



## Head Teachers Reflection

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the festive edition of our school Newsletter. Holidays are not far away, and I think you will agree, after reading about all the many exciting events and opportunities our young people have experienced this term, that they, and the staff, deserve a rest!

The season of Advent has provided a spiritual focus for prayer at assemblies and in RE classes throughout December. Our Advent activities have offered a special opportunity for our young people to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and to put Gospel values into action. Staff and pupils have participated in some very imaginative fundraising events to support a range of charities, further developing an awareness of those who are vulnerable and need our loving support, particularly at this time of year.

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we can reflect with enormous pride on what has been another eventful and successful year at St Luke's with our young people experiencing outstanding successes in their learning and wider achievement opportunities. I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents, carers and families for your support for staff and pupils throughout this year. We very much value your partnership as we work together to ensure all of our young people have the opportunity to flourish and grow in a climate of love, faith, understanding and high expectations.

May I end by expressing, on behalf of all the staff of St Luke's, our very best wishes for a peaceful and joyful Christmas and successful 2020.

Kindest regards,

Christine Downie

# Language & Communication

## S2 Cinema Trip

All of the S2 year group participated in the Into Film Festival, viewing the film 'The Hate U Give'. This film linked with the persuasive writing we are engaging in as a year group, considering the Civil Rights movement in the USA and thinking about how great leaders can express themselves and their opinions. After the trip, the S2 pupils had a chance to understand more background information about the film and the key ideas it presents as well as have a look at the novel it was based on.

## Public Speaking

Well done to our S3 pupils Sam, Katie and Nicola who were successful in winning the Renfrewshire Speakers Club Regional Competition. A fantastic team effort!



## Reading Challenge

In January a group of S1/2 pupils will start the First Minister's reading challenge. More information to follow!

## Collaborative Improvement Visit

The French department were recently visited by staff from other schools in the authority and our positive ethos and innovative teaching approaches were commended. The other schools were particularly interested in our partnerships with Edusport Academy, a programme which involves French footballers working with all of S3 for an afternoon. Our work with our feeder primary schools was also highlighted as a real strength.

## Inter Disciplinary Learning

S2 have been looking at Healthy Lifestyles and are taking part in a project with Home Economics. In French they have been looking at the film Ratatouille and in the new year will have the opportunity to cook in Home Economics, using a recipe written in French.

## Higher Italian

Higher Italian pupils attended a Saturday session at Glasgow University where they worked on writing and talking skills with people from other schools across the country.

## Higher French

Pupils studying higher French attended the East Renfrewshire immersion day, allowing them to work on key skills in preparation for their exams. Our very own Ms Champin delivered a session on translation skills as part of the programme.

# Maths & Numeracy

## **Senior UKMT Competition**

Congratulations to Sanduni Malnaidelage, Eva Millar, Iain High and Aidan Gilhooley who achieved a Bronze Certificate in the recent Senior UKMT Competition.

## **Scottish Maths Challenge**

Well done to our S2 pupils Sarah Li, Emma Jones, Chloe Wilson, Karmen Coupar, Jake Abraham and Thenuga Malnaidelage who achieved highly in Round 1 of the Scottish Maths Challenge. Round 2 is currently underway and the deadline for submissions is Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Drop-In Sessions**

These run from 12.30pm – 1.00pm each lunchtime. Pupils are welcome to come along for help with their class work, homework or study.

## **BGE Homework Club**

Our BGE Homework Club for S1, S2 AND S3 pupils runs each Tuesday 3.35pm – 4.45pm.

## **Supported Study**

Higher Mathematics Supported Study – Every Monday after school – 3.35pm – 4.45pm

National 5 Supported Study - Wednesday after school – 2.40pm – 4pm

Thursday after school – 3.40pm – 4.40pm

## **Numeracy at Disneyland 2020**

On Saturday 1st February, 52 of our S2 pupils will depart for Disneyland Paris where pupils will experience a first-hand look at how Disney selects and applies mathematical techniques and methods in everyday and theme park situations, experience the very latest roller coaster technology and will learn how science, technology, engineering and mathematics are used to build, test, theme, operate and maintain rides. Pupils will also get the chance to spend the day in Paris, visiting the surrounding area of Notre Dame Cathedral, Place de la Concorde, the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and shop on the Champs Elysees.

## **Twitter**

Please follow us on twitter [@MathematicsSIhs](https://twitter.com/MathematicsSIhs) to keep up to date with all faculty news.

# Science

## **Biodiversity in Action**

A group of S3 Biologists would like to make St Luke's a haven for wildlife and increase the biodiversity in the school grounds. The pupils have lots of exciting plans for next year, but while the weather hasn't been too nice they have been busy creating a new invertebrate habitat. The structure has been created using wooden pallets as well as logs that were kindly donated to us by the Dams to Darnley Countryside Rangers. It is already looking fantastic and the pupils have still to add smaller twigs and moss to create a perfect habitat for invertebrates. Next year we will update you on our plans to create a wildflower meadow to encourage bees and butterflies into the school grounds.

## **Advanced Higher Physics Day**

Miss Watson's Advanced Higher physics class have been invited by Strathclyde University to attend an Advanced Higher Physics Day on Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. The pupils will hear talks from subject specialists from the University related to the Advanced Higher course, and will then undergo lab work similar to the experiments they will be completing for their projects. This will give our pupils first hand University experience and will further develop their communication, problem solving, leadership and interpersonal skills for their futures in University or in the workplace.

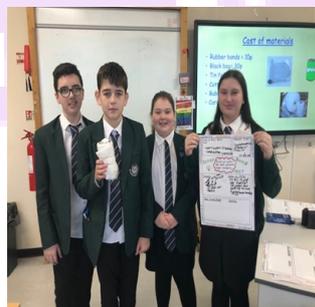
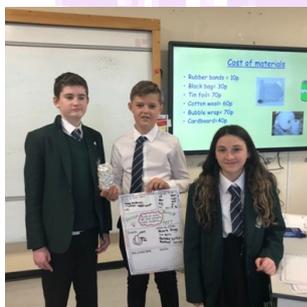
## **Engineering the Future for Girls**

Four S3 girls were supported in Science with their application for the week long Engineering the Future for Girls event. The initiative, hosted by the Faculty of Engineering in the University of Strathclyde, is designed to engage girls in a wide range of engineering challenges that will inspire them to become the next generation of engineers. Fingers crossed the girls are successful with their applications and secure a place on this fantastic event!

## **S1 Arctic Lab**

S1 have been working on the topic 'A Matter of Heat'. They became engineers to plan, design and build a model Arctic lab. They had to work together using all their knowledge of heat transfer to come up with a model that was efficient at retaining heat as well as cost effective.

The joint winning groups in Mrs Hastings class are shown below. Well done to the teams!



# Social Subjects

## **S1 Social Subjects Quiz**

St Luke's hosted the first S1 Social Subjects Quiz between the secondary schools in the local area in November.

Pupils answered some challenging questions about Geography, History and Modern Studies as well as completing a General Knowledge round.

Williamwood won the trophy and the St Luke's team (Lauren McVeigh, Cara Gibson, Juda Arias and Freya Canning) came a very close second!

Three senior pupils (Kyle Bradford, Ellie Stewart) hosted the quiz while other S6 pupils (Cian Monaghan, Declan Taylor, Emily Paton and Julia Pigiell) were in charge of marking the papers.



## **S6 Higher Politics**

S6 pupils Kara Coyne and Leo Ito gave an informative presentation at the University of Strathclyde in October about their experience of Higher Politics.

They spoke in front of over 40 PGDE Modern Studies and History student teachers and answered questions about studying Higher courses this year – the postgraduate students were very impressed!

## **Collaborative Improvement Visit**

St Luke's staff hosted a Collaborative Improvement visit in September where visitors from local schools observed lessons in Social Subjects and were impressed by the relationships between pupils and staff in the faculty.

Our staff also visited other schools to learn about the work that they do and found the CIV professionally beneficial.

# Creative Arts

## London Trip

I was extremely excited about going on the London trip as I knew it was going to be a great experience. I thought the idea of doing multiple different activities over the weekend would be ideal as it meant I'd be able to see various different things such as the Tate modern museum & the musical Wicked. I really enjoyed the Tate modern as I thought it was extremely interesting seeing all the different paintings as well as the sculptures as those are my favourite type of art and discovering the meaning and the message behind them all. I also thoroughly enjoyed the musical Wicked as I thought the songs were amazing and everything from the set to the costume design was phenomenal.



**Ava S6**



During our trip to London, we participated in many amazing experiences, planned by the fantastic Creative Arts faculty. Personally, one of the best experiences was visiting Covent Gardens' Pineapple dance studios and taking part in a stage combat workshop with a professional. We all had a great time learning to do different types of fighting which will benefit students in drama and possibly using it in school shows. We are all very grateful to the faculty for putting so much time and effort into planning and preparing this amazing trip. **Ciara S3**



## October to December activities

Our fantastic choir & musicians entertained at our Christmas



In October the Art department set a 30 day sketchbook challenge. The entries were wonderful and showed some amazing creative drawings and designs. Well done to Jodie the overall winner.



Our Christmas card competition was won by Lauren. A fabulous design



Higher and Advanced Higher Drama pupils have also watched a live screening of the RSC Taming of the Shrew. A wonderful opportunity to see this new production where the gender roles were switched.

## PE & Health

### East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure – Sports Leadership Academy

Well done to our girls Lara and Jodie for taking part in this fantastic programme, developing their leadership skills while gaining additional qualifications along the way, most recently their Tennis Leaders Award.



### NPA Social Dance

Our NPA worked amazingly in our cluster primaries preparing them for our St Andrew's Day ceilidh. Well done to all leaders and participants for delivering an excellent afternoon.

### Dance

The dancers have been working extremely hard this term with the excellent guidance and support from our seniors Abbie and Charlie. The girls performed outstanding routines in the Christmas Fayre and are well underway in their preparations for the East Renfrewshire Dance Competition where they will compete in February.

The senior girls have also had fantastic individual successes this term, with Charlie being selected to represent Robert Hamilton's school of dance in London and some further exciting opportunities in 2020! Elle also won the National Disco Kid championships - no mean feat! Elle beat her rivals to take away the crown for both the fast and slow sections in freestyle. St Luke's also had representatives at the event with Tiegan and Kerry.



### S3 Football Team

The boys in the team have been playing great football this year and been very competitive in all fixtures played while representing our school in a great manner. So far we have played; St Ninian's, St Alysious, Williamwood, Eastwood, Woodfarm and Gryffe. Keep up the good work boys.

### S1 Football Team

The S1 football team have been working tremendously hard since the beginning of September. With a few close defeats in the league the team never lost the enthusiasm and motivation to continually work hard and try to improve in every game they played. This dedication proved vital and we are proud to say the team has now reached the Quarter finals of the St Mirren cup and also the 4<sup>th</sup> round of the Scottish Plate. A great end to the year and a lot to look forward to in 2020. Well done boys!

### Fun Festive 'Fitmas' Club

Well done to all who have committed to this club. Each day we add another new fitness challenge to the day previous and so far they have done; planks, burpees, press ups, star jumps, squats and mountain climbers. Each day pupils get their card signed which enters them into a prize draw to take place on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December.



## PE and Health continued

### Mountain Bike Group

Fantastic start for our new boys mountain biking group. Our group travel to Drymen each Thursday to develop their resilience, bravery and independence. Well done to all so far.

### MMA Champion

Huge well done to Sean in S6 who won, via submission, at the Rise and Conquer MMA event in Sunderland. Sean continues to show outstanding commitment to his MMA and trains tirelessly through the week to get to this level. Through his successes, Sean is now sponsored to help with his training and competing costs. Well done.



### Jiu Jitsu Champion

Well done to Harry in S6 who won Gold at the Brazilian Jiu Jitsu event in November. Another example of someone applying complete dedication to his sport and training.

### Scottish Schools Girls Football

We are absolutely delighted that Caitlin in S2 has been selected to be part of the SSFA West District Squad for this season. We can't wait to follow her progress this year. Well done



### PE KIT

Reminder that full PE kit should be worn at all times, which is; Green PE top and bottoms of your own choice. There should be no football colours at all. The new style of PE top is proving popular and both styles can be bought at Audrey's or Stevenson's.



### Recycling - HFT

Reminder that pupils are being encouraged to bring in their own plastic containers for taking food home which will reduce the amount of waste we use in terms of packaging. Also, Parent Pay is now up and running and all pupils doing HFT should pay £10 for the year which will go towards food costs.

### Supported study

This will take place every Monday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm for Practical Cake Craft and Practical Cookery

Every Monday at 12:30pm and Tuesday from 3:30pm will be for National 5 PE. On a Tuesday at 3:30pm there will also be Higher Supported study.

# Business/ Technical/ICT

## Computer Club

Wednesday after school in ICT3.

Pupils have been coding in microbit, creating a step counter to count the number of steps round the library. Getting into the festive spirit by coding Christmas decorations.



## Robotics Club

Tuesday and Friday lunchtime in ICT 3

Club are gearing up for the Tomorrow's Engineers EEP Robotics Challenge at University of the West of Scotland in Paisley on Thursday 13th February 2020.

## Business Management

Miss Craig's S4 Business Management class took a trip to the Amazon warehouse in Fife to see the workings of the warehouse and get an insight into how the company gets goods to customers.

Mr Stevenson's Advanced Higher Business Management pupils went to RBS Headquarters in Edinburgh to see businesses pitching for up to £150k in investment from Scotland's billionaire businessman Sir Tom Hunter!



# Religious Education

In October we celebrated our annual mass for the feast of our patron St Luke High School. We were led in this celebration by the local bishop, Rev John Keenan who was joined by local clergy. The following mass, local clergy led our cluster community on celebrating a mass for Catholic Education Week at St John's Church, Barrhead. We also hosted a Prayer Breakfast for Catholic Education week where some of our pupils did an outstanding job of providing invited guests with a delicious start to their day! During the month of November, we have remembered and prayed for the faithful departed in preparation for the new liturgical year. As part of our preparation for Christmas, our school chaplain, Rev Joseph Balmer, has been celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation with pupils in the Broad general Education.

This term has been a busy one for senior pupils involved in the Caritas programme. They have energetically working away on a number of activities which are linked to the award. Some of the activities they have been involved with include: helping out at the Paisley St Vincent de Paul soup kitchen, assisting with the delivery of P6 confirmation retreats in the primary schools, working as buddies to S1 pupils as part of Anti-Bullying week and organising an hour of Eucharistic adoration every week in the oratory.

During this term, students in the S1-3 received the exciting invitation to be involved in the school's planned pilgrimage to Rome in June 2020. The trip will consist of a visit to places of religious, cultural and historical interest located in the city and is expected to run for four nights from Monday 15th June to Friday 19th June. The cost of this trip is expected to be approximately £575 and this will include flights, accommodation with evening meal, sightseeing and insurance. Please contact the school if your child is interested as we may be able to accommodate an additional number of pupils.



## **Young Volunteer of the Year**

Congratulations to Elise Kelly of S4 on winning Young Volunteer of the Year at the Include Me 2 ball in October. Elise started working with this local charity during our school YPI project last year and still continues to work with them now.



# Pupil Support

## Ogilvie House ●

Ogilvie House is proud to announce our class captains for 2019-2020!

S1: Jay McShane and Erin-Dee Mulrooney

S2: Sarah Li and Brandon Lopez

S3: Diana Gusarova and Evan Wilkie

S4: Scott Coyle and Madeleine McGrath

S5: Kacper Lewandowski and Niamh O'Donnell

House Captains: Kara Coyne and Ava Gillespie



This term our class captains worked very hard to research and present a variety of charities that we could adopt as our House Charity. It was stiff competition but in the end our house voted for our charity to be **Bernardo's** who change the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged children across the UK. We are looking forward to putting our festive fundraising ideas into action and kick-start our house fundraising!

## Mirin House ●

Mirin House is delighted to announce that the following pupils were appointed to the roles of Class and House Captains earlier this year. Well done to all who took part!

S1: Onyi Adibe and Freya Canning

S2: Alfie McCann and Jessica McHugh

S3: Sean Bain and Katie Dunne

S4: Jamie McAuley and Anna Kelly

S5: Jake Leca and Jodie Miller

House Captains: Adele Canning and India Hogan

In a new addition to the House System this year, pupils identified the Beatson Cancer Trust as its house charity. Pupils in the senior phase braved the elements on Sunday to take part in Glasgow's annual Santa Dash to raise vital funds for the worthwhile cause.

## Columba House ●

### Class Captains

- S1: David Docherty and Emily Kelly
- S2: Ryan Lipitlaw and Caitlin Crean
- S3: Luca Cairns Nichola Spence
- S4: Lee Edgar and Alliyah Love
- S5: Mirrin Walker and Sophie Channing
- House Captains: Jack Byrne and Eva Millar



Thank you to Ruaridh MacPhail and Lee Edgar from 4C who worked together to design our Columba mascot a Deer. Our house captain Jack Byrne sought parental and pupil voice at our Christmas Fair to see what Columba's first enterprising project should be. We have opted for a wellbeing focus with Columba stress balls using Ruaridh and Lee's design.

Our house captain Eva Millar will following her passion for all things Sustainability, leading sustainability projects in the new year. More information to follow Columbans.

## Kentigern House ●

### Class Captains

- S1: Harvey Dyce and Cara Gibson
- S2: Jake Abraham and Emma Carolan
- S3: Matthew Ross and Lauren Bradley
- S4: Angus Dunbar and Hayley Henderson
- S5: Kenny Urquat and Teigan McKay
- House Captains: Callum Roberts and Amy Houston



After the successful class elections the House Captains had worked together on presenting to the whole of Kentigern House on 3 charities which they felt would be worthwhile to support. This democratic process allowed for all pupils to contribute and lead to a close decision with Cancer Research UK coming out with the most support. Congratulations to all those involved for those contributions to this process. Since then the pupils have been busy thinking of how we making the an impact and support our charity and are very much in the planning stage with a big target on Easter!

Congratulations to Emily Wilson (5K) who has just been awarded a Saltire Award for dedicating over 200 hours of service in sport through East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure. (Photo attached).

Also Congratulations To Elle Wilson who placed first at her recent International dance competition 'Disco Kid' in Blackpool.



## Pupil Support continued

### Developing the Young Workforce

Thank you to Ross Penman head coach of I-KICK Martial Arts who has worked with a group of S3 students for the last three months. Ross shared how he developed his business enterprise with our future entrepreneurs. Congratulations to Abi Burke and Alana Kane, who were first and second place winners respectively. The girls received Silverburn vouchers for presenting creative business plans.



Senior pupils enjoyed our trip to the SEC centre meeting Modern Apprenticeship partners who will be providing employment opportunities throughout 2019 and 2020. Further Apprenticeship information can be found on the DYW page of the school website.

### Anti Bullying Week

Well done to S1 check-in who developed their leadership skills by supporting the school's Anti-Bullying Week campaign in November. They raised awareness within the school community by setting up an information stall during lunch breaks and promoting.



### Forest School

It's been an exciting term for S2 Forest School pupils visiting Pollock Park Forest School and learning new tool and outdoor cooking skills as they work toward the John Muir Environmental Award.



Congratulations last year's Forest School group who were presented with their John Muir Awards.



The pupils in the S1 Gardening group have worked really hard brightening up the school entrance with planters and harvesting vegetables from the school garden! Well done boys!



### **Widening Participation**

A number of pupils in the senior phase are currently participating in a variety of initiatives in partnership with the University of Glasgow. The Access to a Career, Reach and Top-Up Programmes work with S5-S6 pupils with an interest in a variety of professional degrees, including Dentistry, Law, Medicine and Vet Medicine. Pupils will continue to attend a series of workshops in school and on campus, gaining an understanding of career pathways and obtaining support with every aspect of the application process. The initiatives are designed to make the transition from secondary school into higher education as smooth as possible. Research shows that participation in the programme leads to increased student success and retention.

### **Young Carers**

The Pupil Support Team have been working closely with Kevin Dailly from Young Carers to support pupils with caring responsibilities. A group of pupils from the Broad General Education and Senior Phase are planning an event in the new year to mark Young Carers Day.



After yet another hugely successful Christmas Fair, Mr Harley wanted to share with you just how the magic happens:

'Twas three weeks before Christmas, when all through the school  
The pupils were working hard yet remaining quite cool.  
To prepare for the Fayre, was their focussed intent,  
In the hope that folks stayed, 'till their money was spent.

The pupils were learning, all snug in their class  
Thinking of Christmas each lad and each lass.  
And teachers were anxious that pupils do well  
As they worked and they waited for this next Noel.

With lunchtimes upon us, at that time of day,  
The work to be done could afford no delay.  
The planning was great, the effort was there  
As pupils knew well there was no time to spare.

The woodworkers toiled to create the great race  
The work was being done at a super-fast pace.  
They cut and they sawed with much sweat and much strife  
And from their skilled work, Christmas shapes came to life.

The Santa, the Snowman, stood proud on their base  
The Gingerbread man was ready to race.  
The Tree stood all green and proud as could be  
They were ready to go, for you and for me.

But that is not all, let me tell you some more,  
The Nerf guns were ready to add to the score.  
The boys triggered up to make sure all was just right  
The guns cleaned and ready, all set for the night.

"How much should we charge?" The question was there.  
But the pupils knew well to bring fun to the Fayre.  
Money to earn, but don't forget fun  
Sharpshooters to find, with good things to be won.

The shop that was there didn't happen by itself  
Pupils gathered and priced to put gifts on the shelf.  
They gave of their time to develop their skills  
Those pupils knew well the sound of their tills.

"How much do you want for?" "How much will you spend?"  
Pupils now knew how to haggle and bend.  
They made lots of money, shoppers left quite content  
With the presents they bought and the pennies they spent.

But let's not forget, the pounds that they tossed  
A bottle to win, a game to be lost.  
As near as you can to the bottle they tried  
'till one skilful hand kept it close, not too wide.

The players all knew what had to be done  
The closest pound near, the bottle you won!  
The near-pounds collected the names marked with care.  
The closer the coin – "Hurrah! - a prize from the Fayre!

And so it is over, and thanks for your care  
To earn for the school while enjoying the Fayre.  
And so with a laugh and a smile – not one tear  
We want to wish all "A Happy New Year!"

*By Mr Shaun Harley  
Faculty Head ICT, Business and Technical*

### **Dates for the Diary**

Friday 20 December —Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 20th December —School closes 2.30pm

Monday January 6th —School reopens 8.45am

10th-12th January —S5/5 Study Weekend

Thursday 16th January —S4 Parents' Evening

Monday 27th January —S 5/5 Mock Assessments begin

Thursday 30th January —S 4/5/6 Transition Evening

Friday 31st January — S3 Drama Performance Night

1st—6th February—S2 Numeracy Excursion to Disneyland Paris

Thursday 6th February—School closes

Friday 7th February—In-service day

10-11th February—Holiday

Wednesday 12th February—In-service day

Thursday 13th February—School reopens 8.45am

Wednesday 26th February—Ash Wednesday/SCI AF Lenten Campaign begins

Thursday 27th February—S2 Parents' Evening

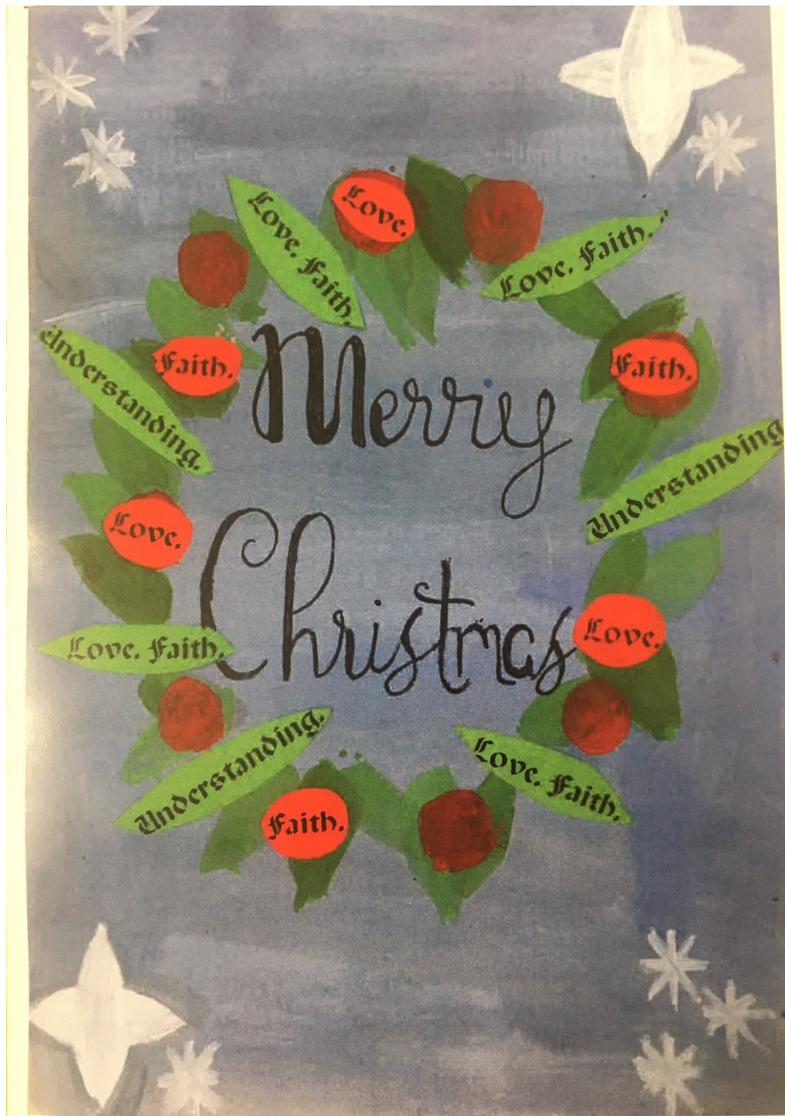
Friday 28th February—S3 St Luke the Evangelist Retreat (1)

Friday 6th March—S3 St Luke the Evangelist Retreat (2)

Tuesday 17th March—S5/6 Careers Fair

Thursday 2nd April—S6 Act Fast

Friday 3rd April—School closes 2.30pm



Designed by Lauren McVey S1