



GEORGE  
PINDAR  
SCHOOL

# The Pindar Postbag

## December 2024 Edition

### Message from the Principal

As we approach the new year, and at the end of a packed half term, it is wonderful to share some of the many achievements of our students throughout December and look ahead to 2025! Despite having only had three weeks in school, we filled it with some superb events and celebrations which you can read about below. We are looking forward to the new term and seeing all our students on **Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 8.40am**. I would like to wish all members of the George Pindar School community a very Happy New Year!

### Christmas Carols

Our annual Carols by Candlelight service took place on Thursday 12th December and the standard of singing took our breath away on this stunning evening! With the biggest Choir we have ever seen with students from all year groups, our talented students treated us to a wonderful programme of traditional carols, with a highlight being the superb solo during O Holy Night. We are incredibly proud of our musicians and very grateful to Miss Clark and Mrs Davies for putting together the programme and practising so hard with the Choir and accompanying musicians. Well done everyone!

### A community Christmas Fair

Our PINDAR values are incredibly important to us throughout the year but never more so than at Christmas when our Year 7 students focus on our value of Neighbourly. To demonstrate this value, each tutor group is challenged to raise money for a chosen charity by creating products to sell at our annual Christmas Fair, with a selection of stalls from other groups in school including our amazing Art department and the Duke of Edinburgh group. Year 7 rose to the challenge again this year on Tuesday 17th December and we were delighted to see so many families and other students at the fair which raised an unbelievable £576! Thank you so much for your support of our school and well done to all our stallholders!

### Christmas Jumper Day

As part of national fundraising for Save The Children, George Pindar School once again embraced the Christmas spirit by participating in Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday 19th December. Our students and staff donned their finest jumpers, pyjama tops, onesies and dressing up outfits as well as wearing red or green or tinsel-adorned hats and t-shirts. We were delighted to see the creativity of our students and are grateful to everyone who donated a little, or a lot, to support this worthwhile cause. Including online donations we reached an incredible £378! Thank you for your support.



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## Christmas Lunch treats

On Monday and Tuesday of our last week in school, we were treated to a tasty turkey lunch with all the Christmas trimmings thanks to the hard work and efforts of our catering team, Hutchisons. Thank you for our Christmas treats!

## Celebrating students who strive for success

During the last week in school we enjoyed a series of House rewards assemblies to celebrate students who have demonstrated all the PINDAR values and excelled in a variety of subjects. Certificates were also awarded to students with 100% attendance for the half term and in the year to date. Special certificates were given to Tutor Stars and to individuals who have made their Heads of House particularly proud. Over 1500 certificates were awarded during the week - this makes us incredibly #ProudToBePindar and we are delighted to recognise our students' success.

## The twelve days of PINDAR

Miss Simm, our Second in English Faculty and Literacy Lead, pioneered a new activity in the George Pindar Christmas calendar this year with the introduction of the Twelve Days of PINDAR tutor group competition. Students were tasked with designing their own version of the traditional Christmas classic and they rose to the challenge, with some brave tutor groups even singing their entries! The winning entry came from 11HFA!

## Vote for Amy's poem!

One of our Year 8 students Amy S has been shortlisted in the final six for a national competition run by Reading Plus and we could not be more proud. To win, Amy needs as many votes as possible before midnight on 8th January 2025. You can like, comment and share Amy's poem on Facebook, Instagram or X (Twitter) and can find links via the George Pindar School social media channels. Every vote counts so please support Amy if you can! Good luck Amy!

## Attendance

Our attendance target for all students is 95%; recent research shows that there is a direct link between attendance and outcomes at the end of school so every day counts! Students who achieve 100% each week are given a ticket to enter the '100 Club' prize draw and they can drop these in the attendance rewards cabinet for a chance to win gaming, shopping or Amazon vouchers. On Thursday 19th December three very lucky students won £100 each - what a Christmas treat! Students need to be in to win so aim for 100% every week when we return to school.

If for any reason your child is too ill for school, or if you have booked a holiday, it is incredibly important to update us in the morning. You can do this by ringing 01723 582194, using the Edulink App or emailing [hello@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hslt.academy) or [news@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:news@gps.hslt.academy) Please let us know the



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reason for your child's absence. If you have any queries about attendance, you can contact our attendance team via the school office.

## How to Get in Touch

Telephone: 01723 5822194  
Email: [hello@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hslt.academy)  
Email: [news@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:news@gps.hslt.academy)  
Edulink: Use the App or go online

Communication between home and school is of vital importance to ensure that all students can strive for success. Therefore, in order to ensure that this is as effective as possible, please can we politely remind parents / carers to contact reception to book meetings with staff as colleagues are not always available for an immediate meeting. Heads of Houses have a teaching commitment so there will be a delay in responding to parental contact on occasion. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding with this matter.

## Reporting a Concern

If you have a concern about a student or anyone else in our school community please report it. Mrs Welsh is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Miss Pickles is the Advanced Safeguarding Practitioner. They lead safeguarding in school with a team of colleagues who can support your child.

You can contact colleagues by calling the main school telephone number on 01723 582194 or via email to [safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy)

## If you need help

At George Pindar School, we are continually working to support students in feeling safe and well at school and to enable them to flourish both within and outside of school. Students are encouraged to seek support from their form tutor or teachers in school and will be directed to pastoral and safeguarding colleagues when appropriate. Students who prefer to report a safeguarding concern by text can send a message to the school's safeguarding mobile number on 07895132530 or email [safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy](mailto:safeguarding@gps.hslt.academy) The safeguarding mobile is available from 7am to 7pm Monday to Friday during term time. Students who need support beyond the school day, on a weekend or over the holidays should look at the range of information on our website: [If You Need Help](#)

## Helpful Links

You can read all about the latest George Pindar news on our social media channels:  
<https://www.facebook.com/georgepindarschool>  
<https://www.instagram.com/georgepindarschool>

Our website contains a huge amount of useful information:  
<https://gps.hslt.academy/>