



Volume 2 | Issue 12

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SCHOOL THAT MATTERS:  
CELEBRATING ONE ANOTHER

In this, the second week of Advent, we lit a candle in each assembly for Peace. Peace, especially across conflict-ravaged communities abroad, can seem in short supply. The Patriarch of Jerusalem speaking recently to MPs and other dignitaries in parliament, reminding them that peace between countries is only achievable when individuals make peace with, and accept, one another. The first stage in this is for people to accept themselves, to recognise their strengths and celebrate their individuality so that they are at peace with who they are. The assemblies this week have been all about this.

At each assembly we have celebrated and recognised our pupils for respect, kindness and inspiration, the foundational virtues that make up the value of Love on our Mission statement. We often display our mission statement as a triangle with Love (meaning everyone acting so that all in the school are safe, healthy and included) at the base. Our message is simple: our school should be built on Love, on caring for and accepting one another, on putting others first. Of course, this is a big ask – we are all human and fall short of our aims. However, it is enough for us to

attempt this challenge and part of that involves celebrating others.

So, when each year group gathered together for assembly we made sure that only were around one quarter of each year group recognised and celebrated, but we also ensured everyone applauded them intentionally, with purpose. This might seem like a small thing, but it is all too easy to be superficial about celebration: in our assemblies we like a proper round of applause.

As we end the week we are holding our first Proud event at which pupils will be celebrated specifically for the quality of their work with a special gathering on Friday where, amongst other things, they will be presented with a badge. All of this celebration is ultimately about celebrating the unique skills and talents of our pupils and encouraging them to use them in the service of others to make the world around them better. It is about letting their light shine so that others can see it, much like the candles on our Advent wreath.

**Ben Davis***Headteacher*

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# CALENDAR

## Advent Liturgies

W/C, December 12th

## Year 7 Christmas Disco

Wednesday, December 18th

5:00pm - 6:30pm

## Close for Christmas Holiday

Friday, December 20th

1:00pm

## YEAR GROUP LEADERSHIP



### Year 7

**Year Manager:** Mr Healey

*(Senior Leader: Mrs Johnston)*



### Year 8

**Year Manager:** Mr Marshall

*(Senior Leader: Mr Jordan)*



### Year 9

**Year Manager:** Mrs Vincent

*(Senior Leader: Mr Jones)*



### Year 10

**Head of Year:** Miss Moore

*(Senior Leader: Mrs Tulloch)*



### Year 11

**Head of Year:** Mr. Pemberton

*(Senior Leader: Miss O'Leary)*

# YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Well done to our Year 9 students for taking part in their options interviews last week. The staff were really impressed with the amount of students who took part and their individual choices. There was also a lot of interest in our new option choices that are on offer this academic year. *(Photograph on page one).*



## ART FOCUS

Basquiat Study by Louie in Year 9.



## YOUNG WRITER'S POETRY COMPETITION

A huge well done to our Year 7 and Year 9 students below who were entered into a Young Writer's Poetry competition based on the theme, 'The Beautiful Truth'. The Beautiful Truth allowed these students to express themselves in a way that works for them; whether that's exploring their emotions, presenting their opinions, or unleashing their imaginations. These students are now published authors whose work will be published in the 'The Beautiful Truth Anthology'. We are so proud of you all! Joanna, Rehoboth, Harry, Adelicia, Penny, Alessia, Jethro, Kirsty Pone, Martyna and Justina.

# BOOK OF THE WEEK

**You Bette Watch Out** by Sarah Naughton.

**Dark, moreish and chilling - the countdown to Christmas is on... and time is running out.**

Every day in December, a gift is left for **Eleri** in the abandoned tower block opposite her flat. At first, she can't help but be flattered, hoping that her Secret Santa is enigmatic **Ras** - a boy she has history with. But with each day that passes, the gifts get darker and more dangerous. Is this a harmless bit of festive fun? Or does this have something to do with **Nina's** disappearance last year? If so... will Eleri be next?

This thriller is the ultimate blend of haunting and festive.

