

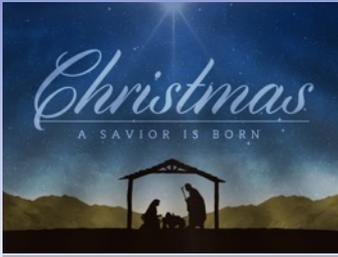


All Saints Catholic High School

A Business & Enterprise College

Heart to Heart

December 2014
Newsletter



DEAR PARENT/CARER

It has been a very busy half term, once again reflecting the vibrant learning community that is All Saints.

We have very important news to share with our school community. In 2015 our interim Principal Heather Scott will be working with us from January to March in conjunction with our newly appointed permanent Principal Mr Anthony McGuinness who will lead the school on its journey of improvement from April 2015.

Our Chair of Governors Fr Nick Wilde will be writing to your family about this in the New Year.

Our reputation for seeking, securing and nurturing partnerships with business, industry, commerce, universities and indeed any organisation that can extend the learning environment for our students is now well established.

Leading partnership companies include Jaguar Land Rover, Santander, Royal Sun Alliance, the National Health Service and many, many others. These have resulted in apprenticeships, paid internships and employment for many students.

However, it is good teaching, a strong work ethic, excellent attendance and resilience that will maximise a student's academic potential. The combination of these values with the partnership opportunities that All Saints offers is powerful. Moreover, our partnership with yourselves underpins every student's experience of school life and we thank parents/carers for all the support they give. Ensuring your child attends every day is vital to achieving expected levels of progress. In the penultimate week of this term OFSTED made its inspection and we shall receive their report in 2015.

Do take time to read this newsletter. It highlights the many opportunities and experiences available. Our term concluded in the final week with the school Christmas Liturgy led by Father Nick Wilde and a production of Scrooge. As a result of the Arts Council award, All Saints students benefitted from professional coaching through our alliance with the Empire Theatre. The high standard of drama, dance and music reflected this professional partnership and expertise.

As we approach the Christmas holidays and festivities we remember Pope Francis's words, 'I ask you to ensure that humanity is served by wealth and not ruled by it.' Christmas is a time of celebration and giving. At All Saints students have been raising funds during Advent to support CAFOD projects across the world and locally to create Christmas hampers for needy families in Kirkby. This is how our students wanted to use their 'wealth' to support 'humanity' and recognise the true spirit of Christmas.

School closes on Friday 19th December and reopens on Monday 5th January 2015.

On behalf of the Governors and staff we hope you have a holy, happy Christmas and look forward to working together again in 2015.

Yours faithfully

Mr B Chorley/Mrs C Murray
Acting Principals

EXCELLING AT SCIENCE

Saturday science seminars focusing on higher level learning skills in physics, chemistry and biology have been held during December. Aiming to maximise GCSE A and A* grades the sessions have proved very popular. Equipping today's students to be the scientists of the future is our aim.



LIVERPOOL UNIVERSITY VISIT YEAR 7

Year 7 students spent a day at university attending lectures, exploring the extensive campus facilities and imagining life as a Liverpool University student. Confidence and personal ambition combined with hard work are vital ingredients to academic success. The purpose of these experiences is to inform our Year 7 students of the opportunities and choices available to them at university.

ARTS COUNCIL, ALL SAINTS AND THE EMPIRE THEATRE

The outstanding school productions at All Saints have led to a grant from the Arts Council to enhance the theatrical opportunities for All Saints students. All Saints works in partnership with the Empire Theatre, the only school in the north-west to do so! Professionals work alongside our young people in rehearsals providing high quality tuition. Scrooge was this year's showstopper as once again students from Years 7 to 10 entertained their audiences in truly professional style.



WADE DEACON PARTNERSHIP

"Motivation, Myself and Me"

Pupil motivation is essential if pupils are to achieve their ambitions and goals. 40 Year 11 students attended an open day at Wade Deacon College. Masterclasses aiming to foster motivation and resilience will follow in 2015.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Saturday School

We are delighted with the Year 11 students who have regularly attended Saturday morning English classes this term. To quote one member of the English staff, 'It is really encouraging to see the level of determination shown by our Year 11 students. We are planning to offer further classes in January.'

YEAR 11 MEDICAL EDUCATION

Ebola and Malaria

A group of Year 11 students considering a possible medical career attended UTC to hear a lecture by Professor Tom Solomon on the challenges posed by Ebola and Malaria. The session was interactive and a fantastic opportunity to pose their questions directly to a medical expert.



PHYSICS AT WORK,

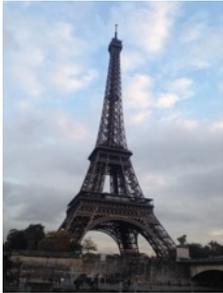
Daresbury Laboratory, Cheshire

Daresbury laboratory is at the cutting edge of physics research and development. A group of Year 9 physicists attended workshops at Daresbury. The superbly equipped laboratory enabled students to take part in experiments only possible in such a sophisticated scientific environment.

FRENCH CULTURAL VISIT

October Half Term

We are now able to share photographs of this superb cultural visit. The intensive programme included visits to Paris and the Eiffel Tower, a cruise down the Seine to appreciate the wonderful architecture from a different perspective. The final day was spent at the Somme to reflect on the tragic loss of life in this WW1 battle.



ART/TEXTILE DEPARTMENT

Study Visit

Stepping through All Saints front door is a little like stepping into an art gallery. Students' art and textile work is everywhere. Standards are high and students benefit from creative inspiration both at home and abroad. Year 11 GCSE students studied acquisitions and artefacts at the Liverpool World Museum to provide inspiration for their practical examination. The work on the walls speaks for itself. Next time you are in, take a closer look

JANUARY 2015 EXAMINATION SCHEDULE

Please note that the January Examination schedule will run from Monday 5th January until Friday 9th January 2015.

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS

Calendar of Events

The range and breadth of our partnerships is clearly shown in our busy calendar below:

Visits:

- Year 12 Career Academy Launch in London, 1st and 2nd December – see website

Speakers:

- Geoban – An introduction to personal finance programme delivered in 3 sessions to year 12 BTEC Business and Personal Finance course.
- 20/11/14 - High Sheriff of Merseyside – Abila Pointing toured the school and met Year 13 Career Academy students
- 11/11/14 – 'Action Jackson' delivered a workshop to all Year 12 Career Ready students – masterclass 1
- 18/11/14 – Karen Drohan from RBS Rainbow delivered 2 hour workshop on Change Management to Year 12 Career Academy students

Events for Spring term 2015

- 20/01/15 – HMRC fraud department, careers talk to Year 12 and 13 Career Academy students
- 15/01/15 – Let's Do Business roadshow in Liverpool, speakers B Chorley, M O'Neill and Olivia Bradley Moore (Year 13) and 3 other students will host the event at Merseytravel
- 27/01/15 – Prison service staff careers talk to Year 12 and 13 Career Academy students
- 29/01/15 – Year 12 Career Academy visit to Leyland DAF plant
- 10/02/15 – University of Law to deliver Career Ready Masterclass 2 to all of Year 12

COMPUTER CHALLENGE

Competition 2014

BEBRAS UK

Students across the school have taken part in this national computing competition. The focus is on problem solving that involves computational and logical thinking. Congratulations to our highest scorers:

- Year 7 Daniel O'Neil
Megan Smith
Year 8 Jamie McHugh
Year 9 Chantal Hughes



FORMULA ONE/JAGUAR LAND ROVER COMPETITION

Jaguar Land Rover engineers are working with St Laurence's, St Joseph the Worker and St Michael and All Angels primary schools. They are each aiming to design and 'make' the fastest car possible! This is just one of the many benefits our partnerships bring. Last year St Laurence's were the North West regional winners, going on to compete at national level. Now in its second year we are hoping for another school win from Kirkby.



ALL SAINTS STUDENTS

'Responsible Citizens'

PC Norton, All Saints Community Police Officer, organized an evening visit to Blackpool illuminations. The purpose of the visit was to illustrate a positive way of spending time. Services are working very hard with the community to ensure that everyone can enjoy Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night safely. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

THEATRE VISIT

Our theatre visit programme provides opportunities to see professional performance. During this half term a group of Year 10 students viewed a performance of 'Terriers' at the Royal Court Theatre, Liverpool. This was a borough initiative, seeking to highlight the dangers of gun and gang crime. Manchester Theatre was the venue for a performance of Shrek. Over 30 students attended and once again it was a hugely enjoyable experience. Creative activities such as these provide inspiration and food for thought for students. Who knows what future professional performers we have in our school community?

ARMISTICE DAY

11th November 2014

All Saints fell into a solemn silence at exactly 11 minutes after 11am on 11th day of November. Students and staff stood to remember all who had died in the Great War. The notes of the trumpet playing the Last Post echoed around the atrium. The school raised £440 towards the British Legion Poppy Appeal. This will be used locally to help ex-servicemen and their families in need. Students also laid a poppy wreath at the Kirkby cenotaph on behalf of everyone at All Saints.

ALL SAINTS

Champions All the Way

Achievements so far this year...

Year 7 Knowsley Basketball Champions
Year 8 Knowsley Basketball Champions
Year 7 Knowsley Netball Champions
Year 10/11 Knowsley Netball Champions
Year 9 Knowsley Netball Runners-up
Year 7,8,9 Girls Knowsley Badminton
Champions



UNIFORM

Thank you to all parents who ensure uniform standards are high. Reporting to school in full school uniform is compulsory. Blazers must be worn in school at all times. During lessons they may be removed at the discretion of the teacher. School shoes must be completely black and able to be polished. Trainers or canvas shoes are not acceptable. A full uniform list is detailed in our prospectus on the web site.

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Year 8 students worked hard to provide a variety of Christmas themed products. Gifts, sweets, cakes and a wide variety of competitions were the result. Each tutorial group had their own stall so that there was also an element of competition to develop those entrepreneurial skills and maximise funds. Nevertheless the main aim was to help local charities. Pupils from our associated primaries attended with some visiting Santa in his grotto! This annual event is very popular.

PUPIL APPOINTMENTS

Following formal application and interview the following students were awarded key posts of responsibility. Congratulations to all!

Head Girl	Ellen Oakley
Deputy Head Girl	Mia Hand
Head Boy	Josh Bryan
Deputy Head Boy	Sean Fleming
Student Ambassador	Toni McCardle
Student Ambassador	Harvey Simpson

HOMEWORK CLUB

Every morning and evening!

Homework Club continues to thrive. The Learning Resource Centre is open every morning from 7:45 am and every evening until 4:15 pm. Staff, subject texts and technology are available to support student studies. Breakfast is provided in the morning and a light snack prior to the afternoon session. Independent study maximises attainment and is a vital life skill. Please encourage attendance. At the end of the day senior pupils also have the opportunity to work in Departments with specialist staff. This is in preparation for public examinations.

ATTENDANCE COUNTS

At All Saints we want your son/daughter to achieve their full potential. Striving for excellent attendance is one of the ways that we try to ensure that this is achieved.

There is a strong correlation between the amount of absence a pupil has and the qualifications that they achieve. 'Every Lesson Counts' and it is proven that children who have time off often find it difficult to catch up and do well in school, particularly as the average amount of absence per pupil increases.

THE 'EYE OPENING' FACTS:

1 in 5 pupils misses 17 days a year – they will drop at least ONE GCSE GRADE.

1-4 GCSE grades can increase wages by 17%.

5 or more GCSE A-C grades can increase wages by 41%

WHAT IS GOOD ATTENDANCE?

Is 90% attendance good? You would think so but you need to think again.

90% attendance = ½ day missed every week.

1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons missed!

90% attendance over 5 years of secondary school = ½ a school year missed!

SO 90% IS NOT PERHAPS AS GOOD AS IT FIRST SEEMED.

If there are any issues, we can help your son/daughter to improve their attendance.

Please contact one of the attendance team immediately on the number below:

Tel: 0151 477 8753

Mrs Whittle (Attendance Manager)

Mr Wishart (Year 11 Attendance)

Mrs McGowan (Years 9 & 10 Attendance)

Mrs Durkin (Year 7 & 8 Attendance).

LEARN TO IMPROVE THE FUTURE. MAKE EVERY LESSON COUNT.

SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

All Saints' morning and afternoon 50p or £5.00 pr Half Term bus service has been a success. Demand has been high and feedback from students about the service has been very positive.

We will be using Furlongs & Timewell's Travel for our buses.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OPEN ON

Autumn term 2014

Tues 2nd September 2014

Mon 3rd November 2014

Spring term 2015

Mon 5th January 2015

Tues 24th February 2015

Summer term 2015

Mon 20th April 2015

Tues 2nd June 2015

CLOSE ON

Autumn term 2014

Thur 23rd October 2014

Fri 19th December 2014

Spring term 2015

Fri 13th February 2015

Thur 2nd April 2015

Summer term 2015

Fri 22nd May 2015

Tues 21st July 2015

INSET DAYS

Monday 23 February 2015

Monday 1 June 2015

MERRY CHRISTMAS
&
HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the Staff
and *Governors*
at
All Saints Catholic
High School

