



BEDLINGTON
Academy



BULLETIN DEC
2023



WINTER

A message from our headteacher...

Despite some extreme weather, the dark nights and mornings, and the usual winter illnesses, our students have shown great determination and resilience this term. Students have worked hard, shown great kindness to each other, and made the most of the many opportunities on offer. They have really impressed us with their talents, enthusiasm and creativity.

Our new Year 7s have settled into school life brilliantly and we have been impressed by the maturity and determination shown by our Year 11 students as they have completed their mock exams; a strong foundation upon which they will build next year as they approach their GCSE examinations. It has been great to see so many parents and carers at our information evenings and progress evenings too; our students' success is very much dependent on the support they (and we) receive from you.

This Christmas season we have enjoyed so many festive events in school. A highlight has been our 'very Frozen' Christmas concert - a wonderful collaboration with some of our local primary schools which hundreds of you came out in the coldest of weather to see, and testament to the real sense of community which exists in this school and beyond.

Our talented musicians have also been giving back to the community by carolling in local care homes and churches. Our Sixth Form Executive students have been busy fundraising for the most worthy of local causes, and we are always amazed by the generosity of our school community in your donations (once again, thank you). Our students have also taken a lead role in organising our Senior Citizens' Christmas lunch this year, which was an absolute delight. Whilst we are certainly true to the belief that it is better to give than to receive, it has also been lovely to see our students enjoying some festive treats, from Christmas Jumper Day to our wonderful Christmas Dinner, to celebration movie trips for our award winners.

Christmas is a time for family. We are aware that for some people that provides wonderful memories, excitement and fun. For others, that can be uncomfortable and difficult, and we acknowledge that as well. Whatever you have planned for this festive season, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year.

J Lamb **Joanna Lamb**, Head of School

In this issue...



12 Days of Christmas

Students and staff got into the festive spirit in the lead up to Christmas!



Fab fundraising

This term saw students support charities such as Macmillan and Children in Need.



Remembrance Day

Our brilliant cadets supported our ceremony to mark Remembrance Day



Tasty work!

Our budding chefs have been cooking up a storm this term

12 Days of Christmas

This term saw everyone at Bedlington Academy get well and truly into the Christmas spirit with our 12 days of Christmas timetable.

Students decorated our Christmas tree, took part in quizzes, performed in festive open mic sessions and spread cheer with lovely Christmas messages.

We'd also like to thank our wonderful catering team who have worked tirelessly to provide a fantastic Christmas lunch for senior citizens from our local community, as well as our own staff and students. They served around 420 Christmas dinners in total!

We have loved celebrating the festive season together and would like to thank the families of our students for their involvement in our food bank collection. Your generous donations will support local families struggling this Christmas.



Did you know?

In Germany, every year on the evening of the 5th December, German children leave a boot or a shoe outside their bedroom door.

When they wake up, if they've been good, they'll find their shoe filled with sweets! If not, they'll open their door to find a branch...

In Columbia, Little Candles' Day, or Día de las Velitas, marks the start of the Christmas season. Locals across the country place candles and paper lanterns on show in their windows, balconies and front yards. Over the years, the tradition has evolved and now entire towns and cities are lit up around this time of year.



Macmillan morning

A big thank you to everyone who played a part in another successful Macmillan coffee morning this year - we raised a brilliant £245.16.



Children in Need 2023

We are pleased to announce that we raised a brilliant £704.31 for Children in Need this year!

We had a bake sale, sold Pudsey ears, ribbons and wristbands, raffled a Pudsey cake and bear and played Soak the Teacher (which was very popular!).

Thank you for all your generosity.



Christmas Jumper Day

Our students dug out their snazziest Christmas jumpers for Christmas Jumper Day at the beginning of December and raised a brilliant £120.



Remembrance Day

Students all took part in a 2-minute silence to mark Armistice Day this term and got involved in discussions on why we do this and the importance of it.

We also sold poppies and our cadets took part in a parade. Mrs Thompson from our history department lead assemblies for each year group to mark the occasion. Lest we forget.



Celebration Station

This term we were delighted to unveil our brand new celebration station.

Each week students share their successes and achievements, both in school and outside of school.

Mrs Lamb has loved welcoming our visitors each week and looks forward to seeing even more next term.



Christmas careers



Let's take a look at some of the careers that really come into their own during the festive period.

Ski instructor

It's always a White Christmas when you're a Ski Instructor. Working abroad in the mountains is a fantastic way to broaden knowledge of different cultures, languages and make friends. You'll need a BASI (British Association of Ski Instructors) Level 2 or 3 to get started as an instructor.

Events manager

December is the busiest time for events managers. The role can earn you up to £45,000 per year and as a whole, you'll need an undergraduate degree in events management or any other planning subject. It's a very varied role that can involve juggling a range of events from small gatherings to festivals for thousands of people.

World Mental Health Day

In October we marked World Mental Health Day where our Year 11 prefects organised a 'wear yellow day' to raise awareness for the effects of poor mental health on young people.

A big thank you to all those who took part. We raised a fantastic £204.25 for the charity Young Minds.



DATES

FOR YOUR DIARY

21 DEC - Break up for Christmas

08 JAN - Back to school

16 FEB - Break up for half term

26 FEB - Back to school



Shakespeare comes to life

This term a group of GCSE students ventured to The Northern Stage in Newcastle to see a production of Macbeth and watch Shakespeare's words come to life on stage to enhance their studies.

It was excellent to see our students so attentively engaged in this experience and bravely sitting in the front rows of an interactive performance. Many of our young people have already expressed that this opportunity enabled them to understand this complex text, and we hope that this will be one of many theatre trips for our students.



Spooktacular

Back in October things got spooky here at Bedlington Academy and Key Stage 3 students had a blast and danced the night away in their scariest costumes at our Halloween disco!



Spreading Christmas cheer for all to hear!

As part of our 12 days of Christmas, a group of our talented and kind students headed to local care home, Birkinshaw Manor, to perform some festive carols to residents and staff. It was lovely to really get into the Christmas spirit!



Yummy creations

This term has seen our budding chefs cook up a storm in the kitchen.

As part of Year 9's afternoon tea project, the class designed, made and then analysed a range of items including scones, jam tarts and sausage rolls. Tasty work!

