



WELCOME to the Christmas edition of our Year 7 newsletter. I'm sure you will agree that it has been a very busy half term, with lots of events in which Year 7 participated, and which we are able to celebrate in this newsletter. The culmination of this was the Year 7 Christmas Disco - it was great to see pupils enjoying themselves at the end of their first term at secondary school, and I'm sure you will enjoy looking back at some of the photographs from the event included in this edition. **Miss Thursby and Mrs Evans**

REMEMBRANCE

Year 7 participated in the school's act of Remembrance, assembling outside B Block to commemorate the fallen with a minute of silence. In addition, Declan Lewis (7S), Dominic Henson (7S), Rhianne Carine (7B) and Oliver Peacock (7L) gave up their lunchtimes in the run-up to the event to produce the beautiful artwork pictured, displayed at the front of school in November.



CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Year 7 tutor groups made an outstanding contribution to the school's recent Christmas Fair in aid of the charity Classrooms in the Clouds. As a result of their varied stalls, from cupcake decorating, to tombolas, guessing the number of sweets in the jar and 7Ds 'Hot Chocolate Extravaganza' (pictured), Year 7 were the best represented year group at the event. Well done!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

During November, the Sixth Form organised a collection point for shoebox donations to Operation Christmas Child. 7G worked together to produce 4 beautiful boxes, towards which each member of the form made a contribution. A special mention goes to Isaac Berry, for the excellent effort he put into the project.



CAROL SERVICE

There were some wonderful contributions to the school Carol Service at Chester Cathedral last week. Well done to all the Year 7 students who sang as part of the Year 7 mass choir, as well as to those who were in Pre-Assemble and Vox.

HOW TO...SUPPORT YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL WELLBEING The BBC has created a wellbeing smartphone app called 'Own It' that is designed to offer young people help and support when online and using messaging apps. The app monitors what they are posting and uses AI to offer advice about responsible online interaction. It also aims to help children manage the amount of time they spend looking at their screen. The app has been welcomed by psychologists and children's charities, including the Mental Health Foundation, the Anti-Bullying Alliance, the NSPCC, the Diana Award and Childnet, and comes at a time when research shows increasing concerns over mobile phone use in young people. More information can be found at <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>.

Food Bank Appeal

7S planned and delivered their form assembly at the start of the half term. Their theme was 'Harvest' and they delivered a thought-provoking assembly that encouraged pupils to consider how others may not be as fortunate as them, particularly in the run-up to Christmas. Year 7 were then challenged to bring in donations for the West Cheshire Foodbank. Miss Thursby and Mrs Evans delivered the food collected to the warehouse in the last week of term. The total donation weighed in at over 36kg!



BEST UPDATE

Total BEST points awarded to Year 7 students so far this year – 23 878. This is more than 5000 more BEST points than any other year group!

Every tutor group already earned over 3000 BEST points each. 7L and 7D have both nearly achieved 4000 BEST points each!

29 students have now achieved over 150 BEST points each. Well done to Oscar Lilley (7H) and Poppy Moore (7D) who both have over 200 BEST points each!

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Tallulah Roberts (7L), Lili Griegel (7C) and Emily Mason (7H) who were selected at random from the 58 pupils in Year 7 who had 100% attendance this term to receive reward vouchers.

Sami Berkia Nadif (7C), Finlay Lewis (7S) and Kieran O'Connor (7B) who were chosen at random from over 120 Year 7 pupils who had received no C3 consequences this term to receive reward vouchers.

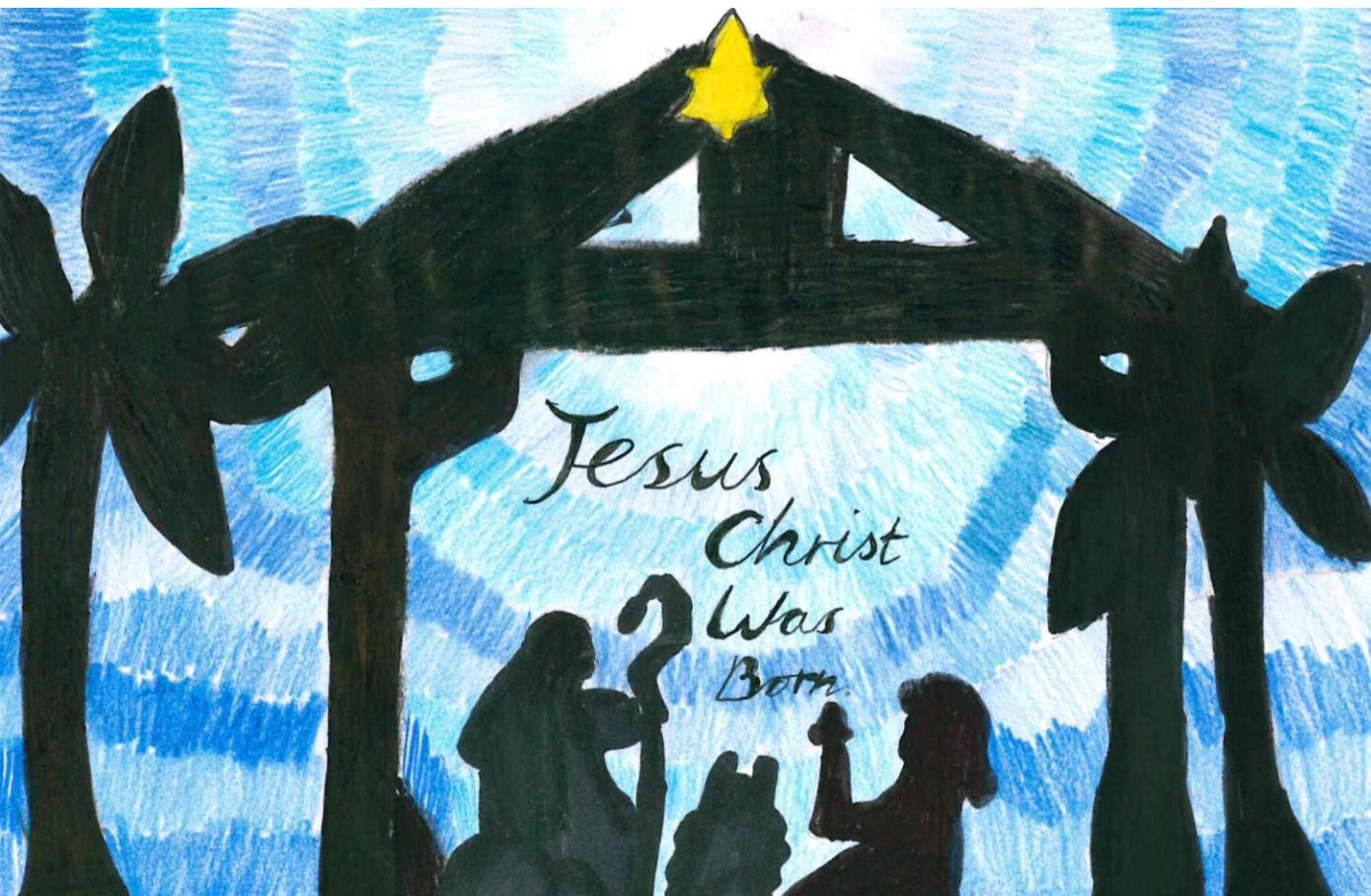
Lewis Barratt (7C) who has collected gold medals and county times at recent swimming galas.

George Bottomley (7C) competed at the Supadance National Grand Finals in Blackpool at the end of November, where his team won their whole event!

All the students from Year 7 who were awarded an invitation to the 2020 Oxford Computing Challenge, as a result of them ranking in the top 10% nationally in the Bebras Competition undertaken during their ICT lessons.

Sarah Coan (7B) who won the Year 7 Christmas card competition. Her design (included at the end of the newsletter) was sent to all of our feeder primary schools, with messages from our students included.

Amelia Trenholm (7G) and Laura Martinez (7S) who put a lot of hard work into creating and practicing a gymnastics routine, before showing it at the Chester and District Gymnastics Display.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Year 7 team!