



Happy New Year to everyone connected with St Catherine's.

I trust you enjoyed Christmas and we look forward to the term ahead. I believe in being positive with young people and it was a delight to spend time with the Year 7 pupils who have achieved the highest number of house points in Terms 1 and 2 (pictured below). The hot chocolate and cookies were topped by a lovely time speaking to these confident young people. I look forward to meeting shortly with those in the other year groups.



In the Archbishop of Canterbury's New Year message, he praised the "depth of compassion" shown by communities in 2017, highlighting the "light in the darkness" of tragedy.

I took my seven year old daughter to an eye appointment in London during the Christmas break. We travelled by train, with the usual disruptions. It was personally heart-warming to experience the various acts of kindness as strangers gave up their seats, helped us through ticket barriers and generally wanted to help others. I observed this repeatedly during our travels.

A reminder to Year 11 parents to attend the crucial Parents' Evening next week. If you are finding it difficult to make appointments, please do contact us at: [jhanton@stcatherines.college](mailto:jhanton@stcatherines.college) or 01323 465437.

Mark Talbot  
Principal

### NEW STUDENT DIARIES

A report from Mr Pittman:



Because the quality of this year's student diary was questionable, the printing company has agreed to provide St Catherine's College with new diaries for our students. This is at no extra cost to the school.

The new-style diaries issued to students this week have the same page order as the previous diary but with a spiral spine, a plastic cover, and a space on the front for the student's name and tutor group. The students have been given time to copy important information from one diary to the other.

We would be very grateful if parents/carers would support us by taking a moment to sign the Home/College Agreement on pages 2 and 3. Thank you.

### CAROL SERVICE

A report from Mr Woozley:

On the evening of Thursday 14 December, we held our annual Carol Service. It is always a welcoming and festive event, full of music and readings, in the beautiful St Andrew's Church. Our musical pupils had worked very hard to prepare for the service over the previous months; below is a picture of them rehearsing at the church on our non-uniform day.

Highlights of the service included the choir singing the Sussex Carol and our brass and woodwind ensemble playing a terrific arrangement of In the Bleak Midwinter.

Many thanks to all who attended and contributed to this special celebration.



## CAFÉ NEWS

Over the last few years, our Café has become more and more popular and the talented and enthusiastic catering team is facing another exciting year ahead.

The menu choices on offer are continually developing, influenced by the experiences of our wonderful team. Home-cooked food and fresh ingredients are always used when possible.

The College always tries to keep prices down. However, due to an increase in the cost of some ingredients, we have found it necessary to make a small increase in the cost of some items on our menu. The new tariffs will be available to see on our website together with the Café's tasty and exciting menus.

## YEAR 11 PARENTS' EVENING ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM

Parents/carers of Year 11 pupils should, by now, have received an email regarding the Year 11 Parents' Evening and a step-by-step guide on how to use the online booking system. If you have not received the email (remember to check your spam/junk mailbox), please contact Mrs Hanton on 01323 465437 or email [jhanton@stcatherines.college](mailto:jhanton@stcatherines.college). Similarly, if you experience any difficulties making online appointments or you do not have internet access, please contact Mrs Hanton for assistance and, if necessary, she can book appointments on your behalf.

Also included in the email is a link to our College Survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/9GZY9FY>) and a request to spare a few moments to complete this. We value your opinion as this enables us to reflect on, maintain and improve standards where necessary. Once again, if you do not have access to the website, please contact Mrs Hanton.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January

- 8 Y10 Assessment Fortnight begins
- 11 Y11 Parents' Evening, 3.45pm-5.45pm
- 29 Y7 Assessment Fortnight begins

### February

- 1&2 School Show, Matinee and Evening Performances
- 7 Y8 Parents' Evening, 3.45pm-5.45pm
- 9 Last Day of Term 3
- 19 First Day of Term 4
- 22 Y10 Parents' Evening, 3.45pm-5.45pm
- 26 Y9 & Y11 Assessment Fortnight begins

### March

- 13 Y8 Options Evening, 4.00pm-6.30pm

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO PANTOMIME

A report from Mrs Farrier:

On Tuesday 12 December, the Creative Arts Department took 100 Year 7 pupils to Eastbourne's Devonshire Park Theatre to see Dick Whittington and his Cat.

This year's pantomime saw an excellent cast using a variety of conventions to enthrall and entertain the audience.

Todd Carty's characterisation was particularly impressive as King Rat, using rhyming couplets in a sinister way to engage the younger members of the audience. Felicity Morris was exceptional as the cat, demonstrating superb acrobatics and mime skills.

Our pupils' enjoyment was made even greater by St Catherine's Mr Woozley being flirtatiously invited onto the stage for a dance with the pantomime Dame and



two of our pupils happily getting involved with Old MacDonald had a Farm.

It was great to see pupils enjoying the show and we really enjoyed hearing them excitedly discussing what they had recognised from their Drama lessons.

