



Head Teacher's Newsletter

AUTUMN TERM

Issue No 06 | December 2024

Mrs Frost-Briggs' message of the month!



As the autumn term at John Flamsteed comes to a close, I reflect on what the students have achieved this term and thought parents and carers might like to see a snapshot as to what they've been getting up to! This term has been marked by some 'remarkable' events for our students both in the classrooms, within the sporting arena, the world of music and in their dedication to the wider community.

This last half-term has been a more challenging one for the staff due to us being notified we would be inspected by Ofsted, which sadly was then postponed by the inspectorate due to a conflict of interest among their team. We had hoped we would have been prioritised for inspection soon thereafter, however we look forward to welcoming inspectors into school sometime in the New Year to see what our students can achieve!

Thank you to all our parents and carers who continue to support the school in such a positive way. I wish you all a wonderful holiday with your loved ones and a fantastic Christmas. All the very best for a healthy and Happy New Year!

★ SCORES ON THE DOORS...

★ As school performance tables have now been published, we were delighted to be published in The Derbyshire Times as one of the highest-performing schools in the county with a P8 score of +0.34. We are thrilled that John Flamsteed has ranked 7th of the 83 state-funded secondary schools in Derbyshire. ★ Well done to our remarkable students.

MFL stars of the week for the week of writing the newsletter are Marshall H and Cody F in Year 9, Ava-Mai S in Year 10 and Emily E in Year 11. Félicitations! Gut gemacht! Felicidades!



Year 6 Escape Room

We were so excited to host our annual Year 6 JFCS Escape Rooms consisting of two different rooms, The Witch Room and The Pirate Room. We were so impressed with the team work and enthusiasm shown from Year 6 students from some of our feeder schools of Holbrook, Denby Free, Horsley C of E and Street Lane.



Thank you so much to all the students who have sent staff candy canes this week to say thank you! It really does mean the world to the staff to receive this recognition!

In loving memory...



This month saw the opening of our commemorative bench for our dear student and classmate McKenzie who tragically passed away last academic year. With money raised by the children, we were able to ensure students have a safe space to come and sit and remember their friend and brother. McKenzie's family were able to join me in a short ceremony with his friends to open the bench. I hope it brings them some peace and some comfort. Forever in our hearts.

Outstanding creative work

The Design and Technology department have worked hard to rejuvenate some of the practical projects the students have been creating recently. From Year 10 Decorative and Function project, to Year 8 Lego souvenirs to Year 9 Kerfing Clocks and lamps to a revamped version of the Year 7 plane project demonstrating a high range of skills.



Charity Event

Thank you to all students and families for donating to the Harvest Festival boxes. We were able to fill the entire transit van from YMCA with the overwhelming generosity from the JF community which is remarkable!

New Tabletop Wargaming club

Mr Scott-Blore is teaching a group of 16 Year 9-11 students how to play "Warhammer 40,000" during Wednesday lunch times. In the New Year, there will be Friday after school sessions to play the full game! We thank local gaming clubs and Nottingham's own Games Workshop for donating terrain, models and paints!



Year 7 PGL residential trip!

Year 7 went on their first secondary school residential trip to PGL Caythorpe Court, Lincolnshire where they took part in a variety of activities from abseiling, trapeze, axe throwing and rifle shooting. Both staff and students had an amazing weekend!



Meanwhile, elsewhere...in History!

History was brought to life for our wonderful Year 11 students who visited Hardwick Hall this term as part of their GCSE studies. They learned about the life of Bess of Shrewsbury and saw first-hand that the building was indeed "more glass than wall"! Despite it being a rather damp day, they remained in good spirits and even impressed us with their artistic skills in their lunch break by drawing fantastic images of the Hall.



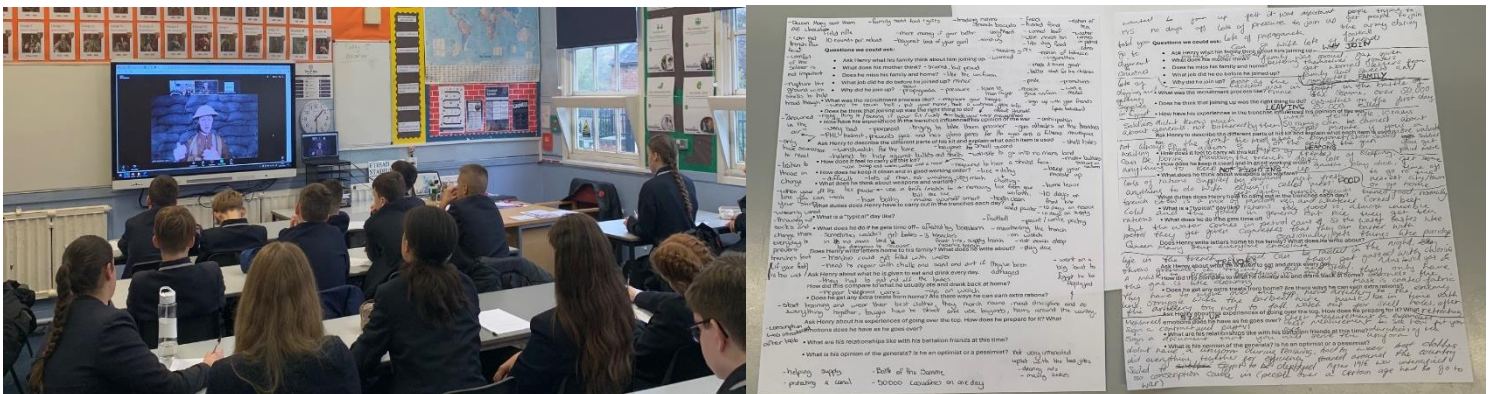
October saw the launch of JF's annual Bayeux tapestry competition. We welcomed back Year 7 students after half-term armed with their fabulous efforts. There were individual form prizes, which included history books as well as sweet treats. Well done to Tom B who was one of three overall winners and who produced a rather magnificent scene of the Normans sailing towards the English shores! This year we even had fabulous Bayeux tapestry designed hats and bags in addition to our traditional art collages that would not be out of place on a catwalk! Thank you to all our wonderful parents who support our students to produce such outstanding work. Special mention also to Ella S and Victoria S who were also joint winners.

As the term ends, we have launched our tenth Castle competition for Year 7 and are looking forward to seeing their project pieces early next term.



25 Year 9 students took part in a National Archives WWI trenches workshop. Students were able to quiz a WWI soldier who shared his experiences of trench life. Students were able to study primary evidence and impressed enormously with their questioning skills and the sheer enthusiasm shown.

Year 9 students also enjoyed a new series of lessons on the suffragettes and in particular the Indian princess Sophia Duleep Singh in preparation for a theatre group visit on Inspiration day. Although snow conspired against us, year 9 were still able to learn about this trail blazing female whose story has only recently been written about and discovered.



Developing gardeners of the future!

The SEND Department are very excited to welcome our latest addition ... our potting shed!

Outdoor education and Forest School activities are often available at Primary School, so we, at John Flamsteed, are aiming to build the knowledge and skills among our students to grow our own produce and tend our raised beds which earlier this year, had strawberries, herbs and the odd potato!



Berlin Trip!

The students and staff had a fantastic time in Berlin last month. Students



particularly enjoyed learning different parts of German history and culture. They loved trying German cuisine such as Currywurst and German hot chocolate. The students were an absolute delight and were outstanding representatives for this school and Mrs Garner can already not wait to go again!



We are excited to have re-booked all our activities for the Inspiration Day which had to be cancelled due to the snow for April 3rd 2025!

BUDDY MENTORING

This term we have had 33 remarkable Year 11 students offer their Friday tutor sessions to launch our Peer Mentoring programme with some of our Year 8, 9 and 10 students. Following their training, they have been working closely with younger students to aiming to help them with organisation, navigating secondary school, taking pride in academic success and having a positive role model to reflect with. We are so proud of how our students have approached this opportunity and how they have interacted with each other.

Well done to... Maths Stars Autumn winners!

Year 11 - Macey G, Year 10 - Ashley W,

Year 9 - Lara B, Year 8 - Frankie B,

Year 7 - Amelia B



History Club! This continues to go from strength to strength, meeting each Friday. Well done to Sam B who has been voted in as our first History Club president! Miss Mason and Mr Goodwright devise a wide array of fantastic activities for students to enjoy from model making to the balloon debate!



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