



## Message from the Headteacher

### **Cardinal Hume successfully granted funding for government solar panel project**

Take a look at this article, featuring some excellent news for our school.

[Full list of North East schools with solar panel funding in new government project | Chronicle Live](#)

This announcement is very welcome. Schools have seen rising energy costs rising in recent years, and we take seriously our duty as stewards of our environment. By harnessing solar power on our rooftop, we'll be able to drive energy costs down, meaning more funds can be spent in the classroom on our pupils, and reduce our impact on the planet.

### Exceptional student, in the spotlight

Abigail Matthew (Year 9)

As this month of remembrance draws to a close, I would like to share this poem, written by Abigail, for our whole school service on 7th November. As I am sure you can appreciate, the school community was deeply moved by this beautifully crafted piece, which is laced with such powerful imagery:

**Mud-streaked faces, eyes narrowed with dread,  
Where barbed-wire angels, fear to tread.  
The sky hangs low, a canvas of grey,  
Shells paint fire on the break of day.**

**The thunder of guns, a ceaseless roar,  
Whispers of comrades who live no more.  
Rats scurry fast through the midnights moan  
Each fearful heartbeat echoes like stone.**

**The stench of sweat, of blood, of fear.  
Rotting flesh - yes, death draws near.  
Cordite hangs in the morning mist,  
While hope fades beneath the sulphur's twist.**

**A mouthful of grit, a swallow of dust.  
Stale biscuits and water, tinged with lead,  
The taste of home, a taste so raw...  
I've never tasted such anguish before.**

Well done, Abigail, and thank you for sharing this with our school community.

Mr Robson



## Winter Concert: A Showcase of Student Talent!

### **Winter Concert**

Our annual Winter Concert will take place on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The pupils have been working hard to prepare an entertaining evening of music, songs and dance, and there's even a sneak preview of the school production. If you would like to kick start your festive season, you can get tickets from the music department for £4 each.

## Reverse Advent Calendar

Many of you will be familiar with the reverse advent calendar that we run in school each year; this is where instead of opening a window to receive something each day in December, we give to others through donations to our local food bank at Corpus Christi Church instead. Due to your incredible support since 2020, we have been able to donate hundreds of boxes of food to benefit people in the local community!

Monday 1st December will see the launch of this year's collection, with a stall being set up in the atrium so pupils can drop off any donations from 8.30 each morning. To gather as varied a range of items as possible, we will again run a different theme each week. For week one, the food bank has asked that we support their selection box appeal, where they aim to provide a Christmas treat to the children of all families who use their services. Consequently, we will focus our collection next week on selection boxes.

We understand that not everybody is in a position to donate and there is certainly no obligation to do so, but please be assured that every single item given, no matter how small, will be greatly appreciated by somebody else this Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Miss Carr and Mrs Proctor

## Forthcoming Events: Save the Dates!

**Calendar limitations mean alternative dates or arrangements for parent/subject staff consultation are not possible**

<b>All Years</b>	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December, Carol Service in School Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, school will end for all students at 2.15pm for the Y11 Parents' Evening
<b>Y7</b>	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April, a School Cloud, online based Parents' Evening with a range of subject teachers 3.30-6.30. Booking arrangements will be sent in due course.
<b>Y8</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May a School Cloud, online based Parents' Evening with a range of subject teachers 3.30-6.30. Booking arrangements will be sent in due course.
<b>Y9</b>	<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December, a School Cloud based Parents' Evening with a range of subject teachers, 3.30-6.30. Booking arrangements will be sent to Y9 Parents.</b> Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February, Year 9 Options Information Evening
<b>Y10</b>	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, a School Cloud, online based parents' evening with a range of subject teachers 3.30-6.30. Booking arrangements will be sent in due course.
<b>Y11</b>	W/B 9 <sup>th</sup> December, Mock exams. Revision files have been issued. Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, Year 11 Parents' Evening. A face-to-face event.
<b>Y12</b>	Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March, Parents' Evening on School Cloud 3.30pm- 6.30pm



# Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

## December Attendance Competition

We will once again be running our annual December attendance competition. For the 15 school days of December, we will award tokens for full weeks of attendance and for any noted improvements in attendance. On the last day of term there will be a prize draw and gift vouchers will be awarded to the winners in each year group.

You have to be in to win!

## Persistent Absence

Please continue to use the attendance section of the Cardinal Hume Parent APP to track your child's attendance, with the aim of every child meeting our attendance target of 97%. Please note that an attendance rate below 90% is classified as persistent absence. The school will contact parents and carers of students whose attendance falls below this threshold or is approaching it.

## Further notes for parents from the NHS

- Mild illness & attendance: Children with minor symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough should generally still attend school, unless they have a high temperature or feel too unwell to participate.
- Anxiety & wellbeing: Mild or moderate anxiety can be a normal part of growing up, and being in school often helps children manage it better than staying at home.
- Importance of routine: Regular attendance supports both learning and social development, and prolonged absence can make returning harder.
- Support for families: Cardinal Hume Catholic School will continue to work with parents to address concerns, offering reassurance and practical help where needed.

Please remember, the academic and personal education of your child is achieved by school and home working together. By highlighting attendance issues, working with young people and families to improve them, the Attendance and Welfare Team only have the very best interests of your child at heart. Together, we are preparing your child for both academic success and for the world of work.

Let us walk  
in the **LIGHT**  
of the **LORD!**

*(Isaiah 2:1-5)*

