# AUSIIIN 23/24





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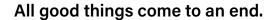
I'm looking forward to joining such a close community.

I am absolutely passionate about education, and believe that it is not just something that's tied to the classroom in a traditional sense.

Whether your child excels on a stage, music floor, art department or sports arena, we want to make the most of their interests and help to explore their potential.

The variety of opportunities at Austin Friars are wonderful, and I can't wait to meet you all soon.

Chris Hattam
Headmaster (2024-)



I have had the honour of serving as your Headmaster for the last 12 years, and have thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

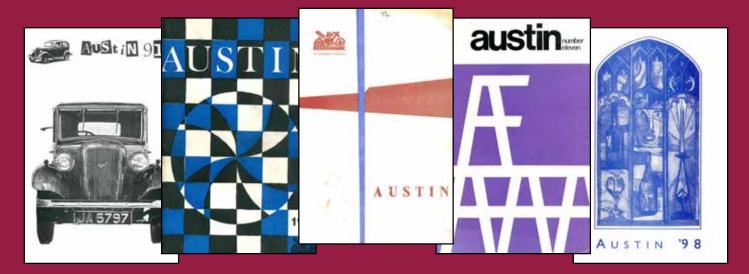
From speech days to musical performances, sporting competitions and art showcases, the raw talent shown by Friars pupils is uncommon and seriously impressive.

I look back on my days at Friars fondly and will miss you all.

Matt Harris Headmaster (2012-2024)







# WELCOME TO



# AUSTIN 23/24



For decades, Austin Friars pupils and staff have compiled the previous academic year's events, activities and excitement into an action-packed Austin Magazine. We hope that you enjoy seeing what our pupils got up to over the last year!



# **MICHAELMAS TERM**









# LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS



This year's Senior School production was the 'blooming' marvellous Little Shop of Horrors!

A huge congratulations to all our pupils and staff involved, especially all the cast and behind-the-scenes backstage crew.











1st Form pupils travelled to Brathay in Ambleside for a three-day residential. They spent time getting to know each other and their tutors while challenging themselves and supporting their peers. They reflected on what it meant to be part of the Austin Friars community and how our core values of Unitas, Veritas and Caritas play a part in their lives.





50 pupils from 4<sup>th</sup> Form to VI Form enjoyed a jam-packed trip to Berlin, visiting numerous sites of historical significance - including the former concentration camp at Sachsenhausen, the Brandenburg Gate, underground bunkers from the Second World War and the Cold War, the German Resistance Memorial Centre and the Spy Museum.











## JUNIOR SCHOOL

# MUSIC FESTIVALS

## **SENIOR SCHOOL**



Our Junior School pupils performed with real gusto and enthusiasm during their House Music Festival. Audience members were treated to a variety of individual and small group performances ahead of the House Singing Competition in Chapel which concluded the event. Bede House were announced as overall winners, and Aidan House were crowned victorious in the House Singing Competition for their rendition of 'Hakuna Matata'.









Pupils competed in a number of instrumental and singing classes to earn points for their Houses in the Senior School's annual House Music Festival. The festival culminated in the 'House Shout' singing competition, which Stafford House won for the fifth year in a row. Clare House were the winners of the overall festival, and all those who performed showed great House spirit!



#### **MICHAELMAS TERM**

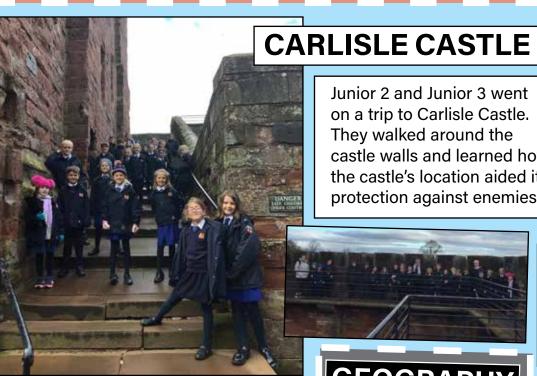
## PERFECT PIZZAS





Pre-School and Kindergarten pupils had a brilliant time at Pizza Express in Gretna and discovered where their food comes from as part of their learning about Harvest Festival.





Junior 2 and Junior 3 went on a trip to Carlisle Castle. They walked around the castle walls and learned how the castle's location aided its protection against enemies.



We could see Austin Friars from up here!



Their favourite part was being on top of the castle walls - where they could see the whole city, including the Senior School building!

IGCSE Geography pupils visited Newcastle and Gateshead to complete fieldwork assessing contemporary urban regeneration. They used a range of qualitative and quantitative methods to collect data on the environment including environmental quality assessments, questionnaires, land use mapping surveys and field sketch techniques. They also enjoyed some Physical Geography when they were treated to some heavy rainfall and an Arctic blast during the day!





There was an enormous amount of talent on display in the Chapel as the Autumn Recital took place, giving pupils the opportunity to showcase their musical skills in front of an audience made up of fellow pupils, staff members, parents and guests.















# FIREWORKS DISPLAY



The PTA at Austin Friars organised an incredible fireworks display for pupils, parents and staff to enjoy on a cold November night. The cups of hot chocolate were well received by the crowd!









# **MURAL CREATION**

Angry Dan (a British poet, painter and illustrator, renowned for his vibrantly illustrated limerick street paintings) spoke to pupils about his career and led workshops before creating a specially commissioned mural inspired by the school's core values of Unitas, Veritas and Caritas.





# **LENT TERM**



# FREEZING FRENCH



Pupils made good use of the January snow showers - with the EYFS making snowmen and snow angels, and 3rd Formers using the blank snowy canvas to write their opinions about the snow in French - very creative!





# **MALHAM COVE**

As part of their research into limestone environments and tourism, 3rd Form visited White Scar Caves and Walham Cove to view stalactites, stalagmites, flowstones, and pillars. They also saw the limestone pavement where Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows was filmed!







#### **LENT TERM**







# FINE ART RESTORATION

Junior 4 pupils supported their class work based around the topic of 'street art' by visiting Fine Art Restoration Co. They explored various ways of restoring artwork and artifacts whilst being exposed to different techniques, styles, and genres.





FILL SE



The competition at this year's Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival was tough, but our Junior and Senior School pupils gave it their all - winning in a number of categories including choric prose speaking, solo verse speaking, bible reading, orchestra, and boys' vocal solo.













## **BILBAO TRIP**

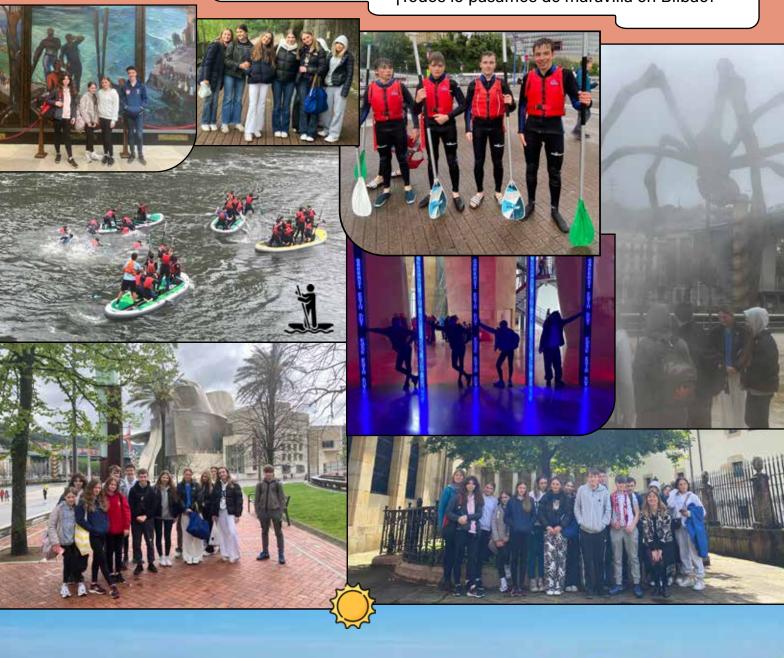




## **LENT TERM**

Pupils enjoyed a week of fabulous sunshine in the Basque Country, and experienced school life at Colegio Urdaneta (Augustinian partner school) with students' families. They took part in surf lessons, a football match in the Athletic Stadium, spent time on the beach and visited San Sebastián. Boat trips along the river, surfing and paddle boarding Big Sup, visiting the Guggenheim Museum and more. The group spent their final day discovering the history of the Spanish Civil War bombing of Guernica in 1937.

¡Todos lo pasamos de maravilla en Bilbao!







Despite the wet weather conditions, our Junior and Senior School pupils all dug deep and showed real determination for their Houses during their respective Cross Country events. They did themselves proud - which made the hot chocolates afterwards all the more rewarding. A very well done to everyone for taking part in the competitions!













# **CAREERS WEEK**



As part of National Careers Week, Ms Care organised and hosted an inaugaral Careers Day event with the help of local businesses, universities and apprenticeship providers. A series of guest speeches took place throughout the day, and teamwork challenges (including obstacle courses and bleep tests) were hosted for 1st to 3rd Formers.















# **EASTER CRAFTS**

EYFS parents were invited into our Junior School to take part in a fun-filled Easter activity afternoon with their children. Activities included biscuit and cake decorating, seed planting, colouring, an outdoor Easter picture hunt and more.









Junior 4 took part in a sponsored walk and school sleepover to raise important funds and awareness for Carlisle Eden Mind. Thanks to generous donations received online and in-person, the pupils managed to raise an incredible total of £1015.50! The money went towards offering mental health support, information, advice, and local services.



3rd Form pupils visited the Augustinian Sisters at Boarbank Hall in Allithwaite, Cumbria. After listening to Sister Margaret speak about how we can find peace in our own lives, they enjoyed a walk around the stunning gardens and learnt more about themselves by discussing how St. Augustine's life relates to people in today's world.





With some extremely close finishes, and lots of support from the parents and pupils spectating, Pre-School and Kindergarten pupils each completed the Tour De Friars course with a good amount of skill, control and smiles!



Pre-School and Kindergarten took part in a thrilling afternoon of sporting events at the EYFS Sports Day including an obstacle course, bean bag sprints, a teddy bear relay and more. With cake and juice waiting at the finish line for the children (and their parents), there was no better way to enjoy the beautiful sunshine!









Junior School's Sports Day track events finally took place after an initial washout on their first proposed date, and early showers on their second attempt! A number of novelty races took place before moving onto sprint races, relays and a multi-relay.







While a morning of bad weather put the Senior School Sports Day at risk of cancellation for a second time, safety checks went ahead and a revised programme (featuring only track events) was able to take place. A number of exciting races got underway, and all pupils from the Senior School ran in at least one event.









## **SUMMER TERM**





# FIVER CHALLENGE



Eight groups of 4th Formers started with just £5, and were asked to turn it into as much money as possible over the course of 6 weeks. The pupils tackled the challenge in creative ways - including bake sales, games such as 'quess the sweets in the jar,' selling ice creams, and more. The top-earning group raised a staggering £173, with profits made from all groups totalling at £504.96. The profits were split between a treat for the pupils, and a donation to a charitable cause.

# **PUPPY THERAPY**







Three adorable cockapoos were more than happy to meet 5th Formers and U6th students before their exams started, helping them to relieve stress with fluffy cuddles and paw-some playtime!



Farewells were paid to the John Peel building, a key part of our school's grounds since 1961, to make way for the construction of a modern indoor sports facility, set to be completed in 2025. The John Peel building had a number of different uses throughout its 60-year lifespan at the School - including a gym, cinema, VI Form common room, exam hall, and art department.



# AUGUSTINIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE



#### **SUMMER TERM**

Austin Friars pupils joined forces with international students from Spain and Czechia for a week of exciting activities, challenges and learning - all inspired by Augustinian values of Unitas, Caritas and Veritas. The conference fostered lasting friendships and memorable experiences, with many of the pupils keeping in touch after everyone had gone home.









# **ARTS EVENING**



The Austin Friars community showcased their creativity at the Annual Arts Evening. Pupils from a range of year groups took part in a number of performances - including gymnastics (key steps, U9 and U11 pairs and individuals), drama (monologues, duologues and coursework pieces), dance, a music recital and more. Recent artwork and projects were also on display in the art and DT areas.



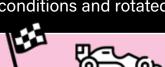




#### **SUMMER TERM**

# **CROFT RACING**

The 'Austin Flyers' racing team competed in an actionpacked Formula 24 event against a number of schools from across the country. The crew battled through wet conditions and rotated between driving and pit crew roles.



























## **BEE WORKSHOP**

The Junior 2 and 3 classes learned about the importance and different roles of bees, taught by Libby from Bees in the Trees. She brought approximately 20,000 honey bees into the classroom, and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed making candles out of bees wax!





# SPANISH STYLES

After learning how to say clothing item names in Spanish lessons, a class of 2nd Formers organised their very own catwalk fashion show and put their skills into practise. A fun and incredibly useful way to learn!





## **SUMMER TERM**



# **SAN GIMIGNANO RETREAT**

4th Form pupils visited San Gimignano, an Italian hill town in Tuscany with a wealth of history and Augustinian links.

The children and staff stayed in the Convento di Sant'Agostino - a building which has stood since the late 1200s and continues to house traditional Augustinian friars to this day.

Alongside eating lots of pizza and gelato, climbing the Torre Grossa, swimming pool and water park daytrips, and taking classic photos 'holding' the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the 4th Form also learned about the history of St Augustine and discovered his importance within Catholicism.







2nd Formers teamed up with Austin Friars' sister Augustinian school in Prague and spent time with their pupils, exploring the city and planting trees in a nearby forest.

Friars pupils had the opportunity to visit museums, parks, forests, the John Lennon Wall, St. Vitus Cathedral, Prague Castle and the main city.

The pupils also developed some very important life skills during the retreat - like buying in a supermarket, using a different currency than pounds, going on adventurous walks, trying different foods, meeting new people and learning words and expressions in another language.



## THE LION KING

## **SUMMER TERM**



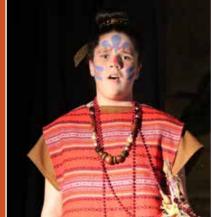
Our Junior School's performance of 'The Lion King' was a roaring success! The pupils worked hard throughout the year to learn their lines, practise their singing and nail their dance moves - and it all paid off, with two sold-out performances taking place in the New Hall for parents and onlookers to see.



















The annual Summer Recital showcased a wide range of musical talent – with pupils performing individual songs on piano, alto saxophone, flute, trombone, cornet and more. Performances included classical compositions such as Mozart's 'Concerto in D' (1st movement) and Cimarosa's 'Allegro', as well as contemporary arrangements like Abba's 'Thank You for the Music' and 'Under the Sea' from The Little Mermaid. Several groups also performed including 'Some Strings Attached', the Brass Ensemble, Senior Choir, and our Swing Band.

# **SUMMER RECITAL**









## **SUMMER TERM**

## **LOWER SCHOOL BALL**

The sun made an unexpected (but welcomed) appearance as pupils from 1st to 3rd Form arrived for their annual Lower School Ball. They sat down to enjoy a three-course meal, played games, and danced the night away - a great way to end the week after sitting their end-of-year exams!



# **LEAVERS' BALL**





The U6th Leavers Ball was a wonderful opportunity for parents, students and staff to celebrate the U6th's contributions to Friars over the years, and to wish them well for their next adventures. The new School and House captains, who went through an intense interview process, were announced and badges were handed out by their predecessors.















## **SPEECH DAY**

#### **SUMMER TERM**

After the Headmaster's greeting and a message from the Trustees, this year's prize-giver (Dr Giles Mercer, a former Friars pupil) inspired the entire crowd with anecdotes from his time at the School, and offered words of advice to the U6th leavers.





A number of prizes were awarded across all Senior School year groups - with some notable awards including the Bavidge Memorial Cup (presented to a pupil who has consistently demonstrated the spirit of St Augustine), The Lisa Watson Memorial Prize (presented to a 1st Former who has readily embraced the School's values and is an all-round force for good within the community), and the 'In Omnibus Caritas' Prize (presented to an U6th student who has shown exemplary kindness and generosity in their treatment of fellow pupils).



**BAVIDGE MEMORIAL CUP** 



LISA WATSON MEMORIAL PRIZE



**IN OMNIBUS CARITAS PRIZE** 

Our School Captains (Aidan and Molly) closed the ceremony with some notable memories and stand-out moments, before the closing hymn (Jerusalem) was sung.





























# Good luck to our 2024 U6th leavers!



# JUNIOR SCHOOL **HOUSE REPORTS**

## What an extraordinary year this has been for our school!

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to this year's Aidan House captains, Daisy and Finley, for their exemplary dedication and leadership. Many other Aidan House members also took on important responsibilities including Liberty, Darci, Nicholas, Evan, Charlotte, Josh, and Cole.



The Junior School House Music competition had notable winning performances from Aidan House including singing by Olivia, guitar performances by George and Finley, with Finley also playing the French horn, and clarinet and vocal performances by Evan.

The house song selection was "Hakuna Matata" from The Lion King, Aidan House delivered an exceptional performance, featuring Evelyn as Timon, Evan as Pumba, Olivia as baby Simba, and Liberty as adult Simba. Congratulations to the entire team for winning the

house song trophy for the fifth consecutive year!

Aidan House emerged as the inaugural winners of the termly House Point Cup on two occasions this year. The addition of the red ribbons to the cup was a rewarding experience!

The Carlisle and District Music and Drama Festival is a significant event in the Junior School calendar, This year, several Aidan pupils distinguished themselves with first-place finishes, including Evan, Finley, and George. Second places were also awarded to Phoebe, Evelyn, George and Finley. Congratulations to all the students, from all three houses, for representing our school with such distinction.



Aidan House exhibited exceptional teamwork in several school-wide sporting events and were victorious in many competitions this year - including the J3 & J4 House Hockey competition, House

Netball event, inter-house Cricket tournament, and Junior School Swimming Gala.

The final house event of the year was our Sports Day. Originally postponed due to bad weather, the rescheduled event enjoyed sunny skies. There were some outstanding performances and notable victories, particularly in the infant races.

Our year concluded with the Junior School production of The Lion King, All pupils from Junior 1 to Junior 4 worked diligently, resulting in a fantastic performance.

Aidan House's J4 pupils took on key roles and delivered their lines and vocal solos flawlessly. Special congratulations to the Aidan pupils: Nicholas as young Simba, Finley as King Mufasa, Evan as the evil Uncle Scar, Charlotte as young Nala, Liberty and Daisy as the hilarious Timon and Pumbaa, Darci as the wise Rafiki, and Cole, Alex and Josh as the menacing hyenas.

Well done to all the pupils who participated, you put on a magnificent show!

-Miss Simpson







# What a great year 2023-24 has been for Bede House...

A big thank you to our House Captains, Ben and Cooper, for their leadership role and thank you to all members of Bede who have shown great determination, House Spirit and sporting behaviour in all events.



The House Music event in the Michaelmas term showcased Bede's wonderful musical talents. Well done to all who took part – it takes a lot of courage to perform in front of an audience and be judged on your performance. Thanks to the talent of all our musicians Bede retained the House Music Trophy. Fantastic!



Also in the Michaelmas term, Junior 3 and 4 were busy on the Rugby and Hockey pitches. Both teams came second in the competitions. Well done to all involved.

In the Lent term we faced the Cross Country challenge. Thanks to the fabulous runners in Bede we won the EYFS and Transition/Preparatory race and came joint first in the J3/4 race. These fabulous results secured the win for Bede and we lifted the House Cross Country trophy. Special mention to Finn, Arthur, Harry, Fred, Patrick and Olivia for their superb running!



Also in Lent term, many of Bede took part in the Carlisle and District Music and Drama festival, representing Austin Friars in individual classes.

Well done to Harry, Fred, Samuel, Patrick, Olivia, Francesca, Annie and Carlo for taking part and special congratulations to Olivia and Francesca who placed second in their classes and to Fred who won his class. More sport in Lent as Bede won the House Football in J3/4 and came second in the House Netball.



Finally, in the summer term, Sports Day took place on a glorious sunny Friday morning. Bede continued with their sporting success, winning the Junior races and field events. The result was close as we approached the final event, the Megatastic Relay. Only two points separated the leaders. We set off strongly in the relay and then fell back. However, fabulously strong runs from Annie and Cooper in the final two legs secured the win for Bede.

It was an emotional moment for Mrs Wilson who presented the trophy to the House Captains of Bede, a house she has belonged to for 22 years!

We look forward to more great achievements for Bede in the next year and cannot wait to find out who the new House Captains will be for 2024-5!

## -Miss Donoghue











### **HOUSE REPORTS**



# Cuthbert House has said goodbye to another fantastic year at Austin Friars School.

The academic year could not have started any better - with the appointment of the brilliant role models, Minnie and Lulabelle, as our House Captains. The duo has led us through an exciting year filled with vast amounts of effort and well-deserved success.

In the Michaelmas Term, Junior 3 and 4 boys gave their all in House Rugby and were crowned the victors of the competition, scoring 13 tries in 2 games!

Our success continued as Cuthbert was awarded the House Point Cup just before Christmas. This was to be the start of a fantastic winning streak that lasted all the way to Easter!

In the Lent Term, a fantastic sense of House spirit was shown during the Cross-Country event, and huge efforts were made on a very wintry, soggy day - we were placed 2nd overall, and Cuthbert pupils gave some outstanding performances.

Times Tables Rock Stars was introduced in Maths lessons this academic year, and the children have shown commitment to improving their tables recall ever since. A House competition was created and there was intense competition throughout the Juniors. In the end, Cuthbert were named the victors and our very own House Captain, Minnie, was placed in the top 3 of the individual scorers!



Speech and Drama was also a huge focus during the Lent Term. Pupils in J3 and 4 completed their LAMDA examinations and every Cuthbert pupil achieved either a Merit or Distinction for their efforts. It was also fantastic to see so many children take part in the Music and Drama Festival, both in groups and as individual entries. A special mention goes to Norah, Heidi, and Esme who were all placed 2nd in their speaking classes.

The return of the House Swimming Gala in the Summer Term caused lots of excitement around school and the pupils did a sterling job. Cuthbert was awarded 2nd place overall; very well deserved! It was a case of second time lucky for our Sports Day this year, after rescheduling due to weather conditions. Cuthbert were pleased to be awarded 2nd place overall after finding ourselves 2nd in the field events and Junior races, and 1st place in the infants. The J4's gave an excellent performance in the cricket ball throw, snatching all 3 positions. There were also great performances in the ball throws and long jumps with Cuthberts being placed in most classes. A super event this year!

It was terrific to see so many Junior 4 Cuthberts in 'The Lion King', playing the role of lionesses and hyenas. Chris did a super job as Simba and Freddie's sharp wit as Zazu was hilarious; what a performance from both!

A final thank you to our House Captains who have been dedicated to their roles all year. Cuthbert House is very much looking forward to finding out who will be selected for these positions in September!

## -Miss Boyd



From the very beginning of the academic year, every member of Clare House put their all into House events and competitions.

This set the tone for the entire year and so congratulations go to everyone for their contributions, no matter how small.

The Michaelmas Term was incredibly busy, with every possible moment dedicated toward practice of our House Shout songs, I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing and California Dreamin.

Although it took us a while to get into the swing of things, by the big day our renditions sounded fantastic, with Louisa giving an amazing performance on the flute. Although we didn't win this part of the competition, we did win overall, due to all the members of Clare House that took part in the individual categories over the two days.

Everyone should be immensely proud of themselves, but special mention must go to Louisa, Nathaniel, Alex, Amy, Sean and Sasha who all came first in their categories.

Over the course of the year, Clare had lots of successes in the sporting aspect of House life. The boys took part in Rugby, Basketball and Cricket, the girls in Netball, Rounders and Hockey. We also had Mixed Hockey and Tennis competitions. Although we didn't always come first, our consistency meant that overall, we won the Hunt Shield this year - a fantastic achievement!

Continuing that theme, House Cross Country in the Lent term was an amazing success for Clare. Our Senior teams did particularly well, achieving 1st, 2nd and 3rd places! Therefore, a massive congratulations go to Yolanda, Lara and Imogen for the Girls team and George, Ben and Alex for the Boys team. In the Intermediate and Junior races we also had wins for James, Thalia and Tom, with Sasha and George achieving 2nd places in their events and Poppy, Evie and Ellen 3rd.



Although the field events were cancelled this year due to poor weather, the track events at Sports Day still went ahead in the Summer Term. It was great to see everyone, who was able, take part in at least one race

and the strong House spirit in Clare really was given the chance to shine through.

As a House, Clare performed incredibly well, winning a number of the events including the Junior and Senior Relay, Junior and intermediate Mini Marathon, Junior and Senior 100m and Intermediate and Senior 800m.



Clare House have really shown the best of themselves this year and so everyone should be immensely proud. The House Captains, Yolanda and Sean, have been super role models and have gone above and beyond to ensure success in all the House Events.

A massive thank you also goes to the Clare House tutors for their continued support and dedication to the House.

A fantastic year everyone - great work!

-Mrs Evans







## **HOUSE REPORTS**

# LINCOLN HOUSE

## Despite being the Green Team, we kicked off the House Shout with a rendition of Yellow by Coldplay.

Lincoln's final performance was brilliant with lovely harmonies incorporated. Thank you to everyone who got involved both individuals and form songs. A special mention to our 1st Place performers: Emily playing piano, Ashley on Guitar, Helen playing the violin, Olivia singing, Marco percussion. Lincoln had 6 Junior singing entries, and Joseph stole the show. Special mention to 11L singing Call Me Maybe and 12/13L singing Everybody Wants to Rule the World.

The Senior School production of Little Shop of Horrors at the end of the Michaelmas Term was outstanding and thoroughly deserving of a standing ovation. It was brilliant to watch so many key cast members who are part of Lincoln House, especially Daniel as 'Seymour', Oliver as 'Mr Mushnik' and Ben as 'Bernstein'.

In the House sporting competitions, Junior boys started off strong with a Basketball win in the Michaelmas Term. The Intermediate girls won their Hockey fixture and conceded no goals to Stafford or Clare, and

also won their Netball match. Well played inters!

In the Lent Term, we had some great achievements in House Cross-Country, especially with the Intermediate groups, as the girls and boys were 1st place overall. A special mention to Laura who had an impressive time of 12.23 and Rory with a time of 10.25. The Junior boys were 2nd, Junior girls were 3rd and both Senior girls and boys placed 3rd overall.

It has been rumoured that in terms of sports events Lincoln are summer babies - and our track record would prove that as Lincoln dominated in the summer sporting events. The Senior boys came 1st place in the cricket and Lincoln won every mixed pairs Tennis match in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior competition. A huge congratulations to everyone who took part in Tennis!

Sports Day had to be rescheduled this year, due to a rather Cumbrian consecutive downpour for months! We had track events only, which resulted in winners in the following events: Nina 100m, Sofiia 200m, Laura 800m and Matthew 400m. Well done for demonstrating excellent House Spirit and cheering on each other.

Not only do Lincoln pupils perform well in the sporting fixtures, but in the classroom also! The Academic Shield was awarded to Lincoln House with the most merits and credits awarded. Well done for your diligence throughout the year.



Farewell to 13L, we wish you every success in your future endeavours. A special thank you to Aidan and Romily who have been excellent House Captains. Another raft of thanks for our fabulous Form Tutors: Mr Stubbs, Miss Routledge, Mr Brady, Mr Frizzel, Mr Ord, Mrs Davidson and Ms Cavelier. Still the Green Dream Team! A warm welcome to Mr Bandoni who will be taking over as Head of Lincoln whilst I am on maternity leave in September.

## -Mrs Beattie











# As ever, Stafford has enjoyed a happy and successful year, full of House spirit!

The high point of the first half term is always the House Music Festival and Stafford House members loved performing in a variety of classes. Then came the House Shout! We were worthy winners once again – fifth win in a row, a superb team effort!

In December, the school musical 'Little Shop of Horrors' was a great hit! Anabelle was a brilliant Audrey and Fern, Megan and Alice were cool Ronettes. Valentina and India were sassy dancers alongside the ensemble girls Zara, Maisie, Antonia and Rose. Backstage, Josephine, Michael and Paige played essential roles.

Now to Sport and there's lots of success to report! Competition was fierce between the Senior Girls in House Hockey, but Stafford came out on top. Victory is sweet! In Netball, both the Seniors, with a nail-biting finish and the Juniors won their tournaments. Second place for the Intermediates was a pleasing result too.

Tess, our House Captain, is passionate about Womens' Rugby and she introduced our first Girls' Rugby Tournament.

The Juniors loved it and guess who the overall winners were – STAFFORD!

In the summer, our Senior rounders team came second in what was a very close and exciting competition. The Junior tournament was played on a lovely sunny afternoon and, with a series of half-rounders, we took the win! There was a comfortable victory for the Junior Girls in the cricket competition too. Finally in the Intermediate competition, our girls took second place with Annie scoring the highest number of rounders for Stafford.

Now to boys' sport. The Juniors, despite being a small team, played with lots of commitment in their basketball tournament and came second. In Hockey it was also second place for both the Juniors and Seniors. In Rugby, the Juniors took second place. In Cricket, both our Junior and Intermediate boys batted and fielded to victory.

In Cross-Country, we were delighted to win the trophy for the House with the highest percentage of runners. Stafford Junior Girls won their competition with Antonia winning the race. Our Senior Girls also won their section, with the Senior Boys coming in second. For the Junior Boys and

Intermediates, it was third place. A great afternoon's running!

It was a Sports Day of track events this year. However, whatever the weather, it was Stafford's day, with an overall win for our House. We ran great relays, with wins for the Senior and Junior Girls and Intermediate Boys. There were numerous winners, notably Alice and Jacky in their 100m races and Rauri, Ruby, Piers and Wylie in their 200m races. Freddie and Madeline won their 400m races whilst Isla, Lauren and Fern crossed the finishing line first in their 800m races. Will and Antonia were champions of their minimarathons.

We are particularly proud of the way both Aidan and Molly carried out their roles as School Captains this year. Tess and Mikey were two of the most committed and enthusiastic House Captains I have had the pleasure to work with. Thank you both!

I would also like to thank my colleagues for their hard work and good humour as Stafford tutors.

## -Mrs Boyling







### **SPORTS REPORTS**

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL SPORTS**

## Cricket

The U11 Cricket team played their first fixture of the season in a pairs match against Windermere School. The opposition batted first and scored 230, with the Friars bowlers showing good control over their line and length. In response, our pupils batted with good composure and were able to comfortably pass the Windermere total - finishing on 263 to give victory to Friars by 33 runs!

The U11 Cricket team also took part in the County Hardball Championships at Sedbergh School. The competition was moved indoors due to the weather conditions, but the boys did well to quickly adapt their game to the much faster pace within the sports hall. All of the players showed great progress throughout the day and they acquitted themselves superbly.





## **Hockey**

The U11 Hockey team played a fierce game against Hunter Hall during the Michaelmas term, with some fantastic play from both teams.

All the girls played outstandingly well but Darci and Liberty were voted players of the match; Beth made some spectacular saves throughout the game, and Lulabelle was fearless in defence, making some great tackles. Well done girls!

## Rugby

The boys playing in our U9 and U11 Rugby teams had some exciting fixtures lined up during the 2023/24 academic year, including a game against Windermere Prep School.

It was a great afternoon of rugby with almost 50 children participating in two U11 games and one U9 match.

Both of our U11 teams produced impressive displays with quick handling and evasive running.

Our U9 team, in their second-ever fixture, started slowly but grew into the game and by the end were producing some very impressive rugby.







#### **Swimming**

Six swimmers from Junior 4 represented Austin Friars at the Carlisle Schools Swimming Gala. Liberty won the 50m freestyle, Annie won the 25m backstroke, Jude placed 3rd in the individual 25m freestyle and Josh secured a 3rd place finish in the 25m breaststroke (all in the small school category). A team of Annie, Josh, Jude and Liberty triumphed in the medley relay and Liberty, Jude, Hamish and Finley were victorious in the freestyle relay. As a result, Austin Friars won the overall trophy for small schools.

#### **Cross-Country**

We had teams from Transition to J1 taking part in a Cross-Country competition at Mowden Hall School on a very wet and windy Friday. In the very difficult conditions, all of our runners performed outstandingly well with the vast majority finishing comfortably in the top half of their races. Rory and Olivia both picked up top 10 finishes and Sebby came first in the Year 2 boys' race!





#### **Football**

Our U11 Girls Football team competed at the Carlisle Schools tournament. After making it through the group stage and winning their quarter and semi final games 1-0 and 4-0 respectively, a last minute equaliser in the final forced it into penalties - where the girls held their nerve to win 2-1 and claim the trophy!

#### **Netball**

The girls faced some tough competition at this year's netball fixtures. One of their notable performances was against Hunter Hall School, where it was the first time playing for some of the Junior 3 girls. They made themselves known with quite the introduction - Friars went on to win 17-5!









## SENIOR SCHOOL GIRLS



#### **Hockey**

After a record two National finals in a row and successful runs in the ISC plate, Girls' Hockey continues to grow in popularity, strength and depth. The commitment and enthusiasm for the game has become infectious from Junior School to VI Form. I think the pleasing thing for myself is the enjoyment; whatever the level of the individual, all the girls are willing to show that 'Friars Spirit' and leave it all on the pitch against some tough opposition!

Hockey has continued to develop season after season and this year we had 96.3% of girls represent the School from U12 right through to 1st XI. In fact, 100% of girls represented the school on the pitch in the Lower School, which is just remarkable, and makes me very proud. 45% playing at Northwest level or higher. We've had the most individual players ever at England Hockey Performance Centre, and almost 60% of the girls playing for local clubs.

We have had a record number of girls stepping up in level and more gaining further experience by training with older year groups which has really developed a sense of community between all teams and year groups.

This year the 4th Form players have pushed our seniors to become stronger by fighting for spots in the starting XI and, while we didn't quite make Nationals for the 3rd year running, a strong silver medal at the Northwest finals was thoroughly deserved considering we had to beat last year's U16 T3 National Champions in the County round! A number of our J3 and J4 pupils have experienced U12 competitive fixtures on a Saturday for the first time and Beth even stepped up to U13 level for the ISC plate competition; and was crowned player of the match by Sedbergh! This has meant the standard of Hockey at Friars has really flourished in 2024, with yet another trophy at our 7s beating RGS to the plate with a fantastic goal from Thalia!

The girls also enjoyed an expanding fixture programme, welcoming new opposition from U12 right up to 1st XI, with U13 U15 and U19 teams entering the Smile Independent Schools cup for the 3rd year running.

Both the U13 and U19 teams got to the final 16 of the Plate in the ISC competition, both age groups getting knocked out by strong Sedbergh and Dame Allan teams. We got our own back in the return Dame Allan fixture however with a stunning 5-2 win; with Yolanda playing the game of her Friars career!





#### **Gymnastics**

Gymnastics continues to go from strength to strength in both the Junior and Senior School, with a record number of both boys and girls competing for the school - from key steps right through to National level.

The Senior School had two teams at U14 County Novice level, one at County and one at National Novice level.

All gymnasts at this level have at least one more year at this age group and for some it was their very first gymnastics competition experience.

County Novice was our first competition in November.

As a step-up, a number of the more experienced gymnasts took part in the County championship which offers places to compete at National level. This competition is where the gymnasts are required to show a more complex level of difficulty in their floor work.

The final Senior School competition was the English Schools Novice pairs which was held again in Stoke. The competition includes duo sequences as well as individual floor and vault.

All gymnasts have made significant individual improvement over the year which is testament to their hard work and dedication. Well done everyone!

## **ROUNDERS**

The U12 Rounders team started the season with a match against Trinity. Despite some good batting in our warm-up, Friars struggled to hit the ball. However, we managed to score some half rounders from Lily, Pippa, Romily and Ceriyn and finished on 3 ½ rounders. Trinity batted well and even though Friars fielded well they scored 8 rounders. The second half was different with Friars making numerous hits, putting Trinity under a lot of pressure and forcing errors. Rounders were scored by Leila, Pheobe, Freya, Ceriyn and Pippa. Trinity had a solid second innings. Sasha stayed calm as bowler and Holly made some good fielding decisions that prevented Trinity from scoring. Despite this, Trinity took the win 16-11. Ceriyn was player of the match for her great fielding and batting. The team learnt a lot and are looking forward to their next match.





The U14 Rounders team played in and won a District tournament. In wind and rain they played well beating William Howard 7-2, Trinity 5-4 and Caldew 8-4½. Issy was player of the tournament due to her excellent bowling and her great movement picking up balls and fielding them to the posts to prevent the opposition scoring. Charlotte was top scorer and did well finding gaps in the field. Megan, Sofia and Jemima controlled the posts showing safe hands and stumping out players and preventing many scoring opportunities.

#### **SPORTS REPORTS**

## **SENIOR SCHOOL BOYS**



#### 1st XV

The 1st XV, under the leadership of Mikey and Sean had a baptism of fire against Durham, but bounced back with a hard-fought win over Dame Allan's before travelling to the Silcoates Tournament where a win over Yarm in the final game was just desserts for the tenacity shown by the squad. The U6th boys in their final year couldn't have given any more for the cause, with Freddie's consistency up front being a highlight and Aidan, Ben and George using their talents in the wider channels to great advantage. The core of a talented squad are L6th and there is little doubt that they will build on the considerable successes of this season. The 5th Form boys also acquitted themselves very well and coped with the step-up to Senior Rugby. Logan was a stand-out all season and we are looking forward to seeing him play 2 more seasons at Friars. Alex made his debut for the 1st team later on the in season and showed that he belongs at this level.

#### **U15**

The continued success of the 1st XV will be built on the firm foundations established further down the age groups and it is very pleasing to report that the future is bright for Rugby at Friars. The U15 team impressed by quickly developing a style of play very similar to the 1st XV, showing a good understanding of the game and that there are leaders in the group who are able to steer the team effectively. Oliver and Freddie are 2 such players who play the right way, but also can communicate well with their teammates to ensure that everyone is on the same page. They are given the time and space to do so by the quality service of Will, and by the pack getting the

team on the front foot, with Rory and Bertie being particularly effective and combative in this area of the game.

#### **U14**

The U14 team reinforced that Rugby is in good health, with Nye standing out in the backs with his eye for a gap and tenacity in defence. Ewan worked hard to overcome injury to show that he is a very dangerous runner and Kastor showed, once again, that his superb tackle technique allows him to fell much bigger opponents.

#### **U12**

The youngest squad in the School shows huge promise and we are excited to see their rugby



journey continue. Ben stood out for his bravery in defence, with Alistair and Matthew showing composure and game sense to play in the right areas of the pitch. Toby was a nuisance in the contact area all season, and Jacob and George began to use their physical attributes to great effect with ball in hand. Frankie and Wylie, although in the first year, both showed that this was not going to hold them back, and both showed pace and agility to trouble defenders. Bobby also showed that he has a good rugby brain and understands the importance of being an effective link player.

It was a very good year all round for Rugby at Friars. Saturday fixtures are an integral part of school life allowing the boys and girls the opportunity to be part of a team with the bus journeys being almost as important as the matches. Long may this continue!

## **CRICKET**









#### SPORTS REPORTS



This season for all our teams was badly affected by the weather. None more so than our 1st XI who saw their games against Lancaster Grammar and the MCC both cancelled. The Senior House Cricket was played, however, and won comfortably by Lincoln.

The U15 team also lost half of their games to the weather, but did produce a couple of very pleasing performances.

The U14 team had a great season, losing only one match all season and winning the Carlisle Schools 8-a-side tournament held at Carlisle Cricket Club and then followed this up by winning the T10 competition held at Penrith Cricket Club.

The U13s had an excellent season winning all of their games and reaching the County Cup final which has yet to be played. Unfortunately, their Carlisle Schools competition also fell victim to the weather.

Girl's cricket has continued to develop this year with several girls representing the boys' teams. Our U13 team finished runners-up in the Carlisle Schools tournament and our U15 team finished 3rd in their competition.

The following players were selected to represent Cumbria this year. Matthew, Alistair, Claire, Sam, Oliver.

A special mention must go to Oliver who was selected to represent Cumberland Senior team to play Northumberland in a 3-day County Championship match in Jesmond. This is a fantastic achievement considering his age.



The boys enjoyed a full term of Hockey, and this year achieved some noticeable successes - including winning the U15 county tournament and runners up in the U14s.

In the U14 tournament, goals were scored by Nye with 5 goals, and Piers and Oscar with one each. Joe was magnificent in goal and came off his line well, especially in the final game against Sedbergh. Bertie, Euan, Joe and Kastor also made some brilliant tackles and interceptions, and Oscar, Jake, James and Oliver were also creative in attack.

The U15 team contained some very effective players, in particular Oliver and Will who used their experience and superior skill levels to outwit



### **HOCKEY**

many opponents. Freddie and Oscar were strong in the tackle and supplied a lot of go-forward ball to our attack. Goalkeeper Zach kept the defence in check and made some crucial saves throughout the season.

The U12 and U13 teams also enjoyed some closely contested matches and despite being on the wrong end of results, showed a lot of promise. Hugo and Toby were energetic throughout all games and drove confidently at the opposition, supplying Matthew and Alastair with plenty of attacking opportunities. Ben and Adam worked hard defensively whilst George, Adam, Joe and James grew in confidence and became more influential throughout the season.

The U12s also contained boys who are likely to develop into very effective players, in particular James who plays with confidence and composure.

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# ATHLETICS AND CROSS COUNTRY



#### **Athletics**

Throughout the Athletics season, George had many successes, including winning the 3000m at the Cumbria Schools Championships, representing Cumbria at the Inter-Counties and continually improving his personal best! Based on these results he was rewarded with selection to represent Cumbria, in the 3000m at the English Schools Athletics Championships in Birmingham in July.

In Year 7 we had 3 pupils who represented Carlisle in the County Championships. Keira came 3rd in her 70m hurdles heat and qualified for the 'B' final where she was second. In the 800m Ceriyn ran a good race and, with a great finish down the home straight, finished 11th. In the 100m Frankie qualified for the 'A' final and in very strong competition ran well to finish 5th. At the Cumbria Track and Field Championships in June we had 6 athletes selected to represent Carlisle as they had finished in the top 3 at the City Championships. Evie and Issy both ran strongly to finish just outside the medals in 4th in the 1500m and 75m hurdles respectively. Sofiia K, in the 300m, was 3rd in her heat, just missing out on the final. Laura came 6th in a very competitive 800m. Olivia threw well in the javelin to finish 6th and Lauren was 9th in the shot.

#### **Cross-Country**

We had some good results in the cross-country this season. In muddy conditions, Year 7 City Championships were held at Friars. The following were selected to represent the City at the Cumbria Championships in January: James 2nd, Harry 5th, Sasha 3rd and Ceriyn was 4th. At the Championships all of them finished in the top 12, fantastic runs by all!

In the older age groups City Championships, Nye was our top performer in the Junior Boys, finishing 12th with George not far behind . There were also good runs from Piers, Ben and Henry. In the Junior Girls, Chrissie had a great race working her way through the field to finish 11th. Not far behind were Isla , Poppy and Issy. Sofiia was our only Inter Girl and she paced her race very well to finish in 24th.

In the Inter Boys George TL, led from the gun to take the win. David, Theo and Will also ran strongly to finish 9th, 18th and 22nd respectively. Matthew and Charlie did well in their first crosscountry race for Friars and the team finished 4th overall.

From these results Nye, Chrissie, David and George were selected to compete in the Cumbria Schools Cross-Country Championships. George went on to represent Cumbria in the English Schools Cross-Country Championships where he had a great race.









Netball has continued to go from strength to strength. The season started well with the 1st Netball team, led by Captain Yolanda and Vice-Captain Romily, finishing 3rd in the U19 North Cumbria Netball Tournament. The standard of play from all teams was very high. Friars beat Keswick, Nelson Tomlinson, Lime House and Ullswater. We only lost to Cockermouth and the eventual winners QEGS by one goal. The 1st team also had very competitive matches against Dame Allan's, Giggleswick and QEGS. Based on her high level of skill and leadership Yolanda was rewarded with her Netball School Scarf at the end of the season.

The U14s had a successful season starting with a win at the City Championships, beating all the other teams and scoring 44 goals in total and only conceding 2! This meant they qualified for the County Finals. They were in a very competitive section and every match was incredibly close. They started very well beating Windermere and then just lost to Appleby.

They went on to beat eventual group winners Keswick and lost by 1 goal to Ullverston. Unfortunately, we missed out on the play-offs by 1 point. During the season the U14 team went on to beat Mowden and Giggleswick in some very exciting, close matches.

The U16 team also won their City Tournament, beating all the opposition and scoring an impressive 50 goals! At the County Finals the standard was extremely high and our girls were put under a lot of pressure. However, every single player rose to the challenge and, as a team, they demonstrated skill and determination. We were runners-up in our section and narrowly lost our semi-final and the 3rd/4th play-offs to finish 4th.

Throughout the season both the U12 and U13 teams improved their skills and tactics and in their City tournaments they finished 3rd.





This means both the boys and the girls teams go through to the play-offs in September.





#### **Tennis**

Well, it has not been tennis weather this season! Both our U15 Boys and Girls teams had to play Sedbergh twice, one home and one away – the last one in torrential rain! For the boys, both fixtures went down to a shoot out which Friars won on both occasions, which means they took the overall win. Well done to Oliver, Piers, Oscar and Jake.

In the girl's competition each team won one match, but, based on games won, Friars took the win. Well done to Charlotte, Hattie, Ellen, Olivia and Rose.



The poor weather meant not all fixtures could be played in the U13 Boys and Girls Competitions. However, the boys team did win their group which meant they faced Windermere in the finals, which they unfortunately lost. After some great games, the girls finished 2nd in their group.



Pupils ranging from 4th Form to U6th took the trip of a lifetime as they ventured across South Africa on the School's 2024 Hockey and Rugby Tour.

Matches were played against Groote Schuur High School, Hoërskool Strand, Fairmont

High School and Parklands College.















A special shoutout to **Ast Signs** for sponsoring
and providing our tour kits
for South Africa, as well
as the hockey and rugby
1st team kits which will be
used for the next 3 seasons.







The pupils ziplined across Cape Canopy, met and danced with locals, saw some exotic animals during a safari tour at Garden Route Game Lodge, learned about Cape Town on an open-top bus tour, and made countless memories. They also raised £1000 which was donated to The Goedgedacht Trust, an organisation which helps to transform disadvantaged rural communities and their children through education.































## **CHAPLAINCY**

As the school chaplain, it is my great pleasure to reflect upon the past year and the ways in which the spiritual life of our community has been supported and enriched. The year has been a tapestry of spiritual growth, charitable endeavours, and communal worship, woven together with the threads of our Augustinian heritage and our commitment to living out the principles of unitas, veritas, and caritas.

I'd like to start with one of my own favourite activities of the year and that has been story time with Pre-School and Kindergarten on Friday mornings. It has simply been a delight to share bible stories with such a wonderful and engaging group of children and to hear their simple prayers which have developed so wonderfully over the year. It has been really joyous!

On a very different but equally enjoyable level, another rewarding aspect of my role as the Anglican Chaplain of our Augustinian School has been working alongside Catholic and Augustinian clergy to provide spiritual direction and lead worship. The collaboration among these different traditions has been a profound testament to our shared faith and a powerful witness to our students of the beauty found in diverse expressions of Christianity.

Throughout the year, our children have participated in a variety of spiritual activities: individual prayer has been encouraged and facilitated, allowing students to develop a personal relationship with God. I've been running an Anglican confirmation class for a small group of students who wish to affirm their faith, with sessions that look at the teachings of the church and the meaning of commitment to a life of faith.

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Termly masses have been a highlight, bringing together the entire school to celebrate the Eucharist. These masses, led by clergy from our different traditions, have enriched our understanding of the universal church and fostered a sense of unity and reverence. Daily prayers, held in house assemblies, and whole school chapel services, have provided a rhythm of reflection and gratitude, grounding our daily activities in spiritual mindfulness.

Whole school worship has been an extraordinary experience, with moments of collective prayer and song that resonate through our chapel and into the school hallways. These gatherings are pivotal in cultivating a strong sense of community and spiritual connection.

Living out the principle of caritas has been at the forefront of our chaplaincy efforts, and we have worked to support the charities committee in various charitable activities, embodying the call to serve others.

Our chaplaincy's commitment to fostering global connections has been exemplified through the work of our Augustinian Ambassador and our international links with schools and communities in Spain, Prague, and San Gimignano. These partnerships have enriched our school community by providing opportunities for cultural exchange, shared learning experiences, and joint worship.

The highlight of this was a joint service at the end of our school year, where students and staff from three visiting schools joined us in the school chapel and led prayers and reflections, celebrating our shared faith despite cultural and geographical differences.





In San Gimignano, Italy, our 4th form students explored the historical and spiritual significance of this beautiful medieval town with its strong Augustinian roots. The whole visit, while full of fun activities and exciting adventures was also reflective and thought provoking, fostering a profound sense of unity and shared purpose.

Embracing our Augustinian heritage, each year group has participated in experiences designed to deepen their understanding of St. Augustine's teachings and how they apply to our lives today.

Local visits and short residentials have focused on ideas of friendship, love, and community, inspired by St. Augustine's writings. In-house retreats have looked at the pursuit of truth and the importance of self-reflection, exploring how these values can guide the children's personal growth and interactions with others and at all times we look at how the children can embody the principles of unitas, veritas, and caritas in their lives.

Chaplaincy has also been dedicated to supporting not only our students but also their families and our staff. Recognising that the well-being of our entire school community is interconnected, we have offered various forms of support and spiritual guidance.

For our staff, regular prayer meetings, spiritual retreats, and one-on-one pastoral care have provided much-needed spaces for reflection and renewal. These opportunities have helped our teachers and staff to nurture their own spiritual lives, which in turn, enriches their ability to support our students.

Families are invited to participate in worship services and celebrations as often as possible - the Junior School for example have enjoyed growing numbers of parents at the regular chapel worship on Friday afternoons, and as chaplain I always try to

CHAPLAINCY

make myself as present and

available as possible to parents and families during these occasions and at the beginning and end of the school day.

All of these occasions work to strengthen the bond between the school and our students' families, creating a supportive and inclusive community where everyone feels valued and connected.

One of the core values of our chaplaincy is inclusivity. We are committed to being a spiritual presence for everyone in our school community, regardless of their faith background. Our chaplaincy is a place where all are welcome, and we strive to create an environment where every individual feels respected and supported in their spiritual journey.

In conclusion, this year has been a testament to the strength and vitality of all those who support the chaplaincy and the spiritual development of our children in school. Through the knowledge and skill of our visiting clergy, the active participation of our students, and the unwavering support of our staff and families, we have created a community where the values of unitas, veritas, and caritas are lived out daily.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the life of our chaplaincy this year. Your commitment and enthusiasm have made a profound impact, and I look forward to continuing this journey with you in the years to come.

With every blessing, Rev. lan, Chaplain





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