



Another busy fortnight...

It has been another busy fortnight and another busy term that have both raced by in a nanosecond. **I spoke to staff yesterday as we wrapped up the Christmas term (pardon the pun) and explained how proud I am of the progress we have made as a school in that time.** Staff and students have bought in to the new ideas well and seem as determined as I am to make this school the very best it can be. **I am very grateful for their support and that of our families, governors and other community members.**

We sadly had to postpone our Illuminations evening on the 10th December due to very poor weather. This is an open air event (hence the importance of dry weather) where images of Art work from the Class of 2019 are projected on to the wall at the front of school. The school choir were all set to perform, non-alcoholic mulled wine was ready, but sadly the rain had other ideas. **We have rescheduled this for Thursday 23rd January at 6pm, please come and join us if you are able to.**

I spent a very pleasant afternoon decorating the Kelmscott Christmas Tree with a group of Year 7s who had been handpicked by Mr Yilmaz following an excellent first term. They were a really lovely bunch and it was good to get to know them a little better. The decorations on the tree even passed the discerning eyes of the Art Department who, quite rightly, have exacting requirements for the aesthetic look of the tree. **Sticking with the Xmas theme, we enjoyed a Christmas dinner in the canteen this Tuesday hand prepared by our kitchen staff.** Turkey (or a vegan option) with all the trimmings, crackers, desert and Quality Street choccies (other brands are available) were enjoyed by all. It was great to see students tucking in so heartily with many going back for second or even third helpings. **I'm told Father Christmas also made an appearance in the canteen, there was talk that it was me dressed up as the great man but I must dispel those rumours.**

Staff gathered for their Thursday morning teaching tip, as we do each week, were greeted instead by Mr Senan who led us all in singing some Christmas songs. It was a jolly start to the day and set us all up for the remainder of the term. **A clip of the staff singing will be posted on my Twitter account later this week if you would like to hear the noise singing yourself – like a choir of angels.**

It hasn't been quite such a festive few weeks for Year 11 who have been embroiled in their mock exams. These are a very important part of the preparations for the real exams in the summer. Getting used to sitting so many, sometimes long exams in quick succession is not easy. Managing the revision for the different subjects is a challenge too. **Teachers have been busy marking the exams ready to feed back at our mock results day on Monday 27th January.** This mirrors exactly what we will be doing on August 20th when the real results are in and is a good way of helping students to focus their efforts for the remainder of the school year. **Special thanks to Mr Madge and his team for running the exams so well as always.**

Schools are great places for fresh starts and new beginnings, the start of the new school year, a new half term etc. **I would encourage all students though to give some real thought to what they would like their New Year and new decade's resolutions to be.** What is going well in their lives at home as well as in school, what could be improved? A New Year brings new beginnings; I plan to share my resolutions with students at

assemblies next year. **The new term begins at the normal time on Monday 6th January.**

I wish all our community a Merry Christmas if you are celebrating and a happy and restful holiday if not. See you all on the other side.

Mr Sam Jones

20th December 2019

