



**"Through hard work, inspiration, mutual respect and enjoyment, we will achieve success together."**

**December 2017**

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***Happy Holidays to  
all our readers and  
Best Wishes for  
2017***

School Closes at 12:15  
Tuesday 19 December and  
Re-opens on 4 January  
2018

**Note from Acting Headteacher**

As we approach the end of the Autumn Term I would like to thank everyone for the support I have received during my time as Acting Headteacher. I have been supported by excellent colleagues to continue to demand the best of students at John Colet School. This term has been a busy one; students have been involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities including visits to the Bank of England, the BBC, Oxford University, France and school based activities that included revision sessions by Elevate, Business Enterprise competition, visiting elite athletes and UK Maths Challenges. These trips and activities enhance provision for our students and help to ensure that we develop well rounded members of society. I hope that you have been able to attend some of the events put on this term whether that was one of the Parent Information Evenings, the Drama production, the Quiz night run by the PTA or the recent Christmas Concert.

At this time of year we say farewell to Mr Gilbert interim Deputy Headteacher, Mr Marriot in Physical Education, and Mrs Spencer a Learning Support Assistant and thank them for their hard work at John Colet School and wish them well for the future.

Earlier in the term I welcomed Mrs Miller, our Family Support Officer, who we have appointed to support families in raising student attendance, access to family support services, emotional support and guidance. I know that many of you have already benefitted from the support she has offered and would encourage you to contact her if you feel her help may be useful. Please see Mrs Miller's information later in the newsletter.

In January we welcome Mr Harty as our new Headteacher, who is keen to meet with all members of John Colet community and will be attending the Parent Evenings in the spring term, Miss Lee in Mathematics and Mrs Lynn as Administration Assistant.

We thanked and rewarded all students who have worked hard and had a positive attitude to learning this term with an extended lunch and lunchtime activities on Friday. Hopefully a greater number will benefit from this in the future. In the end of term assembly we will be celebrating a variety of successes achieved this term by John Colet students.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Miss Sarah Palmer, Acting Headteacher

**Polite Notice**

The Food Technology Department would like us to remind all students that there are no facilities in school for reheating food (with the exception of the Sixth Form). If students require hot food, they should use the canteen.

**Polite Request from Wendover Health Centre**

Wendover Health Centre have very limited parking which is required by the elderly and those in need. Please may we ask that all parents of students refrain from using these valuable spaces whilst waiting for their children, thank you.

### FMSP Senior Team Mathematics Challenge Report

On Thursday 23 November, 4 students doing A-Level Maths (Ryan, Jacob, Sam and Jamie) competed in the FMSP Senior Team Mathematics Challenge. There were 16 teams in total of which 14 were grammar schools and 2 were non-grammar schools. The challenge consisted of 3 different rounds which test all of our mathematic abilities.

In fact the first round we worked as a group of 4 and had 40 minutes to answer 10 questions. In the second round we worked in pairs to complete a maths crossword. One pair would complete the crossword across and the other group would complete the vertical ones. Moreover, the third round was shuttle problems which tested our ability to solve maths problems quickly whilst ensuring we give the correct answer. This is because the answer to one question is needed to complete a different question.

The overall winners of the competition were AGS. However, John Collet won the non-grammar schools competition which resulted in our team getting prizes at the end.

Overall it was a fun, challenging evening which tested all of our mathematic abilities to the limit.

Sam



### Maths Trip to Warwick University

Students doing A-level maths went on a maths trip to Warwick University on Wednesday 15 November.

The trip mostly took place in the Warwick Arts Centre where we had several speeches explaining how maths is used in the real world. Firstly, we had a speech about whether life is made from maths which was followed by a speech on how antibiotic research and maths link together. This started to make us realise that maths is used in a wide variety of areas and subjects that we didn't think would contain maths.

After this we then had a short speech on revision and A-levels which motivated us to make the best use of our time and gave us tips of how to achieve good grades in the exam. This was followed by a lunch break which gave us the opportunity to explore the university campus and get an idea as to what it is like to come to Warwick University.

After lunch we all came back to the Arts Centre where we listened to speeches on how maths links to politics and sport. What interested us all and what we found extremely interesting was Fermat's Last Theorem and how it took year and years to arrive to a final proof of it. It demonstrated to all of us that maths is all about trying different ways to solve the same problem.

Overall, we all found it an extremely enjoyable and interesting day and were able to take away a lot of things from the very good speeches that were on offer.

Sam

You were the friend who never stopped smiling,  
The strongest person I knew.  
You were an inspiration to everyone  
Always pushing through.  
It still doesn't seem real,  
When people tell me that you are gone.  
You lived such a wonderful life,  
Though you couldn't stay long.  
If only you could see,  
How many people cared,  
The tears that flood so many eyes,  
With all the love you shared.  
I wish I could have said goodbye,  
But how could we have known.  
And the last time I ever saw you,  
I barely even said Hello.  
I promise I'll never forget you,  
You are always in my heart  
You were the friend who never stopped smiling,  
Even as we were pulled apart.

By: Ellie



## CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

The fifteenth annual Chess Championship Knockout took place in the Library as usual this year. We had a mixed range of age groups which is normal but probably more Y7's this year than previously.

All games are played in the Library at lunchtimes under strictly enforced conditions. My thanks go to Ffion, Y11 who as always arranges all matches and sends out letters to the participants.

This year's winner was Alex, a Sixth Former. He was up against Nikola, a Y7 who had battled his way through to the final. It was a real David and Goliath match!

Congratulations to Alex who has played in the competition most years but never won and also to Nikola his worthy opponent.

Well done to everyone who took part this year, as always all games were played with equal measures of good humour and competitive sportsmanship.

Chess is played regularly in the Library at lunchtimes and is a great way to make friends and keep your brain fit.

Some famous chess players are,

Leonardo DiCaprio, Julia Roberts, Usain Bolt, Will Smith, Sting, Keanu Reeves, Lennox Lewis and Madonna.

Mrs Clark

**A Very Merry Christmas**



## Sports for Champions

On Tuesday 5 December 2017, John Colet School were lucky enough to take part in the 'Sports for Champions' programme. Sports for Champions is an initiative that believes within every child there is a champion waiting to be unleashed and they utilise this through the use of GB elite athletes.

Ezekiel Ewulo ( A Great British Olympian) came into school to deliver a training session to year 7 and 8 pupils. Ewulo is a GB long jumper and he took the pupils through one of his typical everyday training sessions.

Pupils had to raise money to take part in the event through sponsorships and out of the total money raised 60% would be kept by the John Colet P.E Department and 40% would go back to Sports for Champions who use the money to help develop the new and upcoming athletes for 2020 Olympic Tokyo.

The day was a great success and the pupils learnt the value and importance of training hard in order to reach your dreams and aspirations.

In total, the school raised a fantastic **£1390.00**

As a school we get to keep 60% of that which is **£834.00** and 40% of that went to 'Sports for Champions' (**£556.00**) to help the new and upcoming GB athletes.

It was a fantastic opportunity for pupils to be inspired by a true athlete.





### Christmas Concert

From Adele through a film music medley to Handel via some heavy rock and The Cup song we were treated to a delightfully festive evening. It was so encouraging to see so many students' skill and flair for music during the concert, and I am always amazed by the diversity, creativity and quality of performances. It takes a great deal of confidence to stand in front of a room full of expectant parents and visitors and deliver a high quality performance, not to mention the endless hours of practice that go in beforehand. While it is always difficult to single out students for particular mention, Jozef Hatton's performance of Hallelujah on the violin and Eleanor Bell's piece in the flute by Handel were particular noteworthy. The concert culminated in everyone accompanying the John Colet School Orchestra in an interactive version of The 12 days of Christmas. I am sure that you will join me in thanking the Music Department on a very successful Christmas Concert.



### 'Gem's Boxing for Fitness'

***Last session before Christmas. Make sure you start that New Year's resolution early and make it easier to get back into it after all those mince pies!***

***Hope to see you all there. Bring your own gloves if you have them.***

***Wraps and merchandise will be for sale on the night too.***



### Safeguarding

As part of our commitment to ensuring students at John Colet are safe and to raise awareness of the dangers associated with anti-social behaviour we will be inviting speakers to highlight the dangers of substance abuse. It is important to safeguard students and provide guidance and support in relation to the use and possession of illegal substances whilst on school site and under the jurisdiction of the school. I am pleased that we have been able to increase the amount of counsellor hours and am encouraged that students are using this service well as well as talking to Matron on a whole range of medical and personal matters. The school counsellor is available for students to access support and advice confidentially and without appointment. In addition to the medical support offered by Matron, we have a School Nurse who is able to support with other issues including questions about substance misuse. We also have good access to support from Young Addaction counsellors should this be necessary. Both the School Nurse and the Young Addaction Counsellor are appropriately vetted and understand the school's Child Protection procedures.

Additionally, in line with most other secondary schools, we will be inviting a team of search dogs into the school on at least an annual basis to educate and alert students about the dangers and the law regarding illegal substances. Students and staff will also be informed that this will be happening regularly although the precise date of the search will not be publicised. Senior school staff will accompany the dogs and their handlers at all times and the day will be fully managed to support students and staff appropriately. Students with a fear of dogs or allergies will not need to go near the dogs and should not be concerned. We have discussed this process with our Police Liaison Officer.

If you have any questions about these arrangements, which are designed to support students and keep the school community safe, please do not hesitate to contact me. Miss Sarah Palmer, Acting Headteacher or Mrs Claire Knott, Designated Safeguarding Lead.

### Year 8 Mad Week

As our MAD week was so near to the christmas holidays the form decided that we would like to support local people who were not able to celebrate the happy season as fully as possible due to financial worries.

Over the past few weeks we have spent time researching local foodbanks and a representative from the Chiltern Foodbank came in to tell us about the support they offer and their collections in the local community.

We then spent time making posters to inform the rest of the school about the items that the foodbank needed the most, and Jorika designed a PowerPoint to be shared with the rest of the school.

On the 15 December members of our form came into school early to wait at the gates and collect the food alongside Mr John Shaw from Chiltern Foodbank. We managed to collect four crates of much needed items to donate with other donations still coming in.

Many Thanks to all of the school community that helped us with this worthy collection.

8G



## Kate Miller

Feel free to call, email or arrange a meeting. Phone: 01296 623348 ext 246. Email: [familyliaison@johncolet.co.uk](mailto:familyliaison@johncolet.co.uk)

### Meet our Family Liaison Officer

Helping students and families engage in and enjoy school life at John Colet School. Helping parents to feel confident that school is looking after their child well.

#### What do I do? How can I help?

I am in school from 8.30—10.30 am each morning.

I speak with families and students to:

Encourage good attendance to enable students to learn effectively and get the most they can out of school.

Support families to identify challenges and to find ways to overcome these barriers to learning.

Encourage families to become active members of the school community. Share with you what is going well for your child at school.

Offer a friendly listening ear so you can share any concerns you may have.

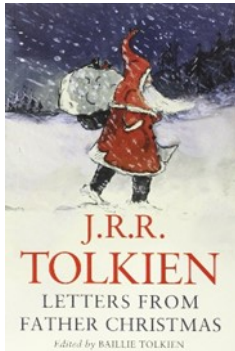
Liaise with school staff to help find solutions.



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## CHRISTMAS STORIES

Looking for some stocking fillers? Here are some seasonal book ideas with a Christmas theme which we think will be fun and engaging in those quiet spells during the Christmas period.



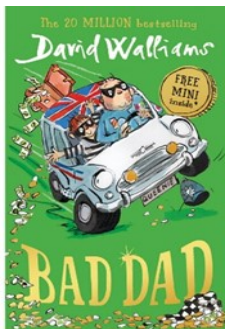
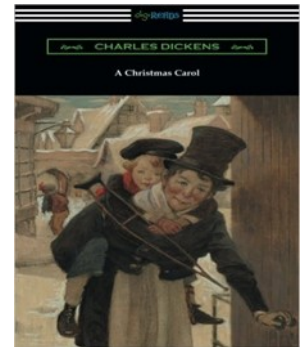
**Letters from Father Christmas** by **J.R.R. Tolkien** is a remarkable collection of letters and pictures written by the author to his children every December. The letters contained strange spidery writing and beautiful colourful drawings from Father Christmas telling wonderful tales of life at the North Pole. (Moderate reading)

It is an enchanting collection. A.V

### **A Christmas Carol**

This Dickens classic is 177 years old and remains timeless. There are various editions but one with the original Arthur Rackham illustrations is a gift to be cherished.A.V

(Moderate/challenging read)



The ever popular **David Williams** has a new book out called **Bad Dad** a heart-warming story about a father and son taking on the villainous Mr Big-and winning. A fast and furious, rags to riches story. (Easy reading)

The ever popular **Jacqueline Wilson** reintroduces her favourite Victorian foundling in **Hetty Feather's Christmas**. This is a Christmas story full of friendship, fun and festive cheer. Stunning illustrations from Nick Sharratt and bonus facts about the Victorian Christmas. A perfect stocking filler for every Jacqueline Wilson fan. (Easy reading)A.V



**Eat, Read and Be Merry!**

Mrs Clark

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<b>Monday</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Grange School, Aylesbury
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Weston Turville School
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Grange School, Aylesbury
	<b>7.30pm</b>	John Colet School Gym, Wendover
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>7.30pm</b>	Weston Turville School (Strength)
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6.00pm</b>	Bedgrove Junior School (Express & Strength)
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>9.30am</b>	Stoke Mandeville Combined School
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10.00am</b>	Jubilee Hall, Bierton



**Contact Keri TEL: 07900 987230**  
**EMAIL: jazzercise1@hotmail.co.uk**  
**WEBSITE: [www.jazzercise.net/uk-aylesbury/](http://www.jazzercise.net/uk-aylesbury/)**





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