

16 December 2022

Dear students, parents and carers

A brief letter to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a peaceful break! It's been a very busy term; its lovely to see so many of our usual events, matches, trips and visits taking place after the covid years - especially the long-awaited Harry Potter trip, postponed from March 2020!

Students have worked hard this term and Year 11 especially have earned a break following their mock exams at the end of November, which they completed very successfully, as did Year 10.

We are so grateful to you for your generosity throughout the year, supporting non-uniform and charity days. The response to our appeal for Hereford Food Bank was tremendous and will mean such a lot to people who really need our support, especially in January when cupboards are bare and the bills are coming in. In addition, you have again contributed towards another trip to Ukraine; Marina the minibus set off last Sunday full of food, warm clothes and some Christmas parcels, driving through some very cold and snowy conditions to reach a centre near Kyiv and another refuge for women and children. We have used up all available funds now, so please contribute via Parentpay if you can for the next trip, which will take place in January if enough money can be raised.



The Christmas concert on Wednesday was a really lovely way to begin the festive season and it was great to have a full hall to enjoy all the hard work that had gone into the music. The PTA supported with refreshments and a raffle, raising much needed money for school funds. We are grateful to everyone who helps out, organises or works with students on these occasions.



If you would like to get out of the house over the festive break, I can highly recommend the Christmas Tree festival at Dore Abbey. It is free (donations are welcomed towards the upkeep of this ancient building) and is very atmospheric – lots of corners for children to explore! There will be a range of trees on display from local schools and organisations – all with their own theme. Most importantly you will be able to see our beautiful tree which has a Ukrainian theme, put together by Mrs Clarke and Mrs Gibbs with help from students. The festival is open from 11th December to 2nd January each day from 9.30am to 4pm. Wear something warm!

The Parish Council have asked me to request that, if you are waiting for your child in the village, you turn off your car engine. The council are mindful of pollutants in the air, especially with young children being collected from the primary school at the same time.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff, who have worked hard and really pulled together as a team over this term, especially at times when we have had very high sickness absence amongst staff and students. It is our pleasure to work in partnership with you to give all our children the most enjoyable and enriching educational experience we can.

Thank you all for your support; I hope you have a peaceful and a Merry Christmas and we look forward to welcoming students back on January 4th 2023!

Best wishes

Sue Gaston

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