

# NEWSLETTER

The latest news from South Bank Academy Trust

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## Merry Christmas to all

One of the most rewarding aspects of our MAT is the range of ages within our schools, from young children taking their first steps into formal education, to GCSE-students preparing to go out into the wider world. But at this time of year, from nursery through to Year 11, all our pupils are busy with one thing.

At Scarcroft, the school choir have sung Christmas carols for the residents of Barstow House, and also at the Dementia Café at Clements Hall. For many children and parents, the highlight of the festive season is the annual Christingle concert at St Clement's Church, which has extra resonance this year as it will be Mrs Cornhill's last time attending as Scarcroft Headteacher.

At Woodthorpe, the Christmas tree is festooned with decorations made by all the classes. Children sang at St Leonard's hospice, and the Early Years classes performed a selection of Christmas songs for parents. Key Stage 1 performed the pun-tastic play *Hey, Ewe*.

Knavesmire Key Stage 1 parents were treated to a nativity play with a modern twist, as *Lights, Camera, Action* told the Christmas story in the style of *Strictly Come Dancing*. For those looking for last-minute Christmas gifts, the Friends of Knavesmire Primary have just published a cookbook featuring recipes by parents and staff. It's available from local shops including Trinacria and Frankie and Johnny's.

Meanwhile at Millthorpe, students and their families have been collecting food, toiletries and warm clothing to help homeless people. The response has been incredible, with a giant pile of tins, jars, packets and woolly hats accumulating under the Christmas tree.

However you plan on celebrating over the next fortnight, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a restful holiday. We look forward to welcoming our students back in 2018 for an exciting new year.

Working together... **Better education**

## Greater than the sum of its parts

The core of our founding vision for the Trust was that we could improve children's education by finding opportunities for children and staff from different schools to learn together. This term, Year 6 classes at Knavesmire and Scarcroft participated in a joint Maths Challenge Day. Workshop sessions in the morning were followed by a Maths Trail around Knavesmire, where students had to unravel a series of clues all over the school.

Meanwhile, Millthorpe leaders are working closely with their colleagues at York High to deliver school improvement, as York High prepares to join the trust in April.

Plans for the new year include a sports event for all MAT schools, and a Trust-wide arts project.

Working together... **Welcoming new schools**

## Carr Junior School to join Trust?

Governors at Carr Junior school in Acomb have voted to apply for academy status and join the South Bank Trust. Governors made this decision after extensive discussions and investigations over the past three years. They considered all possible options for their school, including other Multi Academy Trusts in York. They have now decided that our Trust is the best option for the future of their school.

The school will run a consultation for parents and the school community until 19 January. Governors and the Trust will conduct a mutual programme of due diligence to ensure that the school and

the Trust are the right fit for each other. If all goes well, we look forward to welcoming Carr Junior into the Trust next year.

We are delighted that Carr Junior is considering joining the Trust. In our conversations to date, it has been clear how much we share in terms of ethos and aspirations for our students. In particular, we have a common commitment to developing confident, resilient and caring young people who can flourish as healthy and responsible adults with creative, enquiring minds, and with the skills and knowledge to make a positive contribution to society.

