



Houlton School
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Principal

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December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

'Festive Fortnight'

As we move into the last two weeks of term, several exciting events and projects are happening at Houlton School to celebrate the festive season and to show kindness to others at a time that for some can be the most difficult time of the year.

The Houlton School Community Kindness Project

This year, pupils decided that our annual Community Kindness Project would operate as a whole school initiative. Each of our colleges are working hard to create shoe boxes filled with small gifts which we will be giving to children in our wider Trust family in the last week of term. Each college has been tasked with creating as many shoe boxes as they can with a target of eight per college. We would hugely appreciate your support with our Community Kindness Project by donating any small gifts that you are able which are age appropriate (*and nut free*) either for the 5/6 or 10/11 age group. Donations of wrapping paper and shoe boxes would also be gratefully received. Pupils are collecting gifts in their college bases, or donations can be left at main reception.

Pupils last week were discussing the true meaning of the advent period both in Christianity and Christmas and across other faiths around the world. Our Community Kindness Project is designed to share a little joy and support our pupils in seeing the power of kindness to others.

The 'Who am I?' Project

Episode 4 of the 'Who am I?' Project is being filmed at Houlton School on **Thursday 22 December**. Several pupils have volunteered to take part and we will publish our next episode to you over the festive period. Pupils taking part will be focusing on the true meaning of British Values and how we reflect those in our culture at Houlton School. Each college this year has created their own version on our Houlton School Kindness Advent Calendar, and the short film will give pupils the opportunity to share the importance of kindness, acceptance and inclusion and what that really means for them. A 'must' watch over the Christmas holidays; follow us on our social media channels to see its release!

Festive Events

We have several festive events coming up in the next two weeks. Below is a summary of dates for your diary:



Monday 11 December – Festive Wreath Making - 7.00-9.00pm. *Please contact the Friends of Houlton School if you are interested in this event to discuss booking.*

Tuesday 12 December – Houlton School Performing Art Showcase – 5.00-6.00pm. Tickets are £3 and available on ParentPay.

Wednesday 13 December – Year 7 Festive Disco - 5.00-6.45pm. Tickets are £10 and available on ParentPay.

Wednesday 20 December – Houlton School Christmas Lunch. *Pupils have been asked to sign up if they would like a Christmas Lunch in the Refectory on this Day.*

Wednesday 20 December – Houlton School Carol Concert – 5.30-6.30pm. Tickets are £2 and available on ParentPay.

Friday 22 December – Last Day of Term and Festive Dress Day!

Friday 22 December is a non-uniform day with a theme of 'Festive Dress'. Pupils wishing to not wear their school uniform for the day will need to make a minimum contribution of £1, all funds raised will be gifted to the Myton Hospice in Rugby. Pupils are encouraged to wear a Christmas Jumper or festive outfit of their choosing as there will be a prize for 'the most festive!' As part of non-uniform day pupils may also if they prefer wear clothes of their choice, providing they are appropriate. Our normal school rules apply to makeup, coats, jewellery and electronic devices.

The following clothing items are not permitted:

- Football shirts
- Garments which are inappropriately short, tight or revealing
- High heeled shoes
- Crop tops of any kind
- Vest style tops

School closes for the Christmas break on Friday 22 December at 1.10pm where pupils will be released, please make arrangements for your child to be collected or to make their own way home at this time. Lessons will take place as normal on the morning of the 22 December followed by our annual **Festive Extravaganza Performance**. Our school videographer will be creating a short film of the Extravaganza for you to watch at home over the Christmas break!

As we move towards the Christmas break I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support. We wish you all a safe and restful Christmas break and hope that however you choose to celebrate the festive period it brings you peace and happiness. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back in the New Year on **Tuesday 9 January 2024**.

Yours faithfully



Chloe Buckenham
Vice Principal