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Dear Headteacher,

A competition to design the constituency Christmas Card

This year I am repeating a competition that, on previous years, has proved interesting and worthwhile for schools. I would like to invite pupils to submit designs for my official Christmas card that I will send to many people and businesses in the constituency. The theme for the card is to be, ‘The meaning of Christmas’.

I have already received support for the project. I am delighted to say that Viscount and Lady Lascelles of Harewood have agreed to judge the entries and a local firm of printers, Davenport of Harehills have agreed to produce 500 copies of the overall winning design. I will also exhibit the entries on my constituency website. I am seeking additional sponsorship to cover the remaining costs of postage and any surplus revenue will be given to charities nominated by the school with the winning entry.

Please could you ask your pupils (and teachers who help them) to take part and enter the competition. The design should be for a conventionally shaped card, size A5 in portrait format, with a front illustration and a second of the same size showing the greeting for the inside right hand page. I shall be delighted to receive entries from individual pupils either as original art work or produced on a computer and sent as a computer file in a widely readable format. There will be a book token or similar prize for the winning design from each age group (Key Stages 1 to 4).

I should be very grateful if you could let me know if pupils might take part. Please email my colleague Doug Masterton using doug@leedsne.co.uk who will be organising the judging, printing and distribution. I do know from previous work with schools that pupils can be enthused by the idea of their work being judged and publicly displayed. I hope also that it may also help their reflection on the importance of the season of goodwill

Yours sincerely,



Fabian Hamilton
Labour Member of Parliament for Leeds North East