

Hello Everyone,

Even though everyone is tired at the end of such a long term, it has been wonderful to see staff and students working together to create lots of Christmas cheer during our 12 Days of Christmas.

Once again, our marvellous musicians and singers put on a tremendous show on Monday this week, to a full house of parents, family and friends. It was particularly pleasing to see more students than ever before in the audience supporting their friends, and to see our newest musicians and some debut performances alongside more experienced performers and indeed former students. Thank you so much to our enthusiastic and talented staff for their encouragement and nurturing of these wonderful performers to allow them the opportunity to shine. The Art Department's craft fair was beautiful too, with a fantastic team of art club creators and helpers too. We are very grateful to our premises staff for the extra late nights they have worked to allow all of our Christmas fun to take place!

Our *Tins for Tickets* initiative was a triumph; there have also been lots of other donations of food which means that there is a lot of food to go to TCR Hub on Wednesday to support their Christmas Food Bank initiative.

There are some amazing prizes to be won in our 'Points for Prizes' Christmas raffle which will be drawn on Wednesday. Students have been able to purchase raffle tickets with their EASI reward points.

It was a very close-run thing, but Year 10 were the winners of the Christmas Kindness competition, with tokens awarded to students who were spotted being kind to other members of our school community. Year 10 had a reward of cookies and hot chocolate on Tuesday this week and we are so very proud of them.

There have been elf messages spreading positivity between students, Christmas music, Christmas movie, Christmas puzzles and competitions and a Christmas dinner provided by our hard-working and talented catering team which proved SO delicious that Mr Pilling, one of our Deputy Heads, managed to eat one on three separate days!

Christmas Stars are being awarded every day to praise and reward students for working hard and being superstars!

... and, the Christmas 'decorate a door' produced entries of such a high standard that we decided to award not just one prize, but one to the winner of each year group.

You will be able to see lots of photos of what's been going on in school on our website and on our FaceBook page.

As the year draws to a close, I would like to thank you, parents and carers, for your continuing support of everything we are doing to help your children to succeed and enjoy their time with us here at Teesdale School and Sixth Form. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas from all of us here and to hope that we see all of our students back safe, well and refreshed for a Happy, Peaceful and Productive New Year!

Anna Cleckner

Headteacher