



Friday was the culmination of our wonderful Mission Week led by Just Youth from the Salford Diocese. I hope by now you have heard all about the week and the whole College Mass that took place on Friday afternoon.

The Mass was a joyous community event led by Father Philip and the Just Youth Team. It took place in the Street with over a thousand people taking part: students, staff and visitors. Students took an active part with singing, dancing and drama to the fore. It is difficult to describe the atmosphere and spirit of the occasion where the College was truly as one.

Mass was followed by a community celebration which included a barbecue, musical talent, five-a-side football and a bouncy assault course. A great time was had by all.

From September, our newsletters will contain an education news update. This is because so many new directives are coming from the Department for Education. It is difficult to keep abreast of the changes. There also appears to be misinformation and lack of clarity at times.

One of the most recent changes has been in the new Ofsted framework introduced in January 2012. This is due to change again in September. Basically the goalposts keep moving with it becoming ever more difficult to achieve a 'good' never mind an 'outstanding' judgement. The Government seem determined to push all schools down to satisfactory. It is not clear what Ofsted and the Government's agenda is at this time. A significant number of Headteachers and schools are appealing against these new judgements at the moment. It is a great pity Ofsted could not have been here last Friday to see the other side of a target driven education.

I would like to finish by wishing everyone a safe, happy and restful summer.

Maureen Harries
Principal

Prayer

Dear Lord,

As we come to the end of another year at St Joseph's we thank you for all you have given us and for all the inspirational learning that has taken place.

We ask that these holidays be peaceful and restful, so that when we return we can greet the new term with renewed energy and confidence, and with an eagerness to learn and share more with each other.

We pray that you keep each one of us safe.

Amen

Forward Notice

As of September 1st parents will be able to drop students on site before 8.15 in the morning. This is for a trial period only.

The College is trialling this to support our neighbours in Shrivenham Road. Some parents, despite requests, continue to park, causing distress to local residents.

We would encourage parents to still use Tesco's car park to drop off, as this is our primary drop off point.

These new arrangements will be reviewed during October half term.

End of College day stays the same as it is now. This cannot change due to the sheer number of students who will be leaving at 3.00 p.m in September.

Dates for your diary

| | |
|----------------|--|
| 19th July | Gifted and Talented Celebration Evening |
| 20th July | College Closes for Students |
| 16th August | GCE A-Level Examination Results Collection |
| 23rd August | GCSE Examination Results Collection |
| 3rd September | Staff Training Day |
| 4th September | Years 11, 12 and 13 Induction |
| 5th September | Years 8 and 10 Induction |
| 6th September | Year 7 Induction |
| 6th September | Year 12 Higher Education Study Skills Day |
| 7th September | Years 7 and 9 Induction |
| 7th September | Year 12 Team Building Day |
| 10th September | College Opens to All Students |

Collecting Exam Results

Examination Results for the May/June session of examinations will be available for collection from the Sports Hall on the dates listed below. Please access the building via the community entrance.

Important Notice: If the candidate is NOT able to collect their results in person the candidate can appoint a delegate to collect their exam results on their behalf. A letter must be given to the appointed person, giving authorisation for the College to do this. Exam results cannot be given to a third party without this authorisation being received.

GCE A-Level (A2) Results

Thursday 16th August: Doors open at 08:30am

GCE AS Level Results

Thursday 16th August: Doors open at 09:00am

GCSE Results – Year 10 / 11 only

Thursday 23rd August: Doors open at 10:00am

Results for Year 9 and below will be distributed via Form Tutors during the first week of September.

Dropping in Items

We have noticed an increase in the amount of parents dropping off forgotten lunches, books and messages etc. recently. Although we appreciate it is sometimes necessary, we would like to discourage this, as it disrupts lessons when we have to continually interrupt classes. Thank you for your co-operation.

Change of Address or Phone Number

If you move house, or update your phone number please can you ensure you notify the College as soon as possible. Many thanks for your co-operation.

Cornwall Art Trip

At 6am on Friday we dragged ourselves out of our beds and headed for Cornwall. After around four hours we arrived at the Eden Project. The biomes were filled with exotic, wonderful and beautiful plants. There were two very different environments; the hot, sticky, moist and colourful rainforest environment and the dry, oven-like Mediterranean environment.

My group and I went to the Mediterranean environment and saw many large and small cacti and other beautiful, but deadly, plants. In a vineyard there were many statues representing the Greek god of wine, Dionysus, in the form of a bull with his followers celebrating by running through the vines.

When we went to the rainforest environment the first thing we saw were leaves, millions of leaves! There were endless pools of water and large waterfalls falling down into fast flowing rivers. The higher we travelled, the hotter it became and soon we were sweating from the heat.

The next morning, by 9am, we had eaten our breakfast and were packed and ready to go. We travelled to St Ives and visited the Tate Gallery. There was many different artists' work on show, an eclectic range from sculptures to sketches. We made lots of sketches and took photos and, after the Tate, went our own ways to travel around St Ives, exploring its history and culture.

Afterwards, we went to the Barbara Hepworth Museum, one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th century. Her work was astounding, ranging from small hollow sculptures to a sculpture larger than ten men! After two fun-filled days we headed back to St. Joseph's, tired but happy.

Jordan Whelan, 9B



3rd Annual Exhibition Success

Students and staff showcased their talents at the 3rd Annual Art and Photography Exposure Exhibition held at the Post Modern Gallery. The opening on 2nd July was well attended and the feedback from visitors was fantastic. Keep an eye out for next year's exhibition!

Pilgrimage to Glastonbury

When you think of Glastonbury you're more likely to associate the town with the likes of The Who, Radiohead, Coldplay and, more recently, performers like Jay Z. One thing that you may be surprised to know about Glastonbury is its strong links to the Roman Catholic Church, even to this modern day. That was certainly something I found when I went there last Thursday.

The day began with a Mass led by Bishop Declan. It had an overriding theme of 'Names' (how significant a role it plays when you remember a name of someone you have just met and how necessary it is to develop the odd "hello" into a new friendship). The colleges and schools in the Clifton Diocese formed the congregation. This gave us a great opportunity to learn a few more names and familiarise ourselves with a few more faces - very manageable indeed!

This was swiftly followed by a walk to the top of a steep hill, at the apex of which stood a tower. This walk provided us with the perfect chance to meet new people, walking two-by-two through picturesque streets.

We returned to the church, an endless number of names in hand, for the final liturgy, to conclude what seemed a magical day. Not only were we able to learn more about a fascinating and beautiful town steeped in centuries of history, but we were able to delve deep into ourselves and – in a strange way- find out more about ourselves and just what makes us...well...us.

Glastonbury was an unforgettable experience and embodied the Catholic teaching of brotherhood and sisterhood, which is at the very core of our faith.

Nigel Nunes, Y12



Visit to Boulogne

On Friday 6th July, for the first time, I was invited to join Year 7 on their trip to Boulogne. We were forecast rain and therefore packed wet weather gear and wore sensible shoes! After our stop at the hypermarket to buy food for the planned picnic, we travelled onto the city of Boulogne. The weather was glorious, allowing us to enjoy a walk around the 'old' town, admiring the beautiful buildings. The walking route to the port and beach took us through the 'new' town, with its speciality food shops and cafes. The heavens then opened meaning our picnic had to be abandoned but this certainly didn't spoil our day. I would certainly go next year.

Fitter, Healthier, Happier

MEND Teens is a FREE, fun 10-week healthy lifestyle programme for 13 to 16-year-olds and their parents or carers, starting in September at Stratton Community Leisure Centre, Grange Drive, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon SN3 4JY.

Sessions will be after school on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 4-6pm, starting on Monday 17th September 2012. For the first hour of every session, the group takes part in an interactive healthy eating workshop; the young people then spend the second hour exercising while the parents and carers discuss specific topics in more detail together.

MEND Teens is a programme for young people who are above a healthy weight. To find out more about MEND Teens, please contact Emma Sperring on 01793 465412 or 07818 510563 or email esperring@swindon.gov.uk Further information about MEND Teens can also be found on the MEND website: www.mendcentral.org

There is also a MEND programme for 5-7-year-olds at the Oasis Leisure Centre and another for 7-13-year-olds at the Link Centre in Swindon starting in September. If you would like more information about any of these programmes, feel free to call or email Emma Sperring (contact details above).

Discovering the First Computer

On Friday 25th May a small group of Year 8 students visited Bletchley Park, which is where the first computer was invented. Whilst we were there, we learnt the difference between codes and ciphers and we also saw 'Colossus', an enormous computer used for breaking the German ciphers in the Second World War. We saw lots of other old computers as well.

Towards the end of the day we got to play old 'Pacman' style games and then we got to design our own computer programme. After that we played with a touch screen table. I found the whole day very interesting, but my favourite part was playing the old games and designing the computer programme.

Maia Fitzgerald, 8C



Fairtrade Roundup 2012

We have had another successful year with Fairtrade at St Joseph's. We continue to supply Holy Rood Parish, the Moravian Church, the Rodbourne Methodist Church and Commonweal school with products through our Fairtrade Franchise.

Selling in excess of £6,200 worth of products has meant that we have managed to send £650 of commission to the Children of the Forest Project in Thailand. We sent a further £200 to the charity, with part of the money raised at the Fairtrade Fashion Show, which we held jointly with Mid-Counties Coop and the Swindon Fairtrade Coalition, during Fairtrade Fortnight in March.

Many thanks to all who continue to support our Franchise. Without you buying our products and creating awareness we would not be able to make such a great contribution towards a better life, for our brothers and sisters who are in need.

Special thanks go to the students who help in the running of the Franchise – particularly to Liam Traynor and Danny Wyatt who are applying for our renewal of the Fairtrade Status which expires in September. We look forward to seeing you again next term – volunteers are always welcome!

Be The Best WE Can Be

To begin with, 'Be the Best You Can Be' has been an inspirational project to help us plan out our lives and make us believe in our dreams. Mark Richardson made a difference in our lives, telling us that that what we aim for in life could easily become a reality, if we give 100% effort.

When Mark first came to the College in September he talked about how he believed that he could win the 400m race. Even though he knew how hard it was he never gave up on his goal to succeed. Mark also showed us his Olympic medal and gave us our work booklets to complete throughout the year, which included the GROW model:

Goal: What you want to achieve

Reality: What is happening now?

Options: What could you do?

Will: What will you do?

When he came back on the second occasion, as part of the Celebration Event on Monday 2nd July, he went around some of the Year 7 classrooms asking a few students what their favourite aspect of the course was. Then we had an assembly, which included presentations about our progress in 'Be the Best You Can Be' and how it has helped us.

In the assembly some of the Year 7s did presentations about what BTBYCB had given them. After that Mark Richardson presented us all with medallions and we all had a group photo in our tutor groups with him, to show that we had completed the BTBYCB programme.

Amber McGrory, Alice Watts, Chelsea Pereira and Lucy Baranowicz, 7C

Castles Trip

On 29th June 2012, Year 7 students were given the opportunity to visit two Welsh castles, Chepstow and Raglan. This supported work they had done earlier in the year on the Norman Conquest and medieval castles. The students had the chance to wander around the castles with a teacher, asking questions and investigating the different remains, using their work from class to analyse why these castles were designed this way and why the builders had chosen that location.

"On the rainy day of 29th June, Year 7 went to Wales. This trip was a historical trip and we went to see Chepstow castle and Raglan castle. When we arrived at Chepstow it was beautiful - the huge towers, lovely scenery and the River Wye. I couldn't believe that this was built in 1067. We learned that this was a defensive castle, built to protect and had lots (and I mean lots!) of arrow slits. Raglan castle was stunning; there were lots of huge windows and beautiful arches and a huge moat. We had lots of fun wandering round and taking pictures. This was the best trip to Wales!"

Rhea Cabral, 7M

Plas Pencelli Visit

We left school on Sunday 1st July, in two mini buses en route for the Plas Pencelli Outdoor Education Centre. All 25 of us arrived about 6pm in time for dinner, which we ate outside in the warm evening weather. That evening we were all given waterproof clothing and then started our first evening activity: the dingle descent down the river - blind folded! This really encouraged everyone to support each other and give helpful direction, in order to safely move forward.

The rest of the week flew by, and was exhausting, with a lot of activities, including abseiling, caving, mountain walking up Pen Y Fan, rock climbing on the Gower peninsula, kayaking on the River Usk and canoeing on the River Wye.

Everyone was incredibly well behaved and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Green Team Trip to Steam

On Tuesday 26th June six of the Green Team members attended a Travel Ambassador meeting at the STEAM Museum in Swindon. Miss Fuller also attended the conference and supervised us for the day.

The day consisted of various discussions, including the dangers of travelling to and from school using bicycles, and walking or driving and how to decrease the dangers. Whilst talking about this we discussed how walking or cycling to and from school could keep us fit and energetic! All six of us each had a different workshop to attend. The workshops were about design and technology (graphics), which promote road safety through accident facts and learning about the rules of the road. One of our Green Team members recorded an interview with one of the ladies that set the conference up and this will be played on the radio, on Swindon 105.5.

Other Green Team members from our school made some helmet bags to promote road safety. At the end of the day all of us were given a chance to win a scooter and we all got a little note book to record our ideas to promote road safety in our school. Overall it was a very educational and enjoyable day and we will take on board the safety when travelling to and from school.

Sasha Brady, Emily Tuck, Alexandra, Templeman, Rhoda Mwangi, Luke Wood and Raphael Adekunle

ADULT EDUCATION AND EVANGELISATION

HOPE

CATECHISTS symposium

The symposium is taking place at St Joseph's Catholic College, Ocotal Way, Swindon, SN3 3LR on Saturday 21st July from 10am to 3.30pm. All Welcome

CLIFTON DIOCESE
cliftondiocese.com

Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care is a subject that is directly related to real life situations. One of the activities that students really enjoy is looking after an interactive baby. We are fortunate in having four babies which are both life size and the weight of an average newborn. These babies can be programmed to control the amount of attention they will demand from their carer and they will record whether or not their needs were met, indicating if they were neglected during the time they were being cared for.

Within the Key Stage 4 curriculum students learn about human growth and development and the influence that various factors have on an individual's physical, intellectual, emotional and social well-being. Using the dolls helps to enable students to experience first - hand the demands placed on the carer when looking after an infant.

Students are expected to continue with their College work whilst caring for the baby and should aim to keep the baby quiet, meeting its needs so that others in the class are not disturbed. The aim of this activity is to enable students to see how demanding an infant can actually be and how it may impact on stress levels for both themselves and those around them.

It is always interesting to see how different students relate to the babies, most are really surprised at just how heavy the baby becomes after holding it for about fifteen minutes, while others find their crying very annoying and stressful to cope with. Others, although initially extremely keen to care for the baby, are pleased to be able to hand the baby on to another student, leaving them free to continue their work uninterrupted!



Performing Arts

Performing Arts Concert

In April 2012 the Performing Arts Department held a concert to celebrate the talents across the College. Here are some reviews from the music students who took part:

"I sang 'Panis Angelicus', written by Cesar Franck at the recent Performing Arts concert. This is my GCSE solo performance piece. The aim of this performance was to give me more confidence and to practise for my final performance. I found the concert useful and it has helped me."

Joanna Vickers, 10S

"I play a piece for the piano called 'When I get the Blues' in the Performing Arts concert. I have recently won a piano class in the Swindon Music Festival with this piece and I am also going to perform it in the Royal Wootton Bassett Festival in June."

Joe Forrester, 10C

"On the 25th April, I performed at the Performing Arts Concert. My sister and I played a piano duet called 'Trois Marches Militaires' by Schubert. This piece is fun to play as it is full of character and challenges. I am considering playing it for my group performance in the GCSE exam. My sister (Izabella Smolicz in Year 13) and I recently took part in the Swindon Music Festival and won the class we entered, playing this piece."

Karolina Smolicz, Year 10

English Department Theatre Trips

The English Department has organised a number of evening theatre visits for the Autumn term. They are mainly aimed at Sixth Form students, but students from all year groups are welcome to attend. Current bookings are for:

11th October: 'The Tempest' at the Watermill, Newbury

24th October: 'Much Ado about Nothing' (RSC starring Meera Syal) at The Noel Coward Theatre, London

8th November: 'Othello' at the Watermill, Newbury

Top price tickets have been secured at greatly reduced prices and letters with further detail will be issued in September. For further information please contact Anya Smith (Team Leader, English), asmith@stjosephs.swindon.sch.uk

Primary Music

The Music Department works regularly with our partner Primary Schools and there has been much collaboration of song writing, performances and workshops. Over the last few years the GCSE group have spent Flexible Fridays working with the Year 5s and Year 6s on composition projects and, more recently, our students have been working with the primary school composing a song for the Clifton Cathedral Schools Mass in September.

Year 12 Musical Theatre

The Year 12 Performing Arts students have been working really hard this term on their production for their Musical Theatre Performance Unit. On top of lessons they have organised extra rehearsals outside and even came into College on the days when they weren't due to come in. Talk about dedication! All their hard work paid off and they recently put on an excellent performance to a packed house.

The show consisted of songs from a variety of musicals from the 1940's right up to the present day. Everybody got a chance to shine, most notably Regina Bell in a show stopping number from the musical Chicago. Mr English and Mrs Mobey would like to pass on their congratulations to the group for a job very well done.



St. Joseph's Sports Personalities

Congratulations to Mr. Barkham's Year 8 football team for getting into the Swindon Schools Finals!

Olympian Efforts!

On 23rd May, a group of Key Stage 3 students competed in a number of athletic activities as part of the build up to the Olympics, and the torch passing through Swindon. Hear the BBC Wiltshire interview with our School Sports Co-ordinator, Mr. Cross, and some of the students here.

Our students also compete in a great deal of activities outside of College, especially Gabriela Caruso (8L) who has qualified for the British Championships in Rhythmic Gymnastics. Well done to all of you! Please do let us know of all of your achievements so we can celebrate them with you.

Performing Arts

Life in the Music Department

St. Joseph's has a busy Music Department where you'll find many students practising their instruments for exams, assessments, or just for fun! Students regularly participate in local competitions, festivals and concerts both in College and in the local community.

Competitions and Festivals

This year we have had a number of students taking part in the local competitions and festivals. In January 2012, three of our Year 11 students took part in the Swindon Young Musician Competition held at Blunsdon House. They performed really well and were commended by the adjudicator for their musical performances. Two of the students were asked to perform at the Swindon Young Musician Showcase in April of this year.



A large number of students from St. Joseph's, who learn instruments both in College and privately, took part in the Swindon Music Festival and some of our winners included:

Joe Forrester (Year 10) - Piano

Karolina Smolicz (Year 10) and her sister Izabella (Year 13) - Piano duet

In April 2012 Joe Forrester (10C) and Jordan Isgin (10A) were entered for the Schools Piano Festival held at the Swindon Arts Centre. This was a celebration of the piano talents of the students from local schools. Each school/college was asked to enter a couple of students each. This festival was excellent preparation for our two students, who are preparing for the solo performance in their GCSE music exam.

In June 2012 we entered a group of students into the Royal Wootton Bassett Festival. The results were excellent!

- Joe Forrester (10C) came 1st in his Modern Piano Class.
- Jordan Isgin (10A) came 2nd in the Aged 15/16 Piano Class.
- Joanna Vickers (Year 10) came 1st in two classes - Folk Song and Sacred Song

Our singing teacher also entered a number of our vocalists and they all did the College proud with their performances.

The final competition of the year was the St. Joseph's Catholic College Music Festival. We had around 60 entries, ranging from singers to band, pianist and violin. Well done to all the students who took part. The following students will be performing at the Awards Ceremony on the 19th July.

- Breaking Strings - Fraser Gordon, Lewis Cummings, Will Ash and Oliver Milea (Year 9)
- Alana Kahan (7E)
- Emma Rajska (9M)
- Jordan Isgin (10A)
- Joe Forrester (10C)

A number of the other outstanding performances will be taking part in the annual celebration assemblies on the last day of term. The overall winners for each year group were:

Year 7: Leahann Horgan

Year 8: Orla Blake

Year 9: Emma Rajska

Year 10: Jordan Isgin

Year 12: Ben O'Flanagan

Each student will receive a trophy for the year and a medal to keep.

Instrumental Lessons

The College has worked closely with the Swindon Music Co-operative for a number of years now, and we have successfully offered instrumental lessons to a large number of students. If you would like to learn one of the following instruments please look at the advert in this newsletter for more details on how to arrange your lessons for September 2012.

Concerts and Shows

This year we have had a number of successful shows and concerts. These range from a GCSE showcase of compositions and performances to Key Stage Performing Arts Festivals and the College musical production of 'Oliver!'.

Chris Anthulakis, 7A, played an 'orphan and Fagin thief' in Oliver! saying,

"Taking part in 'Oliver!' was BRILLIANT. It gave me a chance to make new friends. I will DEFINITELY be taking part in next year's production. Juggling rehearsals with homework was hard but worthwhile, as it led to a dazzling performance in the end. I liked the way everybody had their own part to play and as a team we were all proud to be representing the school. I will never forget the experience!"

Science

This year in Science St Mary's, Holy Rood and Holy Family Primary Schools have visited St Joseph's Catholic College to experience 'snap shot' lessons of the Science that is taught in Year 7. This has been a great opportunity for the Year 6 students to understand various aspects of Science, including electrical circuits and microbes. Students were able to take part in practical activities such as electrical circuit construction and the viewing of microbes under the microscope. Many Year 6 students even shared their experiences of illnesses they had suffered and the medicine needed to help them recover! Students were particularly fascinated by the 'gory' disease pictures that were shown, and all showed a sound basic knowledge of all concepts taught. All Year 6 students that attended showed a great enthusiasm for Science and were brilliantly behaved throughout. The primary lessons have been both insightful and enjoyable for myself and the Year 6 students. I very much look forward to teaching the future Year 6 students from our feeder Primary Schools next year.

Miss Hume

ICT

The ICT/Computing department hosted five of our feeder primary schools over the course of this term. Students were given the chance to experience two new software packages; Crocodile ICT (software that allows the simulation of controlling dancers on a stage) and Scratch (animation software which allows students to create complex animations whilst learning the basics of computer programming). Both packages are available for free and can be downloaded by scanning these QR codes on your smart phone. Students will be exposed to both of these software packages in Year 7, so downloading the software over the summer would be a useful activity if they are short of things to do! All of the ICT teachers remarked how well behaved the students were and how enthusiastic they were in lessons – a credit to their teachers. We look forward to welcoming them all in September.



Mr Firth

Art and Technology

St Marys and Holy Rood Joined the Art and Technology Departments for an induction day. The students were well behaved and enjoyed a range of tasks from clay to print-making, graphics, resistant materials and the chance to find out about vacuum forming. They happily departed with wooden boxes, masks and a healthy eating dice.

Mrs Wiltshire

Maths

Maths teachers from St Joseph's visited all the main feeder primaries to teach a lesson about nets, so that the incoming Year 7s would see the similarity between their existing maths/numeracy lessons and those taught at St. Joseph's by maths specialists. They learnt about using

compasses to construct shapes more accurately and were reminded about prisms and introduced to tapered solids. A few were also introduced to Platonic solids, which are the only five solid shapes that have all their faces being the same shape.

The Maths elite from Holy Rood, Holy Family, St Catherine's and St Mary's gathered at St Joseph's on 13th June to compete against each other, and against the best of Year 7, in the 3rd Annual Primary Maths Challenge Day. These included completing Tantrix puzzles, lateral thinking puzzles, cross numbers and complicated sequences.

Holy Family came closest to defeating their older competitors, and everyone had a good day. Thank you to those Year 10s who helped out, and hopefully the Year 7s got some good experience for their own inter-school competition next year.

Mr Davies

English

This year various members of the St. Joseph's Catholic College English Department were involved in Year 6 Primary Liaison visits to our feeder schools: Drove, Holy Family, Holy Rood, Saint Catherine's and Saint Mary's. After being introduced to the Year 6 classes, teachers taught a lesson which primarily involved speaking and listening skills. It also gave students the opportunity to ask questions about how English as a subject is taught at Key Stage 3 and what they would be learning at St. Joseph's. The secondary function of the lesson was for students to begin their preparations for a brief 'all about me' presentation, which they will give during their first week of English lessons in Year 7; a great way for teachers to get to know students as learners, and for members of the tutor group to learn about each other as friends.

Miss Standley and Mrs Ash modelled both a good and bad speaking and listening presentation at Holy Rood, much to the students' amusement.

Mr McKenna, who visited Holy Family, said, "...it was a lovely opportunity to see what students were reading, and to allay many of the concerns that students might have about the transition process and of course, how English is taught at St. Joseph's."

Mrs Mobey, who visited Saint Mary's, said, "I am always excited to meet our new students. It's a great opportunity to get to know students and make them feel comfortable about the move to St. Joseph's. As a teacher, it's also lovely when students recognise you from the visits when they arrive in September."

Miss Standley

Humanities

On July 4th two St. Joseph's staff members enjoyed a visit to Holy Rood Junior School to meet the Year 6 students who will be joining us in September. The aim of the visit, organised by the History and Geography Departments, was to assist the students in feeling more prepared and confident in their transition to secondary school in September, as well as enabling them to participate in an enjoyable and interactive introductory session to a new course which the Year 7s will begin in September. The course, entitled 'The World around Us', will see students

carrying out lessons, combining skills and topic areas from aspects of the History, Geography, ICT and Drama curriculums.

The session itself, run by Miss Fuller and Miss Pileggi, gave the Year 6 students at the feeder primary an opportunity to carry out investigations and draw conclusions about people and events by using a wide range of different source materials. The students were incredibly responsive to the challenges they were given and thoroughly enjoyed the session.

Miss Parker

Music

The Music Department has worked successfully with three primary schools this last academic year, Holy Rood Junior School, Holy Family Primary School and St. Mary's Primary School.

We worked with both Year 5 and 6 students and in each school the brief was different. The students who wanted to rap or sing a solo took part in an 'X-Factor' style audition. The class chose a panel of judges and the atmosphere was one of supporting each other and celebrating talents within the class.

St. Mary's was the first challenge and we wrote a Christmas Song, to be performed to the school at the end of the term. The students wrote lyrics to include both secular and sacred themes.

Holy Family students wanted to write a song for the Reception class. They wanted to put across a message of the school's expectations, as well as all the fun things that they will have the opportunity to take part in.

Holy Rood School decided to embrace the Olympic theme and the Year 5 students wrote a song that looked at the skills, talents and aspirations needed to compete in an Olympic event, and how these parallel what students do in school. The class performed this song to a former Olympic javelin player, who was impressed with their song. The students are planning to send their song to the Olympic committee.

It has been a fun and challenging task working with each school and we look forward to continuing our musical ventures together in the future.

Miss Collins

Swindon Schools Athletics Success

Year 7 student Vanessa Iwuoha has certainly made a name for herself in 800m athletics this year. Vanessa was selected to represent St. Joseph's in the County Athletics Trials at the County Ground in May. Here Vanessa cruised to 1st place and was selected to represent Swindon at the County Athletics in Salisbury on Saturday 9th June. After competing in Salisbury Vanessa once again represented St. Joseph's at the Swindon Schools' Athletics Championships in June. At this event Vanessa secured her place as fastest female Year 7 800m runner in the town in 2012, with another first place finish. Well done Vanessa, and to all the other students who represented St. Joseph's at the 2012 Swindon Schools' Athletics Championships.

Year 6 Olympic Sports Day

Congratulations to Mr Dixon's Year 10 PE BTEC group, who were all involved in organising and running the above event. Our Sports Leaders had an excellent rapport with their young charges, controlling proceedings with good authority but motivating and encouraging the students at the same time. They worked largely in groups of two or three and were responsible for organising, running, officiating and scoring the following events: 60m Sprint, 100m Sprint, 600m, 8 X 50m relay, Long Jump, Quoit throw, basketball throw, and vortex throw.

Most of the cluster Primary Schools turned up to compete, so it was a tall order for our students to perform so well. Thankfully, a few short showers aside, the weather was reasonably kind to us, especially considering what we've been privy to as of late!

Holy Rood Junior School took overall 1st place, St Mary's 2nd, and Holy Family 3rd, with some good talent recognised for next year. Well done to all concerned.

Running Club

My name is Stanley Maclennan and I am in Year 9. I like running but I haven't really done any running in the past except for the 5K Park Run in Swindon with my mum. Running Club takes place on a Wednesday after school and lasts for one hour. Staff, students and family members are all able to attend the Running Club. Mrs. Chivers, Parent Support Advisor, told me about the Running Club but there has also been posters put up in school.

At Running Club we have a coach called Sarah Simms, who is part of Run England. We learn and practise running techniques. This has included focusing on breathing, posture, foot fall and arm movements. I would recommend Running Club because it is a good feeling to run and it improves your fitness. My Student Manager, Ms Belzko, goes to Running Club each week. Ms Belzko really enjoys Running Club because she says it is a good way to keep fit and she enjoys running. Ms Belzko has improved her fitness levels over the past few weeks and has now completed her first 5K Park run in Swindon.

Stanley Maclennan

Cricket Update 2012

The College cricket teams have trained and played with great enthusiasm and skill this season. There has been a very good attendance at training, with the College's outstanding facilities allowing the boys to practice either indoors or outdoors, depending on weather conditions. Fixtures have been played against Warneford, Lydiard Park Academy, Nova Hreod, Isambard, Kingsdown and Bradon Forest.

The Year 8 teams had wins against Lydiard Park Academy and Nova Hreod but were defeated in the quarter-final of the cup by Bradon Forest. The Year 9 team got through to the semi-final of the cup, where they lost to a very strong Kingsdown team. All players deserve congratulations for their excellent effort and attitude.

St. Joseph's Got Talent

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12

And this is how we at St. Joseph's see our students. Some students' gifts are in the traditional 'academic' subjects, whereas others' talents lie in the more 'practical' curriculum, and perhaps outside of College. It is our aim here to tap into these Gifts and Talents to ensure your child is given the best opportunity to succeed in life.

What is Gifted and Talented?

The interpretation of this entire term is subjective so it is important to break it down:

Gifted: "One who is in the top 5-10% of the pupil population of the school or class group who has the capacity for or demonstrates high levels of performance in an academic area." (DfES). This is identified through CATS results in Year 7 and SATS results from your son or daughter's primary school. An electronic register is kept that all staff have access to.

Talented: Identified by teachers of more practical subjects (e.g. Drama, Music, PE). Although teachers keep their own records of these students, a central document for each year group has now been created where all staff can add names to their subject specific area, which is visible to other departments.

Able: A student who is achieving excellent results through hard work and determination in a particular subject(s). Like Talented students, these young people are recorded as Able by their classroom teacher and also named on the College-wide central document for each subject and year group.

How is St. Joseph's nurturing your child's Gifts or Talents?

Each year, the College takes your Year 7 child's CAT scores in order to assess whether they are Gifted. Your child's name is then entered onto our Gifted register. The Talented and Able register is an organic document which changes as your child develops their Talents term upon term, year upon year.

Both the Gifted and the Talented and Able registers are used to assist with differentiation of classroom tasks for your child. Regular classroom observations and monitoring of work produced ensure that your child is being challenged appropriately to ensure progression.

Staff are constantly being updated in their training to ensure their classroom practice stretches Gifted, Talented and Able students. Additional opportunities to encourage your child to celebrate their Gifts, Talents and Abilities are offered through the extra-curricular programme of activities on offer.

Talented and Able students are chosen to represent their year group at various "Challenge Days" across the borough. Core course options are tailored to suit your child's Gifts, Talents and Abilities from Year 9 onwards.

The Villiers Park Scheme offers a mentoring programme to Gifted, Talented and Able students.

Gifted and Talented Awards 2012

Held on the evening of July 19th, a true celebration of those students who have excelled in their field, this annual event sees students from across the College come together for a very special evening. Please see the College website for more details and photos.

Stop Press!

If your child is involved in any activities outside of College that are extending and enriching their education please let us know about it. Please contact Kathyne Fuller (G&T Co-ordinator).

The Villiers Park Scheme

Villiers Park Educational Trust helps able young people to reach their full academic potential and develop a passion for learning. They are committed to fair access, enabling students from less advantaged backgrounds to gain places at leading universities. Since 1968, 22,530 students have benefited from their residential courses, with many more benefiting from their one day courses and Scholars Programme. St. Joseph's has been working with them for five years and we have seen the results of their free four year programme work with our students.



Many able students can perform well below their capability and a disproportionate number of these underperformers come from less advantaged backgrounds. To address this problem, Villiers Park Educational Trust has created the Villiers Park Scholars Programme. The Programme aims to level the playing field by helping students, families, schools and universities work in partnership, so that entry requirements to leading universities can be met first time round based on AS/A2 grade achievements. It also aims to ensure that scholars learn the skills they need to thrive at university once they are there, starting at GCSE level.

Our Year 10 cohort is reaching the end of their first year at Villiers. Here's what one of them has thought about it so far:

"In the last year, Villiers Park has really helped me improve on my confidence in all lessons. I don't worry about answering things wrong in class. It has also helped me in my Italian lessons as I was really under confident and

Sixth Form University Trip

"St. Anne's College is one of the many colleges that form Oxford University. It boasts some of the finest, most prestigious libraries in the world, consisting of some of the brightest and most diligent learners united by a passion for English. St. Anne's is a hallmark in the language's study, dissecting and interrogating English at the highest level. So it would be rational to assume that this is no place for two Year 12 students to spend the day. But that's exactly what happened when Connor Perrin and I visited St. Anne's for the day.

Our first lecture was nothing short of remarkable, and we were surprised that a young, long-haired professor stood before us cracking jokes. When his lecture began he provided a new dimension to poetry, showing how the structure plays as equally significant a role as the words when it comes to expressing meaning.

The following lecture was on biographical writing. Little did we know prior to this lecture that if the clocks were turned back 200 years or so, the many authors that write about the lives of, say, Peter Andre, personalities from The Only Way Is Essex or Cheryl Cole would have been seen as criminals of the English Language, exploiting the lives of individuals to make money. After lunch, we moved into focus groups, giving us a chance to meet students from various other parts of the country.

We left Oxford with a completely different understanding of English. Prior to the master class I thought that what was done at AS Level gave me an insight into everything the language had to offer. From my visit to St. Anne's College, I soon realised I was merely scratching the surface.

Nigel Nunes

Year 6 Buddy Project

This term our Year 10 students who have English as an additional language have been busy working alongside a group of Year 6 students who also speak other languages at home. Daniel Devis Cabrera, Blanche Gonsalves, Stanson Pinheiro and Blanca Gracias, who have themselves benefitted from being mentored by our Year 12 EAL students, have been supporting the work of eight Year 6 EAL pupils at Drove Primary School by undertaking a number of different tasks during three mentoring sessions.

From finding out about St. Joseph's to talking about the work of Picasso, the younger learners have been encouraged to work on their speaking and listening skills, helping ease the transition to secondary school. On the third and final session all learners took part in a celebratory basketball match, refereed by Stanson and which was won 1-0 by Blanca's team.

Staff at Drove commented on the progress and increased confidence of the Year 6 learners, and our Year 10 students embraced the opportunity to represent the College in our community.

underachieving. Villiers helped me speak to my teacher and helped me have the chance to find other ways to learn out of lessons. By doing this, I went up two grades to a "B". Also, it has helped me with my communication skills and generally helped me with making links in lessons and doing more work out of school to help me achieve higher grades in all of my lessons."

Emma Hancock

To see if your child qualifies for this exciting opportunity please contact Jenny Baxter in the Red Family Area for a letter.

Not only are our students challenged within sessions on a daily basis, a competition is run for each Year Group in different subjects at Key Stage 3, focussing on our most able.

Year 7 Challenge Day

"During the start of 2012, a few gifted and talented Year 7 students, from a range of various subjects across the school, were chosen to go to Nova Hreod School. We were taken to the hall and set a group of activities to complete, using our business and enterprise skills; utilitarianism skills; drawing skills and so on. It was a memorable day for all of us taking part in the challenges against other secondary schools."

Raphael Adekunle

Year 8 Challenge Day

"Our first challenge was the Maths challenge, where we had to use our thinking skills. The first task was a puzzle where there were three wolves and three chickens on one side of the river and the task was to get them across without having two wolves and a chicken at any point, even on the boat ride. We managed to finish this within five minutes, which was good. When our Maths finished, we built bridges out of paper that would support heavy weights in the Art Challenge. After that, we started our French task in which we had to use dictionaries and attempt to write an advertisement for Swindon.

In the second half of the day, we did a number of other tasks but the one that stood out was for Science, where we had to find which substances were acid or alkali and how strongly acid or alkali they were. At the end each participant and school group was presented with a certificate. Overall I think it was a fantastic day, not just for learning but also for meeting students from different schools in Swindon."

Bipin Gurung

Visiting West Mill Wind Farm

Danny, Chris and I, accompanied by Miss Fuller, were invited to a tour of West Mill Wind Farm near Watchfield. We started with a short talk about the wind turbines. Here we found out how they work and the cost, including other information. We then swapped and went round the solar farm; it was really interesting. After this we went to a talk about sustainable living and reducing our carbon footprint. It was very interesting and we were all very glad to be given the opportunity to visit the site.

Katie Reilly

House News

Buckfast

With Sports Day in view, and following on from our victory last year, it's perhaps no surprise that so many students from Buckfast have been involved with different sporting events. Many Year 8s were involved with the County Athletics, an especially high number from 8A. Well done to all of the students involved in this event. Year 8s, Alessandro Serratore, James Bowd, and Kyle Parker, also came second overall in the Swindon Football tournament. Many Year 9 Buckfast students were also chosen to represent the College at athletics. In Year 10 Alexandra McKenna has represented the college in Rounders and Valentine Yohans achieved three wickets for five runs against Nova Hreed. All of your success bodes very well for Sports Day!

Outside of College Jordan Isgin performed a Chopin waltz in A minor beautifully before an audience in Wootton Bassett. At the same event Joanna Vickers came 1st in two classes, a fantastic achievement!

Following the success of her charity show in January, Remely Rodrigues (10A) put on another fantastic show in June. Remely has shown fantastic commitment to the House and support for our charity this year: well done and thank you Remely!

Glastonbury

Glastonbury House has made an impressive last minute dash for the commendations finish line and we all look forward to hearing the final tallies for the term; well done to all those pupils who have made extra effort in their classes in the name of their house.

Thank you to all the House Reps who have given lots of ideas and feedback in the planning of Mission Week and end of term events. Mission Week especially will be the perfect opportunity for members of the House to show off their talents, and celebrate those of others, as well as welcoming the wider community into our College.

We are hoping for impressive results from Glastonbury at our approaching Sports Day (and for the rain to hold off!). In keeping with the sporting theme be sure to tune in to the Olympic Opening Ceremony, where they are making their very own Glastonbury Tor inside the stadium!

As with any other trips and events, if you are a Glastonbury pupil who has documented in words and pictures something you have done in the name of the House, please bring it to Mr Harney and celebrate your House's achievement.

Evesham

Evesham House has had lots to celebrate in this final term, with many students contributing to the wider College life. Congratulations to all the Year 9 Students who completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award and good luck with your silver award next year.

Thank you to Michelle Bilko and Mia Woloszczynska for helping the Sports Department at the SJCC Cluster Year 6 Sports / Olympic Day. Well done indeed!

Congratulations to all the Peer Mentors in Year 9; Omolola Funsho, Elsie Plummer, Kimberley Lopes, Emily Rutherford, Alexandra Johnson, Serena Serratore, Abigayle Holt, Shannon Traynor and Georgina Squires. I am sure you will all make fantastic mentors!

Evesham have been busy preparing objects for the St Joseph's time capsule; 8B have photographed objects that are important to them today, attaching a note for the future generation to read.

Artists across all Houses have been busy preparing giant House letters for Sports Day. Thank you to everyone who has helped with producing the letters.

Walsingham

This term Walsingham is waiting in anticipation to see if they have got the highest house points total this term. I am very proud to see our House in the running for winner (never mind being miles ahead) considering we have always been last during the year, this just goes to show that a little effort from everyone can really pay off. Despite our roaring lead, this could be a close call due to Mission Week (9th-13th July), which will involve a number of points being awarded to those who contribute and get involved. Competitions being offered include a Mission Week prayer and original composition song amongst others, celebrating the gifts and talents of our students.

As a House we are also looking forward to Sports Day. Year-on-year this has been a day for cohesion with the rest of the College, and for outward support of individuals. Miss Shaw-Giles and I have been running an Art Club for the last few weeks on Tuesday lunchtimes, preparing banners to cheer on our houses with. We hope that every student contributes and positively encourages others, above all trying their best.

