



EALING COUNCIL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



This festive season, 17 students from our school entered Ealing Council's Christmas Card Competition. Over 250 young people from the borough entered, and we are thrilled to announce that Bianca (7F) was selected as a winner!

Bianca's beautiful Christmassy woodland scene will be inside every card distributed by Ealing Council this year. Additionally, Ealing Council's Chief Executive Tony Clements and his senior leadership team have chosen Bianca's design for their digital Christmas card to send to all council staff.



Councillor Knewstub, Cabinet Member for Thriving Communities, visited the school to award Bianca her well-earned prize. A huge congratulations to Bianca, and also to all those students that submitted but didn't get selected. You all did well, and we are proud of everyone who entered.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT BY ISABELLE

'Performing in front of over 200 people can be a daunting task. It takes courage, ambition and resilience. We were so impressed with all the students involved in this year's Christmas concert, who showed these traits in abundance. Keeping up with the anticipated high standards of the concert, this year's

concert was a feast of musical joy, with 33 varied acts showcasing the wide range of talented musicians and singers we are proud to have in our student population.



The concert featured music for all tastes, including string quartets, rock bands, solo performances and instrumental pieces. Our school orchestra is a wonderful example of the sense of teamwork and community we value so much at Drayton Manor.



Seeing students across the age groups and at all levels of experience work together to produce beautiful music was truly moving. As well as the classical orchestral music, we enjoyed music from across the ages and genres, with music from Chopin to Love Story, Bon Jovi to Whitney Houston, Paul Weller to Pentatonix, and Singing in the Rain to Pharell Williams. And as Pharell Williams encourages us, thanks to the music, we truly were happy!



The audience of over 200 family and friends enjoyed the display of music and left impressed by what the students and staff have achieved and worked so hard

for. The students have been committed to their practice and development of their musicianship, honing their craft alongside their other academic and extracurricular activities, and preparing their pieces for weeks and some even months. And deepest gratitude must also go to the staff and student helpers, who work so hard behind the scenes to organise and run the concert.

For some of us the concert is an integral part of life at school and have participated in it since year 7. The feeling of walking onstage and all the nerves drifting away once you play the first few notes is a sentiment all performers can relate to. We all agree that without the music department and technical team giving us the support and encouragement we need some of us may never have got up onto that stage.

Thank you to everyone who participated, organised, and attended the event, we are all so grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm! And a huge thank you to Mr Moffett, Mrs Singh, Miss Wickens, Ms Cuttill, Mrs Moores, Mr Ayling and our student tech team, this night really would not have been possible without all of you.'

We were thrilled to host a record-breaking Christmas Concert this year, with over 200 attendees watching 33 acts by 140 student performers and technicians. The event showcased outstanding musical talents from students in Years 7 to 13 and was a wonderful celebration of the remarkable achievements of our school community. We are very proud of every student who contributed to the success of this unforgettable evening.

AWARDS EVENING



On Wednesday 8 November the school hosted its annual awards evening, where we celebrate students who have demonstrated excellence in their subjects, great character in their school life or for working to support the community.



Grace Bolaji, one of our valued school Alumni, returned as our special guest to present over 100 students their awards. The event began with parents and award winners enjoying canapés and drinks, followed by a formal awards ceremony. Students and parents had a wonderful evening, as can be seen by the beaming smiles.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

House Captains and Heads of House

The formidable collaboration between our Heads of House (Griffin, Pegasus, Phoenix, and Caladrius) and their House Captains bore fruit in the form of our successful annual Food Bank Appeal. Their dedicated effort and meticulous planning brought together the entire school community to support those in need. To add some extra fun and competition to the term, they also organised a wonderful array of House Competition Events. From spelling bees to chess tournaments, these events showcased the spirit of healthy competition, ambition, and camaraderie among our Houses. Congratulations to all students that participated, showing excellent character and civic virtue. Well done to the winning House, Griffin, who achieved 670 House Competition points! The full score from the competition is below.
Griffin: 670, Caladrius: 485, Phoenix: 230, Pegasus: 185

FOOD BANK APPEAL



In the lead up to the festive season, House Captains have worked together to collect

food bank donations for people in need in our local community. The response to this appeal was truly heartwarming, surpassing all expectations and making a real impact on our community. Students and their families rallied together, contributing a remarkable number of donations towards this noble cause.

One of the most exciting aspects of this appeal was the Inter-house competition that ignited enthusiasm and friendly rivalry among our students. The competition not only fostered a sense of unity within our school but also significantly boosted the number of contributions. The spirited involvement of students across different houses exemplified the collective commitment towards making a positive difference in the lives of others.

This initiative is a powerful demonstration of the values we hold dear. The students' altruism and desire to support those in need were both inspiring and humbling. It's a testament to the values of civic virtue and character. It's heartening to witness our students and their families embodying these values and making a tangible difference in the lives of others.

WELL-BEING AMBASSADORS AND SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our dedicated Well-Being Ambassadors and School Council members have been hard at work, reviewing and refining our student charter and digital student charter. Infused with positivity, these charters continue to reflect our school's core values of ambition, civic virtue, and character. The student-led development and thoughtful reconstruction lays the foundations for an even more values-driven school community. The revised charters will be unveiled in January 2024 to students and staff.

CELEBRATE 93

Drayton Manor High School is 93 years old! To celebrate, our Heads of House and Senior Student Leaders undertook a heartfelt initiative to commemorate 93 years of the school. Together, they crafted 93 personalised letters to send to members of our alumni community. This heartfelt gesture not only honoured our school's rich history but also gave students a great opportunity to research and learn more about the history of our school.

YOUTH SPORTS TRUST

Ali Oliver MBE, CEO of Youth Sports Trust, visited the school on 1 December and met with members of the wider student leadership, our House Captains and Sports leaders. This extraordinary event was an immersive experience, designed to inspire and instil a deeper understanding of leadership qualities. Ms Oliver has a remarkable track

record in leadership and achievement, and she shared personal anecdotes and life lessons that resonated profoundly with our young leaders.



Her speech was an insightful exploration of the challenges and triumphs inherent in leadership roles. Attendees had the opportunity to engage directly in a thought-provoking dialogue that encouraged critical thinking and introspection. The impact of this session extended beyond the event itself, empowering our students to embrace their leadership potential and lead with purpose.

ANTI-BULLYING ACTIVITIES

Anti Bullying Week, from November 13 to 17, is an initiative created by The Anti Bullying Alliance, and encourages schools and workplaces across England and Wales to speak out against bullying in all its forms.

The theme of Anti Bullying Week this year was 'Make Some Noise', and our students did this in a range of powerful events across the whole school.

In an engaging Slam poetry competition, students poured their emotions and experiences into their poetry, creating a tapestry of perspectives on the importance of respect and empathy. The performances were more than showcases of talent; they were poignant expressions of resilience and courage, delivering powerful messages against bullying.

'Drayton's Beat to Beat Bullying', a dance developed during the week, represents a collaborative effort within our school community to combat bullying. Students and staff will continue to learn this immersive body beat throughout the year to express our whole-school approach against bullying.

Marwa, Senior Student and Head of House (Pegasus) delivered assemblies to each year group about 'making some noise' and our school and student determination to beat bullying. In these motivating assemblies, Marwa used real-life scenarios and discussions about 'banter' that encouraged empathy and proactive involvement in creating a safe and inclusive environment.



Students also created a mural display in the library which expressed their voice about bullying, and the topic was discussed by student leaders during the School Council Meeting.

REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION



See video [here](#)

On Remembrance Day, our school community gathered in unity to honour and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. At 11:00, our student leaders, exemplifying the values of respect and reverence, assembled on the piazza to mark the anniversary of the end of the First World War. The entire school stood in unison, observing a moment of silence in respect and remembrance.

A poignant and evocative rendition of 'The Last Post' by Adam from 11J resonated across the school, casting a reflective atmosphere, and serving as a moving tribute to those who served.

The pinnacle of the ceremony was the solemn laying of wreaths of remembrance outside the Main Hall. Head Boy, Ahmed and Head Girl, Lima who performed this poignant gesture, representing the collective gratitude of our school community. Their act was a heartfelt tribute acknowledging the sacrifices and unwavering courage of those who served and continue to serve our nation promoting British values.

WINTER CELEBRATION AT ST. DAVID'S CARE HOME - 18 DECEMBER

Our Annual Senior Citizens Winter Celebration at St. David's Care Home on 18 December was a heartwarming affair, featuring the Year 9 SHINE choir and the dedicated members of our School Council. This event brought joy and festive spirit to the residents while creating lasting memories for our students. The occasion is always a beautiful opportunity for intergenerational connectivity. Beyond the festive songs and gifts, it's about fostering

meaningful connections and creating a sense of belonging for both our students and the residents. The conversations and shared moments of genuine connection created a sense of warmth and inclusivity, spreading joy and companionship during the holiday season.

YEAR 13 CHRISTMAS MEAL



On Wednesday 13 December, Year 13 students were treated to a delicious festive feast in the beautifully decorated dining hall, which had been decorated beautifully with the festive spirit in mind. The students didn't take long to crack open the crackers, which had been left on the tables.

As is the Drayton Manor tradition, Year 12 students served the Christmas dinners to the older students. The Year 13's certainly remembers this task from last year and very proudly accepted the meals they were offered.



Following the main courses, the Head Boy, Ahmed and the Head Girl, Lima gave speeches of thanks. They thanked the Year 13 tutors and Head of Year, Mrs Venning who had helped them with personal statements. They also thanked the Year 13 students as a whole for their hard work at the beginning of this important and demanding year. The year group were even treated by a visit from Santa who delivered chocolates to all.

KS3 & KS4 CHRISTMAS MEAL



Part of the joy of Christmas is not in the receiving, but the giving of goodwill and

cheer. Year 11 got to experience this joy for themselves when they organised the school Christmas dinner for Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 on the 6th of December. They not only organised the room decorations but waited on the younger Draytonians throughout the event.

As part of this wonderful festive celebration in the dining hall, students were treated to a three-course meal, with Christmas songs a plenty throughout. They had a visit from a special guest, a young-looking Santa Claus. It was a joyful experience for all concerned. Students thoroughly enjoyed the event, and current Year 10 students are already thinking of ways to better their counterparts next year!

JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

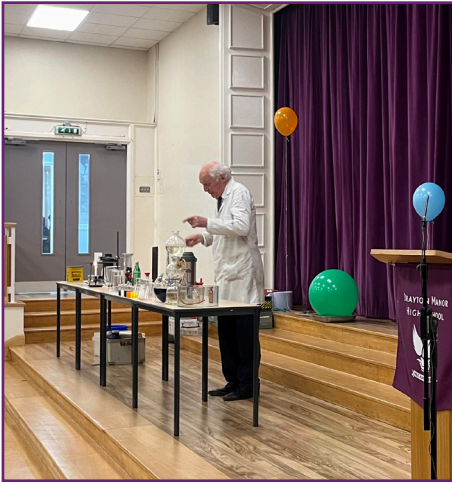


On Wednesday 6th December, 91 students of Drayton Manor visited the Royal Albert Hall, as a rewards trip, to watch a performance of John Rutter's Christmas Celebration. The performance included audience carol singing, an audience super quiz and an orchestra with 3 choirs as well as the chance to hear the grand organ (with 9,999 pipes) being played. This was an exciting and musically enriching opportunity for students, and a fantastic way to celebrate success within the music department.





SCIENCE SHOW



On Friday 1 December the school hosted 'Dr Szydlo's Fantastic Science Show for Year 7 and 8. A guest teacher from Highgate School, Dr Szydlo amazed our students with the wonderful world of science. The seamless blend of science and magic both entertained and ignited a massive spark of curiosity and interest. Science is all about exploring curiosity and interest, and we know that this spark will greatly add to their enthusiasm for learning. Both staff and students in attendance had a wonderful time and were keen to have Dr Szydlo back in the new year.

INTER-FAITH WEEK 2023

During November, we celebrated Inter-Faith Week.

The main aims of Inter-Faith Week are to:

- Strengthen good relationships between people of all faiths and none
- Increase awareness of the different and distinct faith communities in the UK
- Celebrate difference and what people from different faiths have in common
- Increase understanding between people of religious and non-religious beliefs
- Provide opportunities for coming together, interaction, sharing and partnership

Developing greater understanding of what we have in common, and promoting interfaith cooperation helps people to live together in harmony and strengthens tolerance and respect.

As part of our celebration of Inter-Faith week, students were invited to take part in a poetry competition. Entries were required to fit in with the aims of Inter-Faith Week and link to our Core Values of: Ambition, Character and Civic Virtue.

Congratulations to our winners, Daisy (7F) and Layan (11F). We look forward to sharing their poems soon.

CAREERS

Year 7 STEM Day

Students in Year 7 had a jam-packed day of workshops where they got the chance to explore the many careers available in STEM, such as engineering, geology and volcanology. In an engaging practical workshop, Year 7's put themselves in the shoes of rollercoaster engineers, creating their own rollercoaster out of straws and a ping-pong ball.

Hayk, a Drayton Manor alumnus, generously shared his experience in a virtual interview for the careers workshop. Hayk is a software engineer, living and working in Armenia. He shared advice on how to develop important skills for the workplace, as well as some of his most exciting career highlights, such as his time working for SEGA Europe.



As always, it was fantastic to hear about the journey of a Draytonian and how their time at the school has set them on the path for success!

Oxbridge Programme

At Drayton Manor, we understand that Oxbridge applications require more than just academic excellence.

Throughout the Autumn Term, our Year 13 applicants to Oxford and Cambridge have been meticulously preparing their applications and receiving tailored guidance for their chosen routes.

From crafting compelling personal statements to navigating the challenging admissions tests and interviews, students were supported by staff and current Oxbridge students on every step of the application journey. We are delighted to share that three of our students received interview invites for the following subjects:

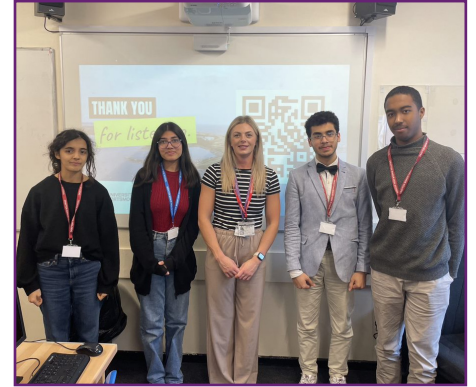
- Computer Science
- Philosophy, Politics & Economics
- Music

Congratulations to Ali (Computer Science), Pedro (Philosophy, Politics & Economics) and Ben (Music)!

All our Oxbridge applicants are to be commended for their hard work and

dedication throughout the term, in what has been a rigorous and demanding application process.

University of Portsmouth Talk



Kally, a lecturer from University of Portsmouth met with students in Year 12 to discuss the opportunities available at higher education. Kally discussed the fantastic opportunities and facilities available at the University of Portsmouth, as well as the range of subjects that students can study at undergraduate level with them.

There are multiple pathways to success at university, so students also explored how to choose the right university for them, such as exploring study abroad programmes and courses that contain work placements in industry.

Lucy Cavendish Academic Attainment Programme

Year 12 students were invited to apply to the Lucy Cavendish Academic Attainment programme, run by the University of Cambridge. Lucy Cavendish College is the most diverse College in Cambridge, admitting over 90% of their UK students from state schools.

The college's primary focus is on developing innovative solutions to the world's pressing problems, and developing the skills tomorrow's global leaders need. The programme provides students with regular subject-specific enrichment classes, as well as support from the Admissions Team to work on their application to the University of Cambridge.

Other aspects of the programme include:

- Peer Discussion Groups, in which students will discuss the US Sustainable Development Goals and develop problem solving and critical thinking
- University Readiness Sessions, with monthly sessions to help with development of a competitive application to Cambridge and other universities, as well as a summer holiday bootcamp



to support students to complete their application

- Subject Exploration Workshop in which students get the chance to explore academic subjects such as medicine, anthropology and engineering
- Supracurricular Exploration Project, where students will complete an in-depth project in their subject of interest, allowing them the chance to develop research and presentation skills as well as produce a valuable piece of work to enhance their university application

This programme is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore their academic interests further, as well as gaining an insight to the Oxbridge application process.

We are delighted to share that four of our Year 12 students from Drayton Manor have been awarded a place on the highly competitive programme – Seth, Rabia, Lilly and Zola. A brilliant achievement – well done!

Durham Talk

Students in Year 12 were joined by Michaela, from Durham University, to discuss life at the university and the many opportunities which Durham offers. Voted The Times Sports University of the Year, the institution offers a huge variety of enrichment opportunities for their students, with 54 sports to choose from. Michaela also explained the collegiate system at Durham, with the university having 17 colleges, such as Collingwood College.

Students had ample opportunity to ask questions after the talk. They were able to discuss queries about their specific course choices as well as find out more detail about the great opportunities which the university offers.

Springpod Talk

Year 13 students attended a talk with Katya from Springpod, to discuss how students can benefit from using the free online platform.

Springpod offers virtual work experience to secondary school students to help them build their skillset, strengthen their CVs, and explore their interests. Currently, Springpod is offering virtual work experience with a huge range of organisations such as Volvo UK and the British Library.

Many of their experiences are available on-demand, and they also offer different programmes throughout the year. Springpod have also launched academic courses, which have a plethora of free online taster courses from universities such as UCL the University of Law.

Many of these virtual opportunities are not

exclusive to Sixth Form students and can be accessed by other year groups. To explore the virtual work experience opportunities currently available, please click [here](#).

Subject Spotlights

Volunteers from the Inspiring the Future programme have visited students to share their career paths and how they progressed in their respective industries.

Jennifer visited Sixth Form Psychology students to discuss her career in Work Psychology. Jennifer explained to students the educational pathway she had taken to get to her role today and shared about some of the fantastic projects she has had the opportunity to be part of. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning from a professional in the industry and gaining an insight into the skills and experience necessary to pursue a similar route.

Louisa delivered a workshop to Biology and Science A-Level students on Midwifery and Healthcare careers. Louisa shared her journey to become a midwife, and the transferable skillset which she had amassed that supported her transition into this job role. Students engaged in an insightful Q&A, where Louisa shared her advice for those who have upcoming interviews, and the relevant work experience opportunities students could pursue locally if they are interested in applying to midwifery in the future.

JAMES MURRAY MP FOR UK PARLIAMENT WEEK



As part of the school's participation in UK Parliament Week, we were delighted to host our local MP, James Murray, to speak with students. Year 12 Government and Politics students sat down with James to discuss the course content which they have been studying, as well as current events happening in the country and world.

James then hosted a talk for students from across the school, including Year 8 Shine classes and A-Level History students. James shared his own inspirations to pursue a career in politics and inspired them with suggested actions they can take in their local community to tackle matters that are important to them.

The discussions had by students throughout

the morning reflected one of the main aims of UK Parliament Week - how they can make a difference.

SPORTS

The school continues to provide a wide range of sporting activities for students of all ages and skill levels. Clubs are held each week after school for students who represent the school in competition. Clubs currently running include netball, football, basketball, rugby, and dodgeball.

Sport is a fantastic way to develop the character and ambition that we value so highly at Drayton Manor, and we are delighted to see the enthusiasm with which our students participate in sports, both in terms of their own skill development and the pride with which they represent the school in the school teams.

Boys Basketball



Year 7 training has been well attended and the players' skill level and game understanding has improved considerably. The team will play a friendly match against Ada Lovelace this week.

The Junior Boys and Senior Boys basketball clubs have been well attended since the start of the season, with players showing excellent commitment to their training. We are delighted to report that our Seniors are currently undefeated in the league. The Juniors will soon play their first league match against Twyford. We know they will perform to a very high standard, and represent Drayton Manor with great pride. Both the Junior and Senior Boys teams look forward to representing Ealing in the London Youth Games in 2024.

Netball

Our netball teams have been training on Wednesday and Thursday evenings throughout this season. Their skills and teamwork are improving each week. The Year 7 and Year 8 teams are looking forward to their first matches after the Christmas break. The Year 9 team started the season strongly with 2 wins against Ada Lovelace and Elthorne Park. They lost a close, brilliantly played match against Twyford and have 2 more matches to play to decide their league position.



The Year 10 team have had a mixed start to the season, winning against Ada Lovelace and losing to William Perkin and Twyford. They have 2 more matches to play to decide their league position. The Senior team came second in their group in the Borough Tournament.

The Netball Club will continue in the Spring Term with League fixtures for all teams including Year 7, 8 and 9 Borough tournaments.

Football



Before the October half term break, we had over 120 students attending Year 7 to 11 training at the Games Field. This is a fantastic number, more than any recent season. We are delighted to see so many students exploring and enjoying the sport.

The Under 14 Girls have had a mixed start to the season in the Ealing League. They suffered a tough loss against Cardinal Wiseman, but bounced back, and dominated in the match against Twyford. They are looking forward to the rest of their league matches in the New Year and show great promise!

The Boys' football teams have had a busy start this half term with fixtures in the following:

- Year 7 Ealing Cup
- Year 8 Ealing Cup
- Year 8 Ealing League
- Year 9 Ealing Cup
- Year 10 Ealing Cup
- MSFA Under 16 Moncaster Cup
- MSFA Under 18 1st XI Brigg Cup
- MSFA Under 18 2nd XI Cup
- Under 18 2nd XI Ealing League

Rugby

Rugby club ran on Wednesday evenings before the October half term break. The Year 10 Boys team, coached by Mr Bowman, participated in a tournament hosted by Ealing Trailfinders RFU.

Although the results didn't go as hoped, the boys played their hearts out against some tough competition and represented the school well in their presentation and impeccable sportsman like conduct.

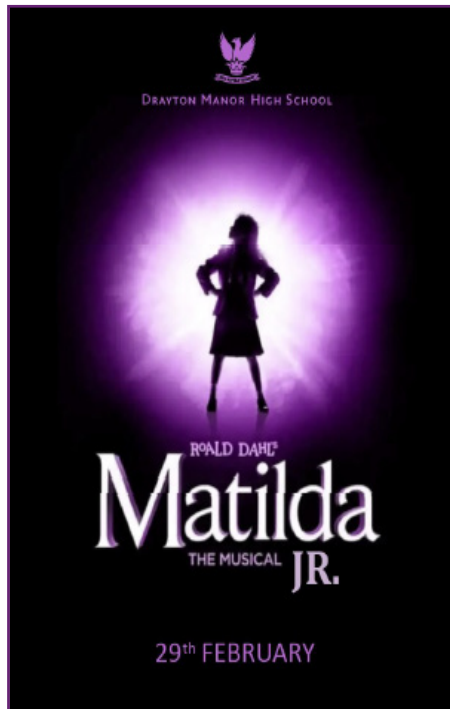
DRAMA

In the Drama Department, we started the school year with our awards evening. We were treated to some powerful poetry performances from Leniyah, Mya and Lawrence in Year 7, Chiara and Nazhat in Year 8, and Rabia in Year 12. The poems ranged from the funny (Shel) to the powerful (Maya). Undoubtedly, the star of the evening was Daniella in Year 10 who had written her own powerful words about belonging and questioning ' where home is'.

The Year 7 and 9, drama assessments saw students being tested on their acting skills by performing poetry and thought-provoking scenes from the renowned Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman. They gave their all and delivered outstanding performances in our professional standard drama studio.

A number of students in Year 10 have entered into a script writing competition with the National Theatre! These students will be working with professional writers all year long to submit their very own 30-minute play. If chosen it will be performed at this country's prestigious National Theatre. We are very proud and excited to see what they will create. Watch this space for more updates!

MATILDA



We are thrilled to share that after several rounds of auditions testing their singing, dancing and acting skills we have chosen a star-studded cast for this year's musical Matilda! Tickets will be available in February for the premier on the 29th. Mark your diaries now and be sure to get your ticket to help us celebrate the talent of our students!

FAIRWELL TO MS PAINE



After 35 years of remarkable service to Drayton Manor, we are sad to announce that Ms Paine is retiring. Ms Paine has done a fantastic job of building a highly successful PE Faculty during her time at the school and will be sorely missed by the staff and students. I am sure you will join us in wishing her the very best for her well-deserved retirement. If you'd like to share a farewell message with Ms Paine, please click the link [here](#) and the school will pass them on.

PTA PRE-LOVED UNIFORM SALE



On Friday 15 December, the Parent Teacher Association hosted its inaugural second-hand uniform sale in aid of local care homes. Hot chocolate, winter cookies and games were also available for donations with parents and teachers taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer. In total, £178 was raised that will go towards their project which aims to support local care homes as they deliver Christmas cheer for their residents.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Tuesday 9th January**
First day of spring term (Return to school)
- Tuesday 23rd January**
Year 11 Parents Evening
- Thursday 1st February**
Year 13 Parents Evening
- Tuesday 6th February**
Safer Internet Day