselves. Thank you for your generosity in supporting our Advent charity work.

On behalf of the Governing Board, staff and myself, may you and your families experience the blessings of Christmastide and we wish you a happy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on the 6th January 2025.

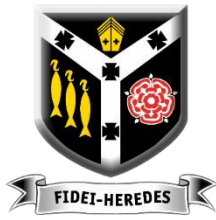
With every blessing for a restful break,

Mrs Hunt



Key Dates

- Friday 20th December – Year 11 Mock Results
- Friday 20th December – Early closure for Christmas Break
- Monday 6th January – Return to School (week 2)
- Thursday 16th January – Year 11 Progress Evening
- Monday 20th January – Friday 24th January – Whole School Careers Week
- Tuesday 21st January – Year 9 Options Information Evening



Fantastic Skiing Success!

Well done to Helena in year 8! She competed in the first International Alpine Giant Slalom Race of the year, finishing 7th in the u14 category. Competitors were from Slovakia, New Zealand and Germany, what an amazing experience!



Festive Foodbank Haul!

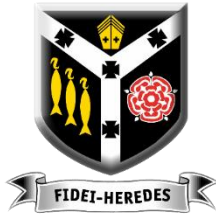
A huge thank you to the pupils and families and St. Augustine's staff, who contributed an amazing number of goodies and presents for people within our local community. When the Foodbank came to collect this week, they were absolutely astounded by the number of gifts we school had collected – we filled their van!



Christmas Lunches

Christmas Lunches in school over the past few days have been a real festive highlight! Each year group got the opportunity to come down and eat a Festive feast with all the trimmings, plus a drink and biscuit and it went down an absolute treat. Thank you so much to the staff in the kitchen for making sure that everything ran like clockwork





End of Term Mass

This week we celebrated our end of term masses in anticipation of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Special thanks go to everyone who helped with our beautiful celebration including the choir, readers, offertory processors and Eucharistic Ministers. We would also like to offer a word of thanks to Fr Tim Curtis from St Peter's, Stonyhurst and Fr David Yates and Carmine Rea from Whalley for celebrating with us.

Christmas Carol Service

The Christmas Carol Service took place on Monday, 9th December in the school hall.

There was a fantastic turnout and it was a wonderful Carol Service with a beautiful message of dignity, peace and care for all humanity.

Thank you to all of those that bought tickets and, of course, thank you to pupils and staff for putting on a delightful, festive performance. The service certainly filled us all with festive spirit!

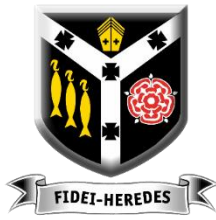


Senior Citizens' Christmas Party

Last week, we held our annual Senior Citizens' Party for members of our local community.

They were treated to an afternoon of carols, musical performances and bingo.

Well done to all of our Year 11 prefects who looked after our guests so well and thank you to the staff that helped the party run so seamlessly!



PTFA Christmas Draw

Thank you to all our families for supporting the school by buying a ticket for the PTFA draw. The winning tickets drawn were:

- 1st Prize - 02965 - £250
- 2nd Prize - 09120 - £100
- 3rd Prize - 06648 - £50
- 4th Prize - 07239 - Hamper
- 5th Prize - 03175 - Gift Bag
- 6th Prize - 02832 - Gift bag

All winners have been contacted.



Deck the Halls

School is looking decidedly festive, with many departments decorating their classrooms and working areas – all with the help of a few pupil elves of course!

But, the most important decoration in school is the main tree in the school hall which looks absolutely glorious! Thank you so much to our wonderful site manager, Mr Spear for decorating it so splendidly!





SARCHS Singers

Recently, the SARCHS Singers took part in a Christmas Concert at St. Mary's RC Church, Langho at the invitation of The A Cappella Singers. It was a lovely event and the pupils were superb.



Year 8 Gaudi Inspired Artwork

Year 8 pupils have been working hard with Mrs Walls on a 3D homework Art project inspired by the artist/architect 'Antoni Gaudi', whose work can be seen in Barcelona.

Here are a couple of amazing examples from the class showing use of colour, shape, pattern and texture.

Well done to 8X1D and Mrs Walls.



Pilkington Buses – Important Changes

We have been informed by Pilkington's bus company that they are making some changes to the 530 and 547 times that will commence when we return after the Christmas break on Monday 6th January 2025. These buses will be running earlier to ensure that all pupils arrive in school on time.

Please note the new changes take effect from Monday 6th January 2025.

- **547**
Rishton Roe Buck 08:05
Towngate 08:15
St Augustine's 08:30
- **530**
Queens Rd 08:00
Hare & Hounds 08:05
Sparth Rd 08:08
Park Hotel 08:15
St Augustine's 08:30

Please see below the details regarding purchasing tickets for the 547, 530 and 531 below.

We are moving these 3 services over to a new ticket system after Christmas. If a child doesn't have a smart phone they can print the ticket off and scan the ticket on the bus.

Parents can either pay in full or spread the cost via direct debit.

A ticket for the remaining of the academic year 24/25 from January will be £470, parents will need to pay a deposit then 1st direct debit payment will be taken in February and last payment taken in June.

We will no longer accept cash on these services. All being well all our other services will be moved over to the new system in April.

If you have any queries please contact Pilkington's directly on their email - info@pilkingtonbus.co.uk



Year 10 Aspirations Visit to Cardinal Newman

Thank you so much to Amy at Cardinal Newman College, all the staff and past pupils who welcomed some pupils from Year 10 last week to show them around the campus. Pupils got to see what the college has to offer and all the extra-curricular opportunities that they can participate in. Thank you again!



Sporting Success!

- Well done to under 14 girl's football team on a successful away trip to Netherall School in the Lake District for R4 of the ESFA Cup where we won 5-1. Special mention to Maddie H who scored all 5 goals!! Our next round is against Cardinal Heenan, Leeds.
- An amazing performance from our under 14 boy's badminton teams, who took part in the district championships! Our A team were crowned champions with the B team also claiming a top 3 spot!
- Great work on from our year 7 boy's rugby team who played against Ribblesdale at Clitheroe Rugby Club winning 25-20 with a last minute try from George D!



12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Dot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparking stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College®

NOS National Online Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

Useful Resources and Support

Useful Online Safety Websites

National Online Safety – safety guides on ALL aspects of internet use
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Internet Matters – wide range of online safety advice for parents to keep their children safe on-line.
<https://www.internetmatters.org/>

Useful contacts to report a concern

If you are worried and need help, then please contact one of the following:

Tel: 0800 1111

www.ceop.police.uk

Web:

www.childline.co.uk

childline



Kooth is a free, safe and anonymous online mental wellbeing community which includes a live chat with the team feature, discussion boards, magazines and helpful articles and a daily journal.



Papyrus provide confidential support and advice to young people struggling with thoughts of suicide, and anyone worried about a young person. Call 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967 (opening hours: 9.00am – 12.00am, 365 days a year)



Samaritans are here to listen 24/7, 365 days a year. Call 116 123 for support

Online Resources

There are apps available, such as 'Calm Harm' and 'Clear Fear' that you can download to your mobile, or if you have a tablet. These can provide useful distraction techniques for managing anxiety and thoughts of self-harm.

Useful Contacts

- The Mental Health Crisis Line in Lancashire are available 24/7 over the phone and can be contacted on 0800 953 0110
- The Well-Being Helpline is available Monday – Friday, 7.00pm – 11.00pm plus Saturday & Sunday 12.00pm – 12.00am, it is staffed by volunteers who can offer emotional support or if you would like to chat about your mental health. This helpline can be reached on 0800 915 4640 or by texting the word 'Hello@' to 07860 022846
- Hopeline UK is a young person's suicide prevention charity. They can be called on 0800 068 4141 or text 07860 039967
- www.youngminds.org.uk Information for children and young people about mental health and wellbeing. Free 24/7 crisis messenger – text YM to 85258
- <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/> advice and practical tips to help look after your mental health and wellbeing.
- www.itsgoodtotalk.org.uk Listings of local counsellors
- www.themix.org.uk The Mix's Crisis Messenger text service is available 24/7 and open to anyone aged 25 or under living in the UK. If you're in crisis and need to talk, text THEMIX to 85258 Helpline: 0800 808 4994
- www.thecalmzone.net Support for young men who are down or in a crisis. Helpline 0800585858
- <http://www.centreplace.org.uk/talkzone.htm> counselling, live chat on-line or telephone
- www.the-lookout.org.uk Support around domestic abuse for young people and families, run by Children & Family Wellbeing service.
- www.mind.org.uk/information-support/for-young-people Information and support for mental health and wellbeing issues.
- <https://mermaidsuk.org.uk> - Helping gender-diverse kids, young people and their families