

Newsletter

December 2013



Message From The Headteacher

The Autumn term is nearly at an end and Christmas is fast approaching. This term is always one of change; from the hot hazy days of summer to the cold, frosty mornings of winter - but no snow as yet! It's been a time of transition for Whitecross too. Not just for our new Year 7 students settling in to the beginning of their secondary education but for the school, completing the first full year as an Academy. Parents will have noticed very little change, however behind the scenes there has been a flurry of activity with new concepts to learn and implement often at break neck speed. I am proud of how the staff have risen to the challenge and embraced this new chapter for Whitecross.

The pride I have in our community is well founded, especially when helping a charity is mentioned. Pudsey made his annual appearance supported by, Mr D who, together with a variety of other exciting events, collected an amazing £866.47 for Children In Need. This Christmas we have been supporting St Paul's of Worcester, a charity helping the Homeless in Hereford. Our PTFA have been boosting the minibus fund throughout the term and have almost reached the half way mark. Students and staff have rallied to support C M in his fund-raising activities to help him join in an organised trip to Nepal next year helping local people and teaching English to school children.

The international theme continued throughout the term at the annual Multi Faith event when Whitecross and primary students learnt about a variety of faiths around the world. Staff and students visited Boulogne and we all enjoyed tucking in to continental delights during European Day of Languages.

We have welcomed students from the Heritage School in Kolkata and I know our students are looking forward to their return trip in January.

We will also be saying goodbye at the end of the week; Mr P has been a tremendous asset to our Maths department and it is with sadness that we say farewell, but wish him well as he retires from teaching. Also leaving us is Miss T who will be spending more time enjoying her new role as a Mum and we wish her many happy days ahead.

The Autumn term has been busy and there have been trips galore to the theatre, Chedworth Roman Villa, Drayton Manor, and The Clothes Show to name but a few. The Duke of Edinburgh scheme has been re-launched and Year 10 students have been busy signing up. Grandparents had a taste of our Christmas celebrations this year when they came for Christmas Lunch, mince pies, chocolates and smiles as our wonderful choir entertained them with Christmas songs. This was such a wonderful event we shall certainly put it on the calendar for next year. The music department has been busy rehearsing for the Whitecross Christmas Carol Service on Thursday at Holy Trinity Church, to which you are all invited.

All of these 'extras' just seem to happen, but behind each fixture, each match, each trip and event – the whole school community is working hard to deliver not only the fun times, but the serious matter of quality learning for all our students. Our values this term have been respect, love, freedom and empathy and these continue to help us with our aim of *'Excellence for all ... excellence from all'*.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes,

D S



Don't forget our carol service at Holy Trinity Church on Thursday 19 December. You are all very welcome, tickets are available from the school reception.



Value Of The Month For December

Empathy

Merry Christmas to all our students and their families. Have a great time and we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year on Monday 6 January.