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Holy Trinity International News

Greetings from the Head

Dear Parents

In keeping with the spirit of this last week, I would like to start by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Our Christmas festivities were officially launched by the Christmas Cracker, organized by the PA, who have been busy in school these last two weeks getting Christmas well and truly underway. The funds raised by the PA are re-invested into school to improve the learning experience of all our students and so I would like to thank the PA for all their hard work, especially during this busy time of year.

From the Christmas Cracker to our theatre visits, 'Sleeping Beauty' for Seniors and the 'Jungle Book' for Prep, re-enforcing work covered in lessons and helping to ignite that Christmas magic. Following this, we then had exciting news that Santa was visiting the animals at the West Midlands Safari Park and so of course our Prep students had to go along to make sure he hadn't mixed up their Christmas lists. We then said goodbye to our skiers, who are currently enjoying the winter sunshine and some excellent skiing. They may be enjoying the thrills of the ski slopes, but they missed an enchanting production of, 'Ralph the Reindeer' performed by our Nursery and Kindergarten children. It was a visual feast for the eyes and the children played out their various roles beautifully. I have to say a special well done to the staff who managed to co-ordinate and control 60 little ones, who at one point were let loose with instruments!

Following the theme of Christmas around the world, our Key Stage one Students entertained us with, 'The Smallest Angel'. It was a delightful performance and I was particularly impressed by the Spanish song, demonstrating good linguistic skills at such a young age. Not to be outdone by the younger members of school our Senior students once more demonstrated how imaginative and creative they are in the House plays, in which they paraded fashions of the future.

In between all the productions, we had puppet shows, the Junior Choir singing for charity, Christmas lunch and of course a visit from Santa. We concluded the week with the Carol Concert in the church, a fitting end reminding us all of the true purpose of Christmas.

Given that it has not been that long since we presented, 'Oliver' and our Prep students sang in the, 'Young Voices' concert, I'm sure you will all agree that a rest is needed by all. For our Senior students who have exams coming up in January, I hope that you find the time to relax and take the occasional break from revision and ensure that you come back duly prepared. However, in general Christmas is a very special time in which it is important that we all pause and re-focus on those who are nearest and dearest and we need not make any apologies for indulging in family time.

Therefore God Bless and Merry Christmas to all.

Champions all!!!!

As reported in the last issue of this Newsletter HTIS swept the board at the ISA (Independent Schools Association) Swimming Gala last month. Gwillam Price, National Director of Sport for ISA, was so impressed he asked if he could attend a special assembly in the school to personally present the medals and trophies.

At the assembly he congratulated the competitors and the school for such a resounding success. Mr Price made special mention of the teaching staff, Mrs Pioli, Mrs Thomas and Mrs Farley; without their dedication these results would not have been possible. If you missed this news here are the achievements of the special swimming squad:

- Eleanor, Year 4, U14 breaststroke 1st place; U11 front crawl 1st place; U10 freestyle relay 1st place
- Imogen, Year 4, U10 freestyle relay 1st place
- Adele, Year 5, U11 breaststroke 1st place; U11 front crawl 2nd place; U11 freestyle relay 2nd place
- Sophie, Year 8, U14 freestyle relay 1st place; U14 medley relay 3rd place
- Erica, Year 10, U16 backstroke 1st place; U16 butterfly 1st place; U16 medley relay 1st place; U16 freestyle relay 1st place
- Faith, Sixth Form, U20 freestyle relay 1st place

The special assembly was also attended by IES Chairman, Dr Tate, who congratulated the school and then distributed End of Term Enrichment Certificates to pupils and students.





School of Physics & Astronomy

Mrs Mackie-Smith accompanied students from Years 7 –10 to Birmingham University’s School of Physics and Astronomy. A young research group, led by Dr Andreas Freise, are involved in a new branch of physics being used to unravel the mysteries of the Universe. Gravitational waves, which are ripples of space-time, are generated by violent cosmic events such as colliding black holes. The research group are part of a team developing the most sensitive gravitational wave observatory in the world. So far space has been explored through the study of light and other electromagnetic waves. The next step is to study the effects of gravitational waves and Birmingham University’s gravitation wave group are at the forefront of this research.

HTIS students took part in lectures, simulations and hands-on events. They were also given a personal tour of the laboratories. A unique and exciting experience for our budding physicists. Many thanks to Mrs Mackie-Smith for arranging this event.

“Bouncers”

Students studying GCSE and A level Drama & Theatre Studies have been investigating the works of John Godber; a dramatist who specialises in narrative theatre. The students have attended two performances of Godber’s plays at the Arena Theatre, which is part of the University of Wolverhampton. At the end of the performance of “Bouncers” the students were so engrossed in making notes for their 2000 word controlled assessment that they did not realise the theatre had emptied.



However, this gave them an opportunity to speak to the cast and discuss the play. Many thanks to Mr Dunnington, Head of Drama, for organising these valuable theatre visits.

Clothes Show



Mrs Johnston and Mrs Isherwood arranged for Key Stage 4 & 5 students studying Art & Design & Textiles to visit the NEC Clothes Show.

The students were able to talk to the various stall holders about their products. Later they were able to view the catwalk shows highlighting the latest fashions to hit the high street.

Year 11 student, Georgia, decided to dress for the occasion—she certainly made an impression with her outstanding choice of fashion.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 5 January 2012
School open for Spring Term
Monday 9—Friday 31 January
GCSE / A level public examinations
Friday 13 January
Year 8 Whole School Assembly
Friday 20 January
Year 4 Whole School Assembly

**Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year**



Newsletter written and compiled by Mr. M. Dunnington.
Cover designed by Sixth Form student Vicky Tyler