



ACADEMY LIFE

*Aspire
Endeavour
Achieve*



Principal's Update

This afternoon I will speak to the staff and students in our whole school assembly and ask them to take a moment to reflect on what this time of year means for us as a school community. For some, Christmas is a religious celebration. For others, it's a cultural tradition, or simply a chance to rest, recharge, and spend time with family and friends.

Often, there will be gifts exchanged but I will ask our school community to remember that gifts of kindness and time are often the ones people love the most – a message of thanks, cooking a meal, sharing time with family and friends or simply making someone a much needed cup of tea. Whatever Christmas means to you, it's a season that reminds us of the importance of being kind and being together.

We have had an exciting 2 weeks at the end of the Autumn term. It began with a trip to Paris! Huge thanks to Mr Tidy, Mrs Giller, Mr Gore, Miss Barr and Miss Chu who took 45 students to France over the first weekend in December and had a fantastic time – more about that later. Other activities include Youth Council, where our students once again represented the views of students from the city; Lily explains this on page 4. We also launched our Prefect application window for Year 10 students to formally apply for the senior student roles for next year.

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Year 11 received their mock results and 75% of parents/carers came to parents evening to discuss next steps for their children. If you were unable to attend, please let us know what we can do to support attendance by completing this form:

Year 11 Parent Voice

Year 11 will have their final parents' evening on 26th March 2026, following the second set of mock exams.

We held a Christmas Coffee morning for the community last week and it was lovely to have visitors from the local area, including Hanford Care home. Artemis tells you all about the morning on the next page. Last Friday, we served 200 Christmas lunches – a huge thank you to our amazing catering team Mrs Whittaker, Mrs Palmer, Mrs Tipton and Mrs Hopkins; it really was special to see the tables laid for lunch filling the hall. On the same day, many staff and students wore their Festive jumpers and raised money, or donated items, for the local food bank. The food bank representatives were able to collect 15 packed trays of food and £168 on Monday. Thank you everyone for your generosity.



And throughout December, students have continued to work really hard. I have seen the most fantastic lessons and seen students excited about their learning. They have coped well with the long Autumn term and the wet weather! This week, the 128 students who took part in the show completed their final rehearsals and this led to our 'sold out' Christmas show last night. Thank you, Mrs Ball, Mr Gore and all the staff who supported this – it was the highlight of the term and utterly brilliant! I'll ask the students to write about it for the January newsletter!

For now – I hope everyone has a lovely break and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Merry Christmas and my very best wishes for a Happy New Year.

QWGS



Community Coffee Morning

(Artemis, Year 10)



This year, our school hosted a Community Christmas Coffee Morning, where we were more than delighted to welcome guests from the local community and from Hanford Court Care Home. What started off as a simple coffee morning quickly became a wholesome memory that we'll all cherish.

Before the guests arrived, our Year 10 and Year 9 Health and Social classes prepared mugs and a range of different drinks: coffee, tea, juice, and hot chocolate. The tables were decorated with bright, vibrant cloths and we had cheerful Christmas music playing in the background.

Afterwards, Hospitality and Catering students brought a range of different festive treats and pastries and laid them on the entrance table,



along with Christmas napkins and small plates for people to place their treats on.

As guests began to walk inside, we greeted them with a warm welcome and offered them drinks and snacks that we'd prepare for them ourselves. There was a sweet aroma dancing around the room as we sat beside the guests and got to know them. Once the drinks were ready, we carefully served them to our guests and sat beside them, continuing our conversations in a peaceful, welcoming atmosphere.



I met this wonderful lady who lives in a bungalow near the academy, and we were able to talk about Christmas, school, and our hobbies. The conversations were full of laughter and excitement; everyone in the room was engaged in a conversation that put a smile on their face. One thing I'll never forget is how at the end, the lady hugged me, saying she hopes I have a good Christmas, and that moment for me was incredibly heartwarming.



Stoke-on-Trent Youth Council

(Lily, Year 10)

The Youth Council is a truly incredible experience that I am very grateful to be a part of! Myself and fellow students Artemis and Oliver (a special mention to Stan who came to the first meetings!) visit the Youth Council every other month to represent the school, and the voices of the pupils, which is an absolute honour. During our visits, we meet with other schools from all across Stoke-on-Trent, hence the name: 'Six Towns, One Voice'.

Our mission is to raise awareness around the thoughts and opinions of young people across the city, because we are the next generation that will grow here.

The atmosphere and environment at the council is wonderful; all students feel happy and confident to share their thoughts which helps us towards our goal of collecting a wide range of opinions. So far this term, our key focus has been discussing the coming year, and the impacts we want to make. We are currently working closely with the YMCA, who support a wide range of young people, and some members – myself included – are involved in an animation project that will be published across the city!

Personally, I believe the best part of the Youth Council is seeing the impact you're making. The adults we work alongside are always eager to show us the difference we've made, and the things that are being put in place through our actions. So many campaigns and events have been published through the Youth Council. I got the chance to speak at the Stoke Centenary Event, alongside becoming a member on the Stoke-on-Trent Mission Board, which have both been extraordinary experiences to see my actions having an impact across the city.

Paris TRIP

Our students enjoyed a festive French trip earlier this month. Our group of intrepid travellers initially embarked on an overnight journey with a somewhat choppy crossing from Dover to Calais. Some hardy souls even managed to brave the breeze to reenact their best Titanic King of the World moment!

We were soon pulling off the p^{re}repeherique into central Paris. A guided coach tour of Paris next, courtesy of driver Tony, who never got lost and all of that without a SAT NAV!

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We soon caught sight of that tall, wobbly thing in the distance - the trifle tower! Photo opportunities at the Trocadero before moving to Tour Montparnasse - the highest and only skyscraper in central Paris. Students marvelled at the magnificent but misty views, with special credit to those who braved the blustery wind and rain at the very top of the tower. We then checked into our hotel and enjoyed a hearty buffet before turning in, ready for a full day of sightseeing in Paris the next day.

The following day started with a Seine-sational river cruise, soaking up the sunshine and the in-Seine views. We then walked to the Cathédrale de Notre Dame, newly restored to its former glory, and on to the Louvre, the Jardin des Tuileries and the Champs Élysées exploring the Christmas markets on our way. A meal in Montmartre, including some early birthday celebrations for Esme, and a moonlit stroll to Sacré Cœur rounded off an exhausting but rewarding day.

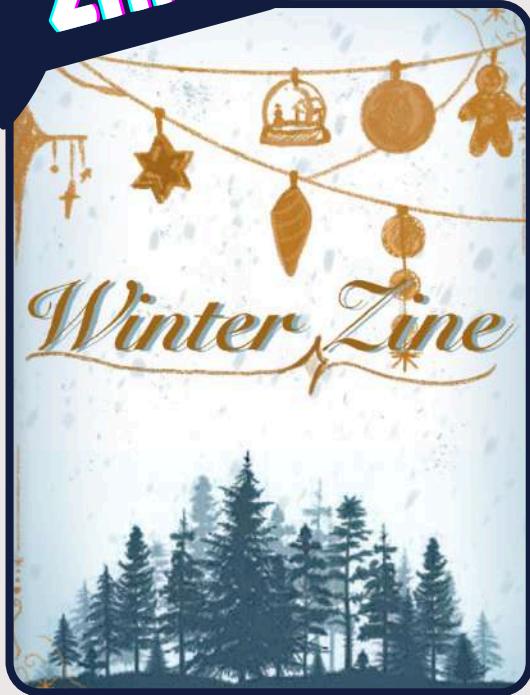


Our final day saw a fun-filled, adrenaline-fuelled, festive day at Disneyland Paris. From the fairy tale castle to white knuckle rides to the parades, not to mention spotting our favourite Disney characters; a good day was had by all. Back to Blighty on the coach, braving the gale force winds through the straits of Dover and back to the tranquility of Trentham, ready for a hard-earned day of sleep!

Students were fantastic - their behaviour was exemplary, and they were a credit to themselves and the academy. If you are studying French, or plan to, and would love to go on a trip to France in the future, watch this space
#Normandie2027



Winter Zine



The Zine Club meet every week and have recently published their Winter edition of the Zine. You can read it here: [Winter Zine 2025](#)

Remember when?

I'm adding this again this month as I'm hoping that we may get some more submissions while you have a little time at home over the Christmas break! Please share your memories and let us know what you are doing now.



Arbor New data system in the academy

Our Trust is in the process of changing the system that manages student information, and we will move from Sims to Arbor in January. If you have a child at a school that already uses Arbor, you may see the child who is on roll with us appear in the app, although there will be no details available for this child yet. There is no need to do anything until we provide full instructions regarding the Arbor Parent app in the new year.

Sporting Highlights

December has been a short month, but we've seen some great sporting results nonetheless:

U14s Basketball

- St Joseph's 20-8 – Top Scorer: James
- SMW 25-11 – Top Scorer: Lloyd
- Co-op 33-19 – Top Scorer: Ward





Table Tennis

- Qualified for County tournament with both the U13 and U16 boys
- Beat St Joseph's 16 - 4 in a recent fixture, and beat OSSMA 17 - 3

Both teams have qualified for the regional tournament in January for the first time ever!



Interhouse Competitions

Food Bank Donations

Winners were **Voyager** - Well done collecting the most donations for Stoke on Trent Food Bank!



Photo Competition

We had some incredible entries, and it was a tough decision to pick the winners! Featured here are the top 4:

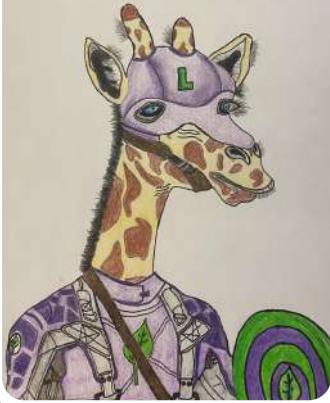
- 1st: Aurora Borealis | Hugo - PMRT
- 2nd: Tulips | Alfie - AKSW
- 3rd: Puppies | Ivy - VSEM
- 4th: Hill | Seb - PMRT

Well done to everyone who participated!



Superhero Animal Challenge

CAPTAIN LONGNECK



1st - Lilymae | PWBY



2nd - Logan & Tyler
AKSW

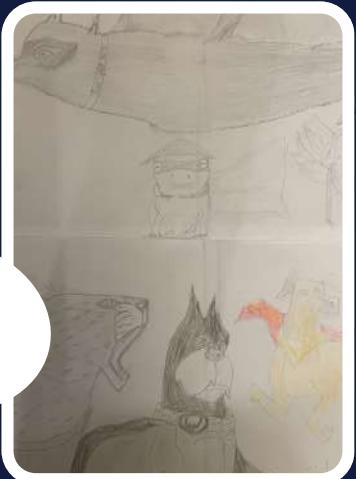


3rd - Eliza | VJST



4th - Alicia | ACAI

Special mention: Henry
Amazing collection for
an upcoming squad of
superheroes!



WOW!



Coming up in January

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 INSET - closed to students
- 6 Academy opens
- 14 Trafford Centre Rewards Trip - Year 7 & Year 11
- 15 Trafford Centre Rewards Trip - Year 8, 9 & 10
- 28 Aspire 4 Life Day 2



Student Rewards

I have had the pleasure in making 9 positive phone calls home since the last newsletter to Ben, Ronyah, Amelia, Freya and Troy in Year 7, Freya in Year 8, Madeline, Lily and Annabella in Year 10. Well done everyone 😊

Congratulations to Seb in Year 8 for winning 2 gold medals and a silver medal at the Dance World Championships in Mexico!



Well done to Nomaan - a Black belt in Karate, who won a silver medal at a competition in Liverpool recently!



Please let us know of any achievements you'd like to share in the newsletter by sending them to trentham@clt.trentham.coop, with 'Newsletter' in the subject line.