

17th December 2009

Dear Parents and Friends,

It has been a pleasure to share the end of term events with so many of you in recent weeks. The PTA Christmas Fayre was a huge success, both in terms of the money raised, (well over £5000) and as a fun morning for all the family. Many congratulations to the PTA Committee for brilliant organisation and grateful thanks to the parents and pupils who helped on the day.

No sooner was Santa's grotto cleared away than the staging was up for the nativity performance. The pre-school and infants presented a very moving traditional nativity story. I was particularly impressed by the way year 1 and year 2 shepherded the pre-school children around the stage. Not so much X Factor as 'aahh' factor. The juniors produced a more modern twist on the story with 'jesus@bethlehemstable.com' with wonderful singing and dancing. I am especially grateful to Mrs Owen who has been covering for the much-missed Mrs Holland.

The stage was left in place so that the staff could practise for their pantomime, 'The King of Spain's Treasure', presented to the school on Tuesday. I think it fair to say that the pupils saw their teachers in a very different light and judging by the cheers, they all enjoyed watching as much as we enjoyed taking part. It was almost as noisy on Tuesday afternoon when the annual inter-house quiz filled the hall with teams.

All the primary children had their party day on Monday which included a visit from Father Christmas and LOTS of party food. The culmination of the term is always the Carol Service at St. Joseph's Church which sees a coming together of the extended Blanchelande family and I am so grateful that so many of you came to join us for this lovely evening. I am also extremely thankful for your generous donations to Les Bourgs Hospice.

All these events mark the end of a very successful term. You may have seen our three winners in the Commonwealth Essay Competition, our five winners in the Crime Prevention Calendar Competition, and our Head Girl, Kirsty Jackson, selected by the Institute of Directors as one of three Guernsey students to attend an IoD event in London next term. We were also very proud of Megan Irven and Emily Lord who produced excellent meals for the Young Chef of the Year Competition and Lily-Mae Matthews and Alicia Carter who designed Christmas cards selected by the Diocese of Portsmouth. Three Sixth Form students, Sophie Birch, Elisha Benstead and Katy Merrien have been taking part in the Collas Day 'Moot', in which they had to present legal cases as if they were real advocates. They performed extremely well in what was a tough competition.

One special focus for us this term has been looking at ways to continue to improve communication with parents. The PTA suggested our new monthly update giving you information of events in the coming month and other news. We have decided to hold the January edition until we come back after Christmas when family life is a little less hectic, so I will briefly remind you of the PTA Discos for Juniors and years 7 and 8 on January 15th and their Book Sale on January 24th. We also continue to add sections to the website so lots of information about uniform, examinations, PTA events, and copies of all recent forms and letters are easily available to you on blanchelande.co.uk

Following the success of hot lunches in the Infants, Mrs Tolcher has worked very hard with our suppliers and also with Mr Babbe and Mr Armstrong, who are preparing a new lunch room, so that the Juniors will also be able to choose to have hot lunches from January.

Both staff and students have been hard hit by illness this term. I hope everyone has an opportunity to rest, relax and re-charge their batteries, and will return to school fighting fit and raring to go on Wednesday 6th January.

All the seniors return in the new year to school exams, which include mock GCSEs for year 11 and AS and A level modules for the Sixth Form. I hope they will all enjoy a real break from school work until after Christmas, but then start some serious revision.

On behalf of all the staff, I extend a sincere thank you for all the lovely cards and kind gifts we have received. My end of term wish is that all of you manage to stay well and enjoy a fun-filled Christmas with family and friends, and experience the true meaning of this special season.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Le Page (Mrs)
Principal