

From the Headmaster: Weekly Update – 15/12/23

Dear Parents

It was a genuine pleasure to watch the 1st XV defeat Bradford Grammar School under floodlights at Charlton RFC last Friday night. This was the first time for some years that we have emerged victorious in this annual fixture - huge credit to the team and particularly to Y13 players for whom this was their final fixture of the season.

Congratulations also to Esme (Y9) who won a [Highly Commended Award at the Royal Geographical Society's Young Geographer of the Year](#) event for her entry on this year's theme which was A Blueprint for the Future. Esme's winning entry took the form of an A3 poster on Low-Carbon Housing, a sector which is crucial in combating the effects of climate change. Her detailed poster contained an outline of how the construction industry contributes to carbon emissions, and her blueprints for solutions, from water efficiency and low-carbon building materials to renewable energy sourcing and town planning.

School trips over the last week have included the Modern Languages tour of the Christmas Markets of Aachen and Lille, and a History A-level visit to Paris connected to study of the French Revolution.

The annual Carol Service in St Mary's Lewisham on Tuesday evening was a delightful occasion. Huge thanks to Father Steve Hall, Mr Newberry, Mrs Smith and others for all that they did to make the event so successful. Individual musical performances, including those of Louisa, Maria and Ludwig, were of a particularly high standard.

The Year 7 instrumental concert on Wednesday evening was also memorable. It was lovely to see how much progress our youngest senior school pupils had made in just a year with their new instruments and great to see so many parents present to support.

Term ended today with carols in the junior school playground. The Senior School assembly enjoyed an update on this year's House Competition and ended with an (almost) spirited rendition of the School Song. I look forward to seeing all pupils back in school next term.

With best wishes to all for a Happy Christmas and a great New Year.

Richard Russell
Headmaster