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Anti-Bullying Week
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JOHN FISHER NEWS

John Fisher Choir sings for Barnardo's



The John Fisher Choir sing in support of Barnardo's in front of a packed audience at the Royal Albert Hall.

Royal Albert Hall Concert

On Monday 16th November the John Fisher School Choir starred at the Royal Albert Hall in support of the Barnardo's 'Believe in Children' campaign. The annual Barnardo's Young Supporters' Concert is by invitation only and is popular with schools. Our choir, under the leadership of Mr Murdock and Mr Ford, performed two pieces – 'Can You Hear Me' and 'Die Silbergraue Straußenfeder' in front of an appreciative audience. This year over 1500 pupils formed the massed choir with only two schools having the honour of performing individually – St John's Primary School's troupe of African Drummers and The John Fisher School Choir.



The evening was compered by CBBC's Sidney Sloane in front of a capacity audience. The massed choirs from over 40 schools from across the South of England sang a range of popular numbers including; a 'Music Hall Melody', 'Mamma Mia' – a tribute to Abba, 'Tragedy' – a selection of Bee Gees songs, and a melody of Queen numbers amongst others.

Today Barnardo's helps more than 100,000 children, young people and their families every year. Like Dr Thomas Barnardo, who founded the organisation Barnardo's believes that every child deserves the best start in life and the chance to fulfil their potential. The John Fisher School is proud to be associated with this important charitable organisation.

Visit to Auschwitz

Michael Timmins - Year 13 writes: On Thursday 22nd October, Declan Delaney and I went on a trip to Krakow, Poland to visit the most famous concentration camp used by Nazi's during the holocaust - Auschwitz. Organised through the Holocaust Education Trust on their 'Lessons from Auschwitz' project, 100 sixth form students from Sutton, as well as MPs and news reporters, are taken on the one day visit.

With a 5.00am departure we flew to Krakow followed by a coach ride to the town of Oświęcim, the original name of Auschwitz before the war. We visited the only remaining synagogue in the town to get an idea of pre-war Jewish life; despite making up over half the population before the war, not a single Jew lives there now.

Auschwitz 1 was made up of old barracks now converted into displays, the most notable of which were the actual possessions of the victims, who were stripped and shaved upon arrival. There were shoes, suitcases with names on and most chilling of all, real hair from the victims which had been preserved all this time. We then moved onto the gas chamber where visitors commented that you could still smell the stench of bodies which has been described by so many survivors. The

strangest thing of all was that the commandant - Rudolf Höss - lived in a house with his family less than 100 yards away from the camp. This inspired John Boyne's book 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas', as he was so shocked by this detail.

In Auschwitz 2 - Birkenau the barracks still stand as they were built and stretch as far as you could see. We walked around the huts, suited for 400 people that held 1000, with 5 people sharing a 'bed'. We walked along the famous rail track, on which the victims arrived and is seen in films such as 'Schindler's list'. We followed the path which led to the gas chamber whilst reading a testimony from a survivor describing how he walked along the same route over 60 years previously.

The day finished with a service led by a Rabbi who had accompanied us around for the day. The irony was that whilst we were standing on the train track in Auschwitz, Nick Griffin, a denier of the Holocaust, was being questioned on BBC's Question Time. Rabbi Mark made his feelings on this known to us. He then left us with the statistic that if we were to stand in one minutes silence for every person who died in the Holocaust, we would be standing in silence for three and a half years.

The trip was an enlightening experience and I recommend to anyone who gets the chance to go to take it.



Dates For Your Diaries:

Monday 16th November
National Enterprise Week

Monday 16th November
Anti-Bullying Week

Monday 16th November
School Choir at the Royal
Albert Hall – Barnardo's

Tuesday 17th November
Year 7 Sacrament of
Reconciliation

Tuesday 17th October
Staff Training – 'Rights &
Responsibilities' - 3.45pm

Tuesday 17th October
John Fisher Old Boys'
Association Committees
Meeting – 8.00pm

Wednesday 18th November
Year 11 Art Mock Exam

Wednesday 18th November
9C Residential Retreat to St
Vincent's Centre

Wednesday 18th November
School Council Meetings –
Lunch time

Thursday 19th November
Year 12 - Speed Careers
Year 13 - Mock Interviews

Thursday 19th November
Mass – 8.10am
Benediction – 1.10pm

Friday 20th November
10F Talk – Sutton
Magistrates

Friday 20th November
Year 11 Final of House
Debating Competition

Sunday 22nd November
Feast of 'Christ the King'

Monday 23rd November
Year 10 Parents' Evening

Monday 23rd November
Year 11 French orals all
week

Tuesday 24th November
Lower School exams begin

Tuesday 24th November
Years 8 & 9 Sacrament of
Reconciliation

Scotland Debut



Kyle celebrating with the IRB Nations Cup won with Scotland A this summer.

Congratulations to John Fisher Old Boy Kyle Traynor who made his full international debut with Scotland this weekend in the 23 – 10 win over Fiji at Murrayfield. Kyle attended John Fisher from 1997 - 2004, joining from Regina Coeli RC Primary School. Kyle qualifies for Scotland through his Glasgow-born parents and now plays for Edinburgh Rugby Club whose website includes the following profile:

'Kyle Traynor was born in Farnborough, Kent schooled in south London, but is Scottish through and through and has a bright future at the coalface.

The promising prop forward attended John Fisher School – the school that produced England winger Paul Sackey – in Purley, south-east London before moving back to his parents' home country, Scotland.

Traynor has captained Scotland at Under-19 level and has also been capped at under-18, under-20 and under-21 level.

He made his Edinburgh first team debut against Newport Gwent Dragons in 2005 and has since gone on to captain Watsonians; winning the Super Cup with the Myreside club.

Away from rugby, Traynor recently graduated from a Quantity Surveying course and is now studying for a Masters in Project Management.'

Scotland head coach Andy Robinson OBE said: "Kyle has been playing consistently well for Edinburgh this season and he deserves his call-up to the squad."

We look forward to following Kyle's progress with interest and wish him every success in his chosen career path. Kyle's name will be added to our Internationals Honours Boards.

Neil Ockenden Honoured

On Friday 6th November Neil Ockenden was honoured for his tireless work and dedication to the John Fisher School Chapel. At the annual dinner of the Old Boys' Association Neil was given the surprise presentation of the Benemerenti Medal by Bishop Howard Tripp – himself a former pupil. The award was instituted by Pope Gregory XVI in 1832 and is conferred on those who have exhibited long and exceptional service to the Catholic Church, their families and community.

Neil, whose brother Keith is our School Sacristan, attended the John Fisher School from 1942 – 1952 following which he had a career in finance, working for The Bank of England. He also has worked in support of The Childrens' Society as well as prisoners' charities. However, the award focused on his support for the John Fisher School Chapel of which his parents were the original benefactors. Mr & Mrs Ockenden, whose four sons attended the school, organised the first garden fetes in order to raised funds for the building of our magnificent school chapel. Those garden parties were the forerunner of our current May Day School Fete.

Neil holds the post of Chairman of the Friends of The John Fisher School Chapel Committee and works hard in ensuring that it is maintained in perfect condition for our boys as well as parishioners of St John the

Baptist Church who attend Mass here daily throughout the year.

Essential work on repairing the lantern above the altar will take place in the New Year. Other recent improvements include updates to the sound system as well as essential fire safety measures. Through the work of Neil and Keith our School Chapel will be secure for generations to come. Well done and congratulations to Neil for this well deserved honour.

Homework Club



The school's Homework Club takes place on Monday – Friday in the Learning Resource Centre from 3.30pm – 4.30pm. The Homework Club is always staffed by four specialist LSAs who are there to support boys from every year group who may need help and advice with homework tasks. Many boys who attend the club prefer to get their homework done in a supportive environment with all the necessary resources to hand, including our suite of PCs, rather than get home and possibly struggle.

A register is always taken of who attends but there is no requirement to stay for the whole hour. The only condition is that the boys who attend are there because they want to be there. That way there are few distractions and boys are able to get the support and advice they need.



Bishop Howard Tripp presents Neil with the Benemerenti Medal.