

News from school...

It has been a busy few weeks in school.

At the end of November, we saw an impressive number of our 2023 leavers return to school to collect GCSE certificates and controlled assessment work and to meet up with former schoolmates. I enjoyed hearing about the impressive courses and apprenticeships many of our students have moved on to post-16. We've got some ambitious ex-students doing some challenging apprenticeships and A-levels and planning great things for the future.

Our annual Learning Support Christmas shopping night was brilliant. I don't know where our SEN team found the time and energy to create Santa's Grotto, complete with North Pole themed signposts. Santa himself was a huge hit, I'm told that we even had adults asking for a visit! All in all, a great community event and an important fundraiser for the Learning Support department. An enormous amount of work must have gone into the evening, a big thank you to all of the very many people involved.

Our year 11 students have just completed their mock exams, they conducted themselves impeccably. The exams team tell me 'these students have been the best ever cohort in their approach to the mock exams.' We're expecting great things in the summer.

We are now well and truly in the Christmas spirit, last Wednesday we held our Carol service at St Thomas Becket Church in Chapel, it was wonderful to hear our talented musicians and watch some of our drama students perform in such a lovely space.

We're looking forward to...

We are currently collecting donations for the High Peak Food bank, last year we delivered an impressive quantity of food to support families in need over the holiday season.

A reminder that we finish for Christmas at **2.00pm on Friday 22nd December 2023**, returning to school at **8.35am on Tuesday 9th January 2024**. Friday 22nd December will be a non-uniform day in aid of local charities; students do not need to wear uniform on this day. Christmas jumpers or accessories are encouraged but are not compulsory. Donations to charity can be made via ParentPay.

Making school work...

Please make sure that you have read the information we e-mailed out recently on our arrangements for severe weather. A summary of the information is included again below;

You may wish to take this opportunity to consider your contingency plans for childcare should school be closed this winter. It would be useful if you could also agree a plan with your child as to what they should do if school ever has to close early or if a planned after school activity is cancelled. This may include:

- Making their own way home.
- Going home with a trusted friend.
- Going to a relative's house.

Having these arrangements in place before severe weather sets in makes life easier for all concerned.

Dates for your diary...

- Monday 15th January Barcelona Trip departs
- Tuesday 23rd January Year 11 progress evening, details to follow
- Monday 29th January Learning for Life day

You can find information about our Clubs and Activities on our website:

www.chapelhigh.org.uk/activities.html

Best wishes,

**Simon Grieves,
Headteacher**