

Goodwill at Southborough in the Lead Up to Christmas



The weeks leading up to the Christmas and New Year holidays are always very busy here at Southborough. Whilst teaching, learning and assessment is always at the top of the agenda – we held our second ‘exam week’ during this period – we certainly made time to focus on a number of worthwhile activities that provided a timely reminder regarding the true meaning of the Christmas period.

Christmas Food Appeal

Throughout the term, we were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of students and their families, who donated boxes and boxes of foodstuffs for our Christmas Food Appeal to help the homeless. Whilst students from all year groups participated in the campaign, Year 8 boys in particular really got behind the campaign, determined to collect the most food - and creating a bit of healthy competition between the form groups into the bargain! Once the assorted donations were sorted and packed into boxes, Sixth Form students helped load up the school minibus so that everything could be delivered to the KCAH (Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness) in plenty of time for the Christmas holidays. KCAH staff was extremely appreciative of our donations and assured us that the food would not only feed the homeless over Christmas but also support various other local organisations – e.g. Shelter UK and local food banks – to help the vulnerable in the coming winter months. A big thank you to everyone who donated so generously to this worthy cause!





BINGO Afternoon at The Fircroft Trust

Following the success of our Senior Citizen's Christmas Tea Party earlier in December, where both students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the company of all its guests, a number of Year 11 prefects and 6th formers visited The Fircroft Trust for a Christmas afternoon of bingo, prizes, mince pies and cups of tea. Based in Surbiton, The Fircroft Trust is a wonderful organisation that supports people living in the local community suffering from a wide range of mental health issues. It was truly a privilege to spend time with staff and clients there and a fabulous time was had by all!



Christmas Card Sale Raise Money for Cecily's Fund

Cecily's Fund charity Christmas cards featuring the artwork of one of our very own students – namely Year 8 student Thomas Galloway – were sold to both students and staff within the school, raising a respectable £ 90 for the charity. We understand that many more packs were sold online too, which raised more much needed funds for the HIV orphans in Zambia who the charity supports.

Kind Donation from Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

It was then our turn to receive a lovely donation for our own boys. On behalf of Southborough and as part of our community outreach programme, Religious Studies teacher Mr Iles attended a special charity dinner hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community during the run up to Christmas, too. They very generously donated a second sum of money to the school which will be used for the benefit of all our boys. We'd like to thank them very much for their kindness and generosity.



Special Christmas Carol Concert at St Matthew's Church

Finally, to mark the true spirit of the season, a lovely Year 7 and 8 Christmas Carol Service took place at St Matthew's Church, Surbiton, and was a particularly enjoyable event for all concerned. Well supported by parents and carers, our boys put great gusto into their carol singing and the readers, many of whom practised for hours on end, did exceptionally well. Headteacher Mr Smith delivered a wonderful reading from the Gospel of Luke in Russian, which (over-heard by a teacher) led one Year 7 to comment to another student "That was proper quality!" - young people 'speak' for "Pretty impressive, eh?!"



The 6th form Orchestra was outstanding, performing at the start and end of the service. A number of 6th formers also joined the B Sharps, who delivered a very jolly rendition of Coventry Carol. What was especially lovely was the spontaneous carol singing of our boys at the end of the service. They just couldn't help but sing along to the orchestral music as everyone was making their way out! A big thank you must go to our new Head of Music Mr Chawal for the great job that he did of making the event such a success, together with Mr Burns, Ms Geering and Mr Swinchin-Rew for organising and co-ordinating the afternoon. Guests were extremely generous with their cash donations at the end of the service and a further £200 was raised for charity.

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH!

As we now make a positive and upbeat start to this New Year, we'd like to say a very BIG THANK YOU to all students, parents, carers and staff who poured so much of their time, energy and generosity into making the Southborough Christmas season a period where so much goodwill was created for those who needed it the most. Wishing you all a Happy 2019!