



GRINDON HALL CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Nookside, Sunderland, SR4 8PG

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Principal: Mrs Joanne Maw

Key Dates

Monday 17th December – Friday 4th January

School closed for Christmas holiday

Monday 7th January-1st day of Lent Term

Monday 7th January-Y11 mock exams all week

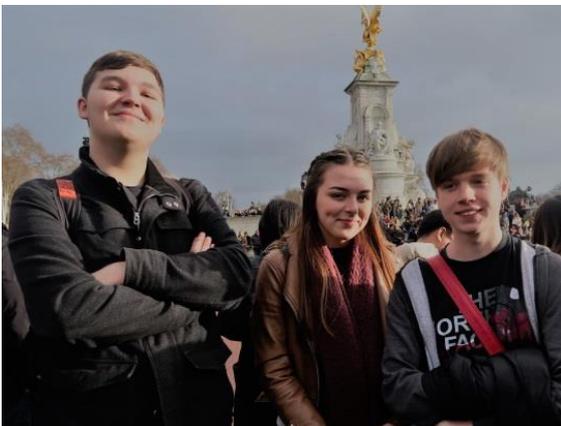
15th February- Staff training day (pupils not in school)

Thank you!

Sincere thanks to everyone in our school community for their generosity and support over the Christmas period; your attendance at school nativity performances, your support of our fundraising and charitable events and for the kind words you have shared about the school. Thank you also for the very kind messages of support for me as I move on to my next role. We are truly blessed to have such a supportive community and I am going to miss everyone very much. Your children are absolutely wonderful and it has been a privilege to get to know them. I hope you and all of your loved ones have a wonderful Christmas and are looking forward to New Year 2019 with optimism. Mrs Robinson and I have worked closely together in recent weeks to ensure a smooth transition and I know that your children will flourish under her expert leadership.

Mrs Maw

Y13 Visit to Parliament



Politics students from Y13 travelled to London last week to take part in a politics conference at Westminster Central Hall entitled **'Britain at the crossroads: what about strength, stability and**

the future?' This was a thrilling conference with talks from some very high profile politicians including, Nigel Farage (MEP), Jacob Rees-Mogg (MP), Sir Alan Duncan (MP/and former Foreign Office Minister), Emily Thornberry (MP and Shadow Foreign Secretary) Jess Phillips (MP) as well as John Bercow (speaker of the house).



After each informative talk there was an opportunity for students to ask questions. We enjoyed the heckling, booing and cheers from the crowd – as it demonstrated an engagement with politics. There were strong opinions and beliefs concerning Brexit and the students admired how the MPs spoke their minds on what they truly believed.



Following the conference, we were invited to meet local Labour MP, Julie Elliot and were then taken on a tour of the palace of Westminster. The most exciting part of the day was the visit to the House of Commons gallery (we were given a VIP pass) where we watched a very lively Brexit debate. The students were particularly impressed with John

Bercow –and his withering interventions – as well as Caroline Lucas (Green party) and Jess Phillips (Labour).

Overall, this was a truly amazing experience for us and we all loved every second.

Keeping our children safe around school

We are concerned for the safety of our children at the school gates. Please ensure that all adults collecting children from school park sensibly, in designated spaces or at the at the local shopping area. We have been informed recently of some parents parking on yellow lines around the school, this is both dangerous for our children and illegal.

Year 11 make Christingles with Primary Students

The sight, scent and sound of Christmas has certainly been in the air today. One of the lovely things about attending an all-through school is having the opportunity for children of all ages to work together; today our Y11 students worked with our primary children to make Christingles. What a fantastic opportunity for everyone to work together. Thank you to all those who were involved in setting this up!

Gingerbread Sale – Team Olly Charlie Bear for Cancer Care

Thank you for your generous donations of gingerbread! Year 11 and Year 13 organised a gingerbread sale and a prize draw for a gingerbread house with profits going Team Olly and Charlie Bear for Cancer Care. Team Olly are committed to improving facilities on the children's cancer care wards at the RVI for the ages of 9-12, an incredibly worthwhile cause! Our fundraising efforts raised £298. Thank you again for your generosity.

Year 3 have a visit from Dr.Suess!



New College Durham paid year 3 a special visit on Thursday and regaled them with stories of Dr.Suess. The drama group told a number of stories involving the famous Cat In The Hat and Horton Hears a Who.

Year 3 (and the staff!) thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and would like to thank all of the students for coming to entertain them. A special thanks goes to Mrs Boyd for organising the afternoon!

Mrs Critchley

Y9 & Y10 Art and Photography students



Stuart Featherstone from the Northern School of Art visited Grindon Hall Christian School to talk to our Art and Photography students about the creative sector and 'Art as a Business'. Stuart introduced us to creative career routes as well as discussing student life at a specialist art school. As the Northern School of Art is one of only two



specialist art & design colleges in the UK, it stands apart from the other schools and colleges in the North East.

Grindon Hall students will be taking part in taster days there in January and July - where they will experience life at a specialist art & design school.

Sunderland Football Academy

Year 3 pupil Carter Cunningham-Boyd spent a wonderful afternoon at the Sunderland Football Academy last week. Carter was identified by a scout in January 2017.

He played a football game with five of Sunderland's first team players: Josh Maja, George Honeyman, Bali Mumba, Lynden Gooch and Ethan Robson.

After a game where Sunderland Under 8's gave the professionals a good game, the boys participated in a question and answer session with the players and the Sunderland legend Kevin Ball.

Carter received a Christmas card from the players and left with a huge smile on his face. What an amazing experience. Well done Carter.



Watch this space....

Mr Gordon

Literacy Focus

Give the gift of reading this Christmas **Owning books boosts children's literacy and mental wellbeing**

The National Literacy Trust research, published this week, shows that the more books a child owns, the more likely they are to do well at school and be happy with their lives.

Based on a survey of 44,097 children aged 8-18 in the UK, our [Book ownership, literacy](#)

[engagement and mental wellbeing report](#) found that:

- Children who have 60 or more books at home are **5.5 times more likely** to read above the level expected for their age than their peers who have fewer than 10 books
- Children who read above the level expected for their age have **twice as many books** as those who read below the expected level
- Children who have a book of their own at home have **higher levels of mental wellbeing** than those who don't have any books

However, children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are at risk of missing out on the educational and health benefits of book ownership:

- **1 in 8** disadvantaged children in the UK don't own a single book, compared to 1 in 11 children nationally
- Of children who own books, those from disadvantaged backgrounds have **25% fewer books** on average than their more affluent peers

The National Literacy Trust launched their Christmas Stories fundraising campaign today, which will give some of the UK's most disadvantaged children their very first book this Christmas.

How can you support the National Literacy Trust's *Christmas Stories* campaign?

- [Donate £5 to the National Literacy Trust](#) to give a disadvantaged child their first book
- Take inspiration from our [festive book list](#) and give the gift of a book to a child in your life this Christmas
- Businesses can [donate a Literacy Toolkit](#) to a primary school in their local community, filled with 50 brand new books and fun activities to inspire children to get reading

“This Christmas, we are giving books to hundreds of children and families who need them the most. But we need your help if we are to get books into the hands of the 744,647 children and young people across the UK who don’t have a single one. By donating to the National Literacy Trust this Christmas, you can set a disadvantaged child on the path to a brighter future.”

Jonathan Douglas, Director, National Literacy Trust

May God continue to bless all members of our school community.

We wish everyone a restful, peaceful and fun-filled Christmas holiday.

From all staff at Grindon Hall Christian School.