

NEWSLETTER

"Christmas is not a time nor a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas."

Calvin Coolidge, Politician and Twice President of the United States

Week 13 2023-24



CELEBRATIONS & GOODBYES

CHRISTMAS LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



Our Christmas Leaver's Assembly took place this year at St. Andrew's Church, two minutes' walk from the school. The church is situated in Chesterton, Cambridge, and is the setting for many of our formal Assemblies, including Graduation. It is a beautiful building, with its history going back to 1200 AD and has been extensively restored and rebuilt over the ages.



CHRISTMAS LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



Christmas at CATS Cambridge is a time for celebration but also bitter-sweet as we say goodbye to our High-School Termers.

Whether it's one term or four years, all our students are important to us. The school will not be the same once they've gone and we'll miss them all terribly.

We wish all our leavers the very best of hope for the future. Do stay connected and let us know how you get on.



CHRISTMAS LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



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The Assembly is a busy affair with certificates being handed out to our leavers, speeches, and awards. Student council presented their achievements for the year, including their work with the Head Chef on developing our menu.

We were also treated to a musical interlude from Viktoriya, beautifully singing Mon Histoire.



CHRISTMAS LEAVERS ASSEMBLY

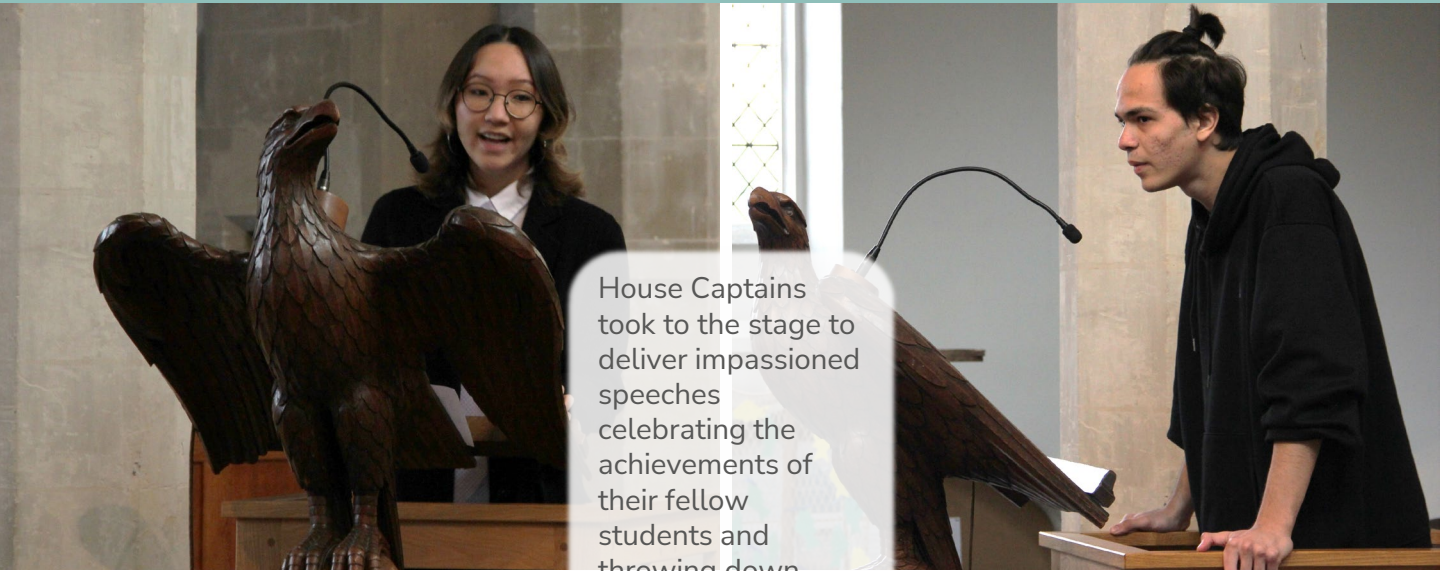


Prizes were awarded for the school Mastermind Competition, organised by Jody.

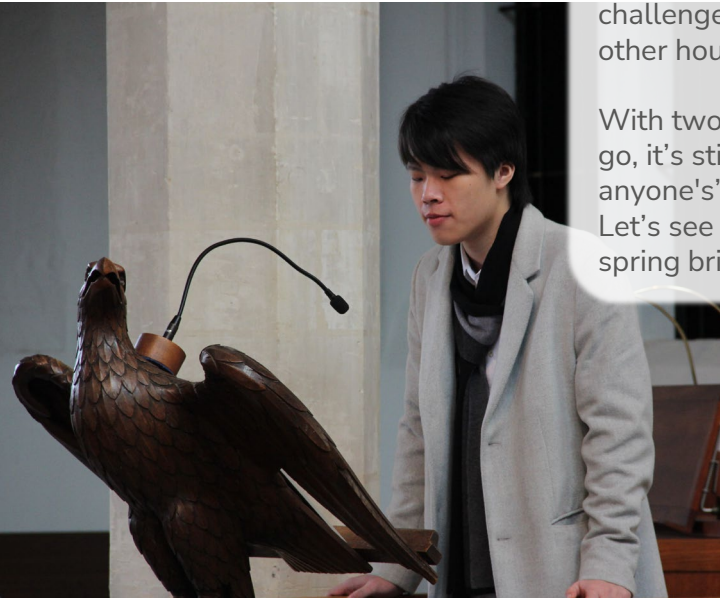
1st place goes to Manuela, with her outstanding knowledge of Harry Styles.



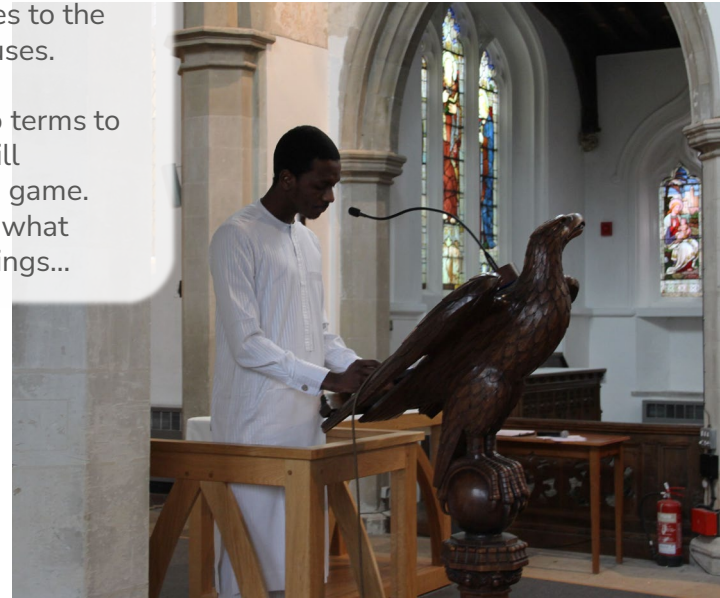
CHRISTMAS LEAVERS ASSEMBLY



House Captains took to the stage to deliver impassioned speeches celebrating the achievements of their fellow students and throwing down challenges to the other houses.



With two terms to go, it's still anyone's game. Let's see what spring brings...





Holidaying with Generosity

Dominic Tomalin
Principal

At the end of term assembly, I spoke about the power of generosity. We humans are social creatures; our evolutionary design is such that we have a vested interest in the success of our group. That group may be our family, our school, our business, our society, even the entirety of our species. Whilst simple quid pro quo, the expectation that any good turn will be returned in kind, provides something of the glue needed to keep us together, relationships are strengthened further by generosity that extends beyond the transactional.

It is easy to spot generosity on display at CATS Cambridge. The sense of generosity is palpable in every event we run; CATS students demonstrate a lovely generosity of spirit whenever one of their peers performs, be that speaking to the school body, reciting a poem, or performing. Our students really do 'will' each other along and are very quick to appreciate and applaud those who step up to the mark.

There was no shortage of that generosity of spirit on display during the end of term assembly, during which we heard from the student council and each of the House Captains, as well as a magnificent musical interlude; the latter gained a standing ovation. Those that spoke did so with an articulate confidence that is simply awe-inspiring, not least given that they were speaking in a second or even third language to assembled crowd of over two hundred.

I also noted that it is my experience that I have been at my happiest when I have been generous to others. In doing so, I have contributed to the development of synergistic group relationships through which we all benefit, me included – perhaps hinting that there is no such thing as pure altruism. That said, I venture that acts of generosity serve to cement trusting relationships that enable humanity to progress beyond our wildest dreams.

I love Christmas for the opportunity it offers to be generous. In the modern era one of the greatest gifts you can offer is 'presence'. During this Christmas break be generous with your presence in the moment – put your phone away and enjoy the company of those around you, let them enjoy your company. This will help re-energise your connections with those nearest and dearest to you. In doing so you will have the confidence to take on the world knowing that you have back-up.

Winnie the Pooh, a character in a much-loved series of children's books, whose simple observations about life have elevated him to the status of near revered philosopher, says of Christmas that it "is a togethery kind of holiday, and that's my favourite kind". It is mine too. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.