

16 December 2021

Dear students, parents, carers, staff and trustees,

As we head into the festive break, hopeful of the opportunity to spend time with family and friends, I found myself reflecting on Christmas and the place it holds in our hearts. Over the past two years we have all, I think, learned to appreciate the opportunity to engage in community activities and celebrate milestones together more than we ever realised we would. As an English teacher I do tend to look for connections in literature, and the journey we have all been on recently, with its challenges and opportunities to reflect, brings to mind the most classic of all Christmas literature, *A Christmas Carol*. More particularly the epiphany Scrooge has after his evening with the spirits:

“Scrooge was better than his word. He did it all, and infinitely more; and to Tiny Tim, who did not die, he was a second father. He became as good a friend, as good a master, and as good a man, as the good old city knew, or any other good old city, town, or borough, in the good old world. (...) and it was always said of him, that he knew how to keep Christmas well, if any man alive possessed the knowledge. May that be truly said of us, and all of us!”

I feel I should confess that for me, Michael Caine is Scrooge, and Kermit the Frog is Bob Cratchit. I shall enjoy my annual viewing of the Muppet version of the story all the more for the knowledge that it now contains an even deeper meaning than I ever realised or appreciated.

I would like to thank you all for your support and hard work this term, both in individual efforts but also in the amazing generosity you have shown in donations to our charities. As I write, we have raised in excess of £4,750 for Young Minds, £2,000 for Save the Children and donated a huge amount of food and grocery gifts to the local Nourish food bank. Thank you.

All that remains is for me to wish you a happy, healthy and restful festive break, and look forward to welcoming you all to 2022.

Yours sincerely,



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Headteacher

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