



December 2016



Dear Parents and Carers

Another year nearly over and, as ever, the end of the year is a busy time for everyone! We are certainly very grateful that the weather has been much kinder to us all this year.

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Carman who is retiring after 14 years and to Mr Wiggins who is moving back to Morecambe High School. We are grateful for the contribution both of them have made to Ripley and wish them well in the next chapter in their lives.

Our Christmas services take place on Wednesday morning as follows:

- Year 7 will be staying in school and having a service in the chapel with Bishop Geoff.
- Year 8 will be going to Christ Church; pupils should come to school as normal, they will walk up to Christ Church with tutors.
- Year 9 will be going to St Paul's; pupils should come to school as normal, they will walk up to St Paul's with tutors.
- Years 10 and 11 will have their service at The Priory and should meet there at 8.45am. They will be accompanied back to school by staff.
- Years 12 and 13 will have their service at St Thomas's and should meet there at 8.45am.

School will end at 12.30pm on Wednesday 21st; the following buses will be available outside school at 12.25pm: 935, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 567, 487 and the 581 (across the road). Pupils should go to the bus station for 55A, 55B and 80 and to Scotforth Road for buses to Garstang, Catterall and beyond.

Carol Service and Concert

I hope many of you were able to enjoy our recent Christmas Concert and our Carol Service; both events are a splendid way to end the year and celebrate not only the truth of Christmas but also the talent of our young people. Our decorated and sparkling chapel is just about the perfect backdrop for a carol service.

Year 11 mocks are in full swing, these exams are extremely important in giving pupils the opportunity to practise vital exam skills, particularly time management. Given the timing of the mocks we have limited our Charities' week to years 7 and 8 at this stage; years 9 -11 will have their Charities' events during Lent. Pupils have been selling various home-made goodies, collecting coppers, "gunking" brave staff members who have volunteered, organising team competitions and generally doing good things to raise money. And of course, Mr Owen's form have been running up and down to the Tower as his form has done for countless years, with the record this time going to Max Askew who managed this feat 78 times in one hour – remarkable!

News from the sixth form:

University applications: Of the 156 students from Year 13 who have submitted an application to UCAS, 155 have now received offers.



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Higher Apprenticeship Open Day at BAe Systems, Barrow: On 8th December a group of 18 Year 13 students attended the Higher Apprenticeship Open Day at BAe Systems, Barrow. They met with representatives of the different apprenticeships on offer including engineering, nuclear, business and finance and had the opportunity to ask questions. They completed a group task and were required to make a presentation to the whole group and also received a tour of the hall where the nuclear submarine Astute is being built. We hope that some students from the group will make successful applications.

Target 2.0: on 2nd December four Y13 Economics students represented the school in the Bank of England's Target 2.0 competition. This required them to make a fifteen minute presentation to the Bank's North of England agent John Young and his colleague from London, explaining what they would recommend the Bank do with base interest rates and quantitative easing in the next month in order to maintain price stability and economic growth. This was followed by fifteen minutes of questions. Our team of Madelief Matheson, Nathaniel Moore, Niall Graham and Rohan Goddard acquitted themselves very well and were praised by the judges for their efforts, which were 'well founded in theory and up-to-date with recent developments in fiscal policy'.

Peer Supporter Training for Young Victims of Crime: 20 students from both Years 12 and 13 attended the first of four training sessions on Monday 12th December to receive accreditation as a peer supporter. The training is being provided by a company based in Blackpool and links with Lancashire Mind. The final session will be held on Monday 23rd January.

Christmas Charities

- Each year the Sixth Form support the Lancaster and District Homeless Action Service Christmas appeal. Clothes, toiletries and food parcels are being donated by students and will be taken to the Shelter at the end of term.
- A friendly yet competitive boys vs girls netball match was held on Wednesday 14 December to raise money for St Johns Hospice.
- The Sixth Form will be taking part in Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 16 December raising money for Save the Children.

Sad News: We were very sorry in recent weeks to learn of the sudden and untimely death of one of our former pupils, Jamie Foote. Jamie was a very intelligent and much loved pupil here from 2005 – 2012. He had gone on to study Engineering at Strasbourg University and to enjoy travelling around the world. Our chapel was full for a very moving memorial service on Saturday 10th of this month and many of Jamie's friends from Ripley spoke fondly of their memories of him. Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with his family at such a sad and desperate time for them.

Our excellent Senior Students' team have been pointing to the birth of Jesus this week in worship with each of our year groups; it is wonderful to reflect that we have been doing this as a school for over 150 Christmases – and long may that continue! I hope that the blessing of the Christ Child will enrich your life this Christmas and through the coming year.

I look forward to welcoming our young people back to school on Wednesday 4 January.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Nicholls".