



# Christmas 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

Today marks the end of the Autumn Term 2021, and as we look back over the last four months we reflect on a busy, productive and enjoyable journey which we had hoped would mark a return to something like 'normal'. Although we start the Christmas break with some uncertainties about what the next few weeks will bring, we continue to be determined to both stay safe and enjoy school life.

The past few days at school, with the Cultural Capital Day last Friday, our 125th Anniversary Feast Day yesterday and finishing the term with school Liturgies today, really have been a very fitting close to a successful term. These days represent the very best of the St. Mary's experience—students, staff and visitors have very much enjoyed the break in routines, experiencing something out of the ordinary and learning in a different way. There's been a palpable lift of mood across the site, and a true sense of celebration.

We would like to thank Mrs Wilkin (AHT), the music team, Mr D'Cruz, and the Chaplaincy team, and everyone else involved in delivering these experiences for the students.

We very much hope you enjoy reading the articles in this celebratory 'special' newsletter and especially seeing the pictures to get a taste of what we've been up to!

Have a fabulous Christmas break with your families and best wishes for a happy and healthy 2022! God Bless you all.

**Tom Johnston**  
Acting Head of School

**Deirdre McHugh**  
Acting Head of School



St Francis of Assisi  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY TRUST

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# Cultural Capital Day - Friday 17th December 2021

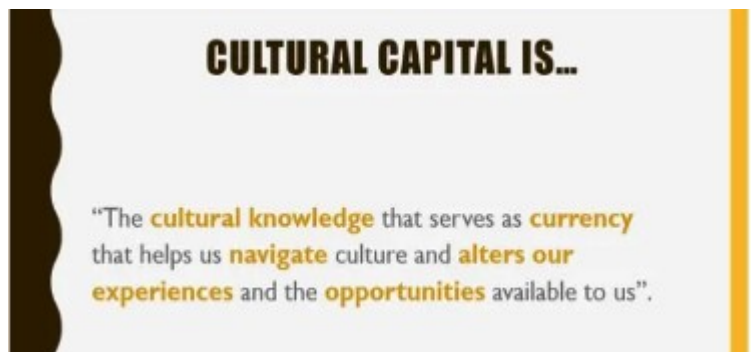
We began the day thinking about what defines who we are, and how we can become the person God wants us to be- and then went on to enjoy many events to help us bond as a community and learn more about art, music, literature and history. Last time I planned a day like this we went into lockdown two days before! This time we lost a visiting author, two accompanists, a harpist and a bassoonist due to Covid, but that wasn't enough to spoil the day, and Years 7,8 and 9 experienced a recital of the highest quality performances on piano, saxophone, clarinet and cello, but with a difference: hearing about how the musical instruments work and how long it takes to learn to play them as well as being able to ask the musicians what their favourite pieces of music were, (on this note, do listen to Rachmaninov's Second Piano Concerto, and the Dvorak cello concerto with your children this Christmas, for these youngsters' favourite choices are indeed inspirational pieces of music.)

Year 8 and 10 were the lucky ones who got to watch the traditional dress fashion show! What spectacular costumes from Africa, India, Vietnam, Russia, Poland and many more! The event was introduced with an inspirational message from Year 12 students Chidera and Cynthia, making this a really meaningful celebration of diversity.

With so much going on there really was something for everyone! Competitions, quizzes, games, bench ball dodgeball, Christmas traditions round the world, History of Art workshops, finding out about the influence of BAME Scientists, Shakespeare workshops, meeting students from Oxford and Cambridge universities, learning about apprenticeships, finding out about the history of Bishop's Stortford, watching the Hidden Figures film, and of course the Geography field trip for all our Year 11 geographers!

Students will be pleased to know I am already thinking about our next cultural capital events and popular author Matt Oldfield will be rebooked as soon as possible!

Mrs C Wilkin  
Assistant Headteacher





# Cultural Capital Day



**cultural**capital





# Cultural Capital Day



Cultural  
Capital



# Feast Day—Monday 20th December 2021

G I R L  
— got —  
F A I T H

## Emma B Session

In this session students were asked to reflect on defining their purpose in life and living out their true self. It inspired students to reflect on the qualities they think are important and the issues in society such as gender inequality, racism, wealth deprivation. It asks them to consider what was meant in being created in God's thumb print. It motivated the students to consider what actions they can take on a small scale in their day to day behaviours to encourage and help others by their own actions.

Ms C McGrath  
Assistant Headteacher





## Feast Day

# GVNAB



We listened to Guvna B's speech. This helped my faith by absorbing his words and advice. They inspired me to use my talents to make the world a better place. This made me think of the parable of the talents.

**Oliver**



Guvna B taught me that everyone has a purpose.

**Tobi**



# Feast Day



The marshmallow challenge taught me to persevere.  
**Tobi**

We did the marshmallow challenge. It was difficult. It inspired me to persevere and try to complete a difficult task. This is like Lent and Jesus' perseverance.  
**Oliver**



# Feast Day



Use  
your  
**TALENTS**  
to glorify  
HIM

**FAITH  
IN ACTION**



# Feast Day



In church we opened up to saying yes to God. We learnt that we were all made in Gods Image  
**Tobi**

We went to church . We learnt about saying yes to God. This deepened my faith by trying to listen to God and accept him.  
 I learnt to accept that God doesn't have one single image.  
**Oliver**



Everyone has a purpose, a gift. God put us here for that.  
**Bakima**

The world needs us - we can achieve our purpose.  
**Bakima**



Everyone has a talent and is unique.  
**Bakima**





## Feast Day

*Christ, you put yourself on the cross for us  
God's grace came through 'cause of your trust to us  
You showed us what this world could be  
If we bond together like a Christian family  
God was like a second father to me  
Your love guides us, allows us to see  
As the spirit glides across the universe  
Carrying your message to all of us*  
**Tobias**

GOD  
ROCK  
SAVIOR  
MESSIAH  
IMMANUEL  
HOLY • CHILD  
MIGHTY • GOD  
LORD • OF • ALL  
LAMB • OF • GOD  
CHRIST • OF • GOD  
KING • OF • KINGS  
THE • WORD • OF • GOD  
ALPHA • AND • OMEGA  
PRINCE • OF • PEACE  
LIGHT • OF • THE • WORLD  
HEAD • OF • THE • CHURCH  
SON • OF • THE • HIGHEST  
EVERLASTING • FATHER  
RESURRECTION • AND • LIFE  
JESUS



*Wake up on a Sunday  
It's different from a Monday  
Living another good day  
Living the Lord's way  
Living in his creation  
Asking for redemption*  
**Ella and Irene**

*We praise the Lord for this day  
For all that is good and for the bad to be taken away  
I pray the souls who have gone before us  
That they will be saved and in God's trust  
The light that shines, seeks through all  
However big, however small  
And in this life we may fall, but in the end this life is  
cool*  
**Fabia & Patrick**

