It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school after the Christmas break, and I do hope that you and your families enjoyed a happy and restful holiday and a peaceful start to the New Year. Despite the cold weather, snow flurries and icy mornings, the pupils have returned with good spirits and have settled quickly into the rhythm of the Lent term.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr Fernandes, one of the specialist Science teachers from The Leys, who will be joining us until the end of the academic year. His presence further strengthens the close links between our two schools.



This Week at St Faith’s





Epiphany: Choosing to Carry the Light

As we enter the season of Epiphany in the Christian calendar, we are reminded of the journey of the three wise men, guided by the star towards something extraordinary. In assembly this week, we reflected on how the start of a new term offers a similar moment of choice: how we begin our journey and what we decide to carry with us.

We return with memories from last term — friendships strengthened, challenges met and lessons learned — but we also appreciated that we have the freedom to choose the attitude we bring into the weeks ahead. We thought about how we each might we be a guiding light to others – through kindness, patience, and the small, everyday actions that quietly brighten someone else's path.

Continuing this theme of sharing light, in assembly pupils heard a short story about a vicar visiting a man who had stopped attending church. Sitting together over a cup of tea, and without saying a word, the vicar removed a glowing coal from the fireplace and placed it on the hearth.

Separated from the flames, it soon grew cold. When she returned it to the fire, it reignited and shone brightly once more. The message was clear: each of us can be a source of warmth and light for others, and together, we can help one another burn more brightly.

Our Bible reading came from the Gospel of St John, reminding us of the promise of light in dark places. We reflected too on William Holman Hunt's famous painting *The Light of the World*. The pupils were very interested to learn about Holman Hunt's vivid use of colour, detail and allegory in his paintings. We considered the dark surroundings in the picture, the symbolic lantern, and overgrown door with no handle on the outside, meaning it can only be opened from within – a powerful image of invitation, guidance and hope.

Holiday Clubs

Following the end of term in December, the school remained open for a wide range of holiday clubs. I am extremely grateful to the staff who gave their time to support pupils and families during this period. The Multi-Activity Course, STEM Camp and Art and Christmas Craft workshops all took place, and it was clear that pupils were relishing the opportunity to explore new skills and interests.

Looking ahead, many of these activities will be offered again during the Easter holidays. We also anticipate the return of the ever-popular St Faith's Cookery School, along with Little Wyverns for our Pre Prep children. Before then, during the February half-term, Bikeability courses will be available for pupils in Years 5–8, supporting our ongoing sustainability initiatives. We continue to encourage cycling to school where feasible, and it has been reassuring to see pupils remaining careful and visible during the darker winter months, using high-visibility accessories and bike lights.

This Week at St Faith’s



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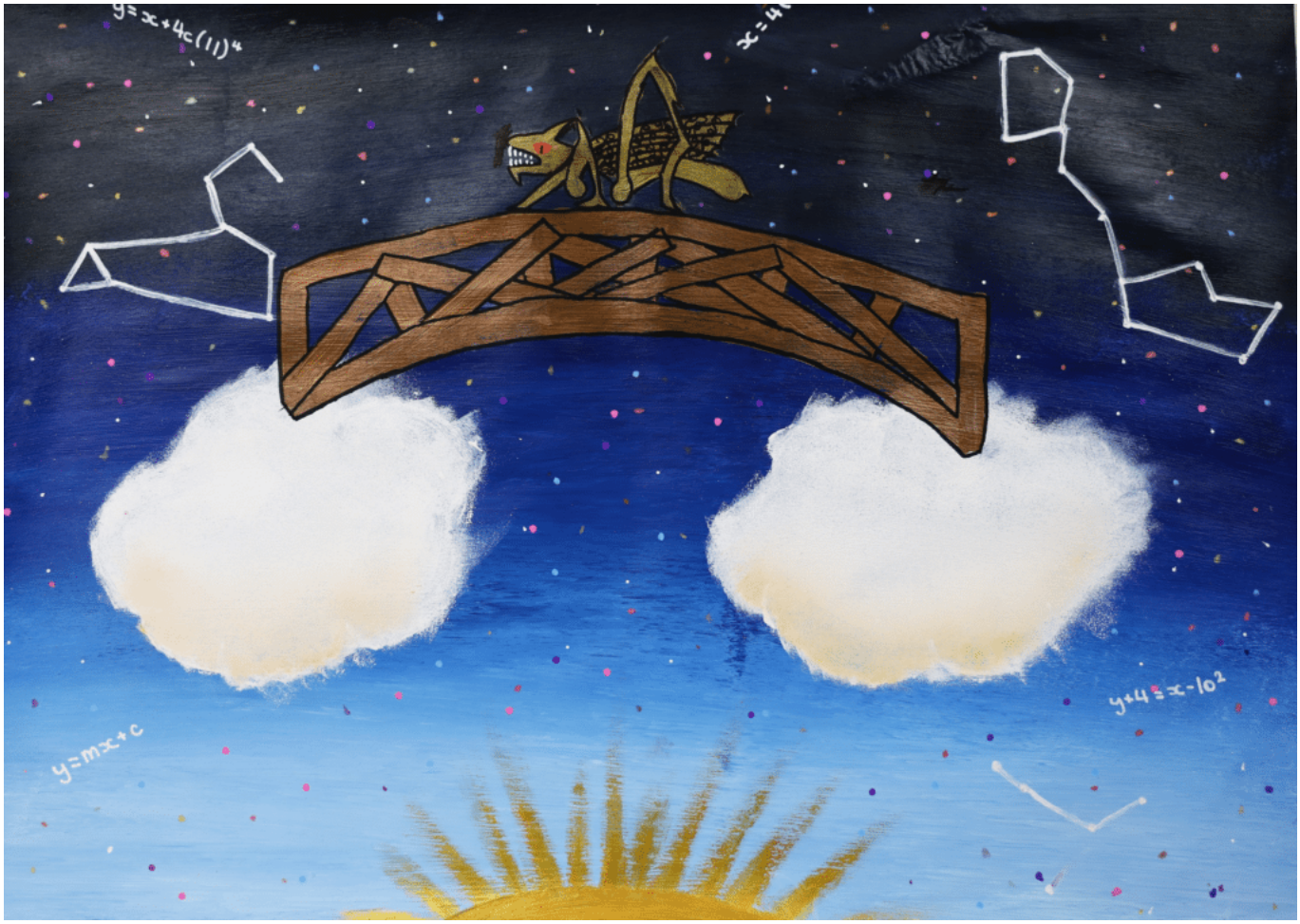
Welbeck Hospital Mural Competition

Last term, a number of our pupils submitted designs for the Welbeck Hospital Mural Competition, and we are pleased to share some of these submissions. The theme, *Cambridge Reimagined*, prompted imaginative and thoughtful responses.

Welbeck Healthcare is opening a new hospital in Sawston in 2026, and the winning mural designs will be projected onto a wall in the paediatric waiting area. Three winners will be selected, representing different age groups, with the announcement expected in March.


Cambridge Sightseeing

This Week at St Faith's





Cambridge District Schools' Cross-Country Championships

Mr Mageean writes,

"Congratulations to all of our Year 7 and 8 Cross-Country runners who competed in the Cambridge District Schools' Cross Country Championships at the very end of last term. The event was hosted wonderfully by Netherhall School, and it is a true test of cross-country endurance on a course that incorporates muddy terrain and a section that all pupils simply referred to as 'the Hill!'

Mr Mageean and Mrs Fordham accompanied the pupils as they competed alongside all Cambridge schools in events where there were around 150 runners in each race! Our Year 8 pupils also endured stronger competition in their races as they were competing against Year 9 too (as the age boundary in school athletics and cross-country covers two year groups).

All our pupils ran extremely well on the day and it was particularly pleasing to see those who

were competing for their very first time in a St Faith's athletics vest. Special congratulations go to five of our pupils that finished in the Top 14 and therefore qualified to represent Cambridge Schools in the Cambridgeshire County Schools' Championships that take place at Ely this coming weekend. We wish them every success."




St. Faith's



Entry Assessments

On Thursday, we welcomed candidates and their families for Year 1 to Year 7 entry assessments, for pupils seeking places for September 2026. It was a pleasure to meet so many prospective families, and we look forward to making offers very shortly. For those unable to attend on Thursday, reserve assessment dates have been scheduled for 15th and 20th January.

Continuing the theme of assessments, on Monday, many of our Year 6 pupils will sit the Preliminary Assessment for The Leys, for a Year 9 place in 2028. The pupils have been working hard, so are very well prepared and we wish them all the best in their assessments.

And Finally…

January is often a time for good intentions, fresh notebooks and the quiet resolve to make a positive start, even on cold, dark mornings. The pupils have returned with focus and energy, and it has been encouraging to see how smoothly routines have been re-established across the school. I do hope the weekend provides a chance to relax, stay warm and anticipate the exciting events we can look forward to in 2026.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn