



The theme for last week's worship was the power of hope. I shared an inspirational speech from a United States Navy Admiral, William H McRaven, who delivered a powerful message about the importance of doing the little things in life and always having hope.

Working with young people is such a blessing, and their enthusiasm and willingness to embrace new ideas gives me and other teachers not just enjoyment now but also great hope for the future. An example of this would be our Head Girl and Head Boy interviews, held recently, where candidates talked passionately about their school and their own journeys throughout their time with us. Congratulations to Nadim Uddin and Milly Dahmoune, our newly appointed Head Boy and Head Girl, and other Senior Pupil Leaders, Jonathon Kelly, Emily Wood, Crispin Digby-Clarke, Anna Willmoth and Jack Hilton, who will lead various improvement projects.



Recently, with the help of Mrs Baker, our children filled over 40 bags for Foodbank, with every tutor group in the school contributing. As the photo above shows, this was a mammoth effort and another example of our pupils thinking about others and providing a little hope for those less fortunate.

Mark Talbot, Principal

### LAST DAY OF TERM

School finishes at 1.45pm on Friday 15 December 2017.

### FIRST DAY OF NEXT TERM

Term 3 will start on Tuesday 2 January 2018 at 8.40am.

### FILL A BAG, GIVE A GIFT FOODBANK APPEAL

A report from Mrs Baker:

As mentioned in Mr Talbot's article, I have been working closely with Eastbourne Foodbank for their 'Fill a Bag, Give a Gift' Christmas campaign by providing Christmas food for needy families. Two representatives from the Foodbank came into school to pick up the food we had collected. The representatives were 'shocked' at how much we had!

Worships have been delivered to all year groups, asking pupils what they like about Christmas (presents, twinkly lights, food, family, etc) and then I asked them to consider what Christmas would be like if their families could not afford to provide those things. I gave case studies of people who had to use foodbanks and reminded pupils not to be stereotypical about who uses them; that all sorts of circumstances lead to people needing the support of a foodbank.

Tutor groups were challenged to 'fill a bag, give a gift' by filling a 'bag for life' with food items and, in addition, to donate one gift for a child or adult for Christmas. Every tutor group donated so there were over 40 bags of donations. Some tutor groups even donated more than one, which was brilliant!

All of the food and gifts donated will now be allocated to families during the Christmas period.

### ATTENDANCE COMPETITION

A report from Mrs Wenham, Attendance Officer:

Over the past two weeks, we have launched our 'In to Win' attendance competition. All students with 100% attendance over these weeks will receive a Christmas chocolate bar and a bonus raffle ticket for the Amazon prize draw in January.

This incentive continues over the final two weeks of term. If your child is in school every day over this period, he/she will receive another Christmas chocolate bar and a bonus raffle ticket for a chance to win a £10 Amazon voucher in January.

Please support your child, helping them to achieve 100% attendance during these last two weeks.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### December

- 13 Christmas Lunch: Y7 and Y8
- 13 Non-uniform Day (Christmas jumpers)
- 14 Christmas Lunch: Y9; Y10; and Y11
- 14 Non-uniform Day (Christmas jumpers)
- 14 Carol Service at St Andrew's Church, 6.30pm

## ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE TWITTER

The St Catherine's College Twitter account is the biggest school account in the area with over 1000 followers. Most departments at St Catherine's also have their own Twitter, keeping followers up-to-date with everything that's going on.

Lots of parents have found the PE Department's Twitter particularly useful as all sports fixtures are advertised at least 24 hours in advance, giving full details of location, time, etc; we all know that pupils aren't always very good at passing on information regarding sports fixtures! Why not give them a follow: @StCatherinesPe

So, to get the latest news and photos and keep in touch with all that's going on at St Catherine's, follow us at: @StCCEastbourne

## FOOTBALL 4 PEACE

A report from Miss Murray:

Last week, the whole of Year 7 took part in the Football 4 Peace Festival hosted by St Catherine's College. Coaches from the University of Brighton led a range of fantastic games and activities. The focus of the day was not about winning but showing the Football 4 Peace Values: Respect; Responsibility; Trust; Neutrality; Equality; and Inclusion.



## SCHOOL SKIRT PRICE INCREASE

Due to the significant changes in the economy over the last six months, Blueprint has been subjected to several price increases from its suppliers and manufacturers. Unfortunately, this has affected the cost of the school skirt and the following price increases will be effective from 1 January 2018:

CHILD'S School Skirt will increase from £24.95 to **£26.95**

ADULT'S School Skirt will increase from £29.95 to **£32.00**

## NON-UNIFORM DAYS WEAR SOMETHING CHRISTMASSY

This year, our non-uniform 'wear something Christmassy days' fall on the same days as Christmas lunch. We look forward to seeing an array of Christmas attire to get us all into the Christmas spirit on the following days:

**Wednesday 13 December**

**Thursday 14 December**

As always, a donation of £1.00 is required.

## KARATE STAR

Huge congratulations to Hannah Jeanes, Year 7 pupil, who has recently achieved her 1st Kyu level in Karate. This is a great accomplishment after a lot of hard work and commitment and Hannah is now training towards her Black Belt. She has been training in Karate for five years and also trains and competes in Kick Boxing tournaments and remains undefeated in her age group. Well done, Hannah!

## CHESS CHAMP

A huge well done to Elizabeth Finn, Year 7 pupil, who recently competed in the British Rapidplay Chess Championships. Elizabeth played in a 10 round adult tournament and scored 7/10, finishing in equal third place. This result has secured her an invitation to join the National Chess Junior Squad! Congratulations, Elizabeth!

## FOREST SCHOOL

A report from Miss Murray:



Pupils have been enjoying Forest School where they have been learning lots of new skills such as fire lighting, foraging, trails and shelter building.

Forest School takes place in the forest at Herstmonceux Castle and it involves pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9.