



St Bonaventure's Newsletter

ISSUE : 1

JANUARY 2014



Happy New Year

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CSI St Bons

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MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

I am pleased to introduce this new-look Newsletter to you all and I hope you find it informative.

Last term was a very long term and all students and staff worked tirelessly in what was a very busy sixteen weeks. Now we have returned to start the New Year refreshed and ready to take on the challenges this year will bring.

Right away, I'm pleased to report that the attendance at St Bonaventure's last term was excellent, at 97.5% this is way above the national average. I want to thank all the parents and carers that have encouraged their sons to attend school every day. Attendance is absolutely crucial to ensure academic success.

Some more fantastic, encouraging news is to tell you that in October we invited an independent Ofsted Inspector into school as part of our self evaluation and analysis and that he rated St Bon's to be outstanding in all areas. Behaviour and Safety, Leadership and Management and the Achievement of Students all scored the highest marks possible and I am especially pleased to report the huge number of outstanding lessons he observed, something I am particularly proud of.

The good news keeps coming too. Our school always makes a great effort with charity. Last year we raised almost £15,000 in total but last term alone we managed to raise a staggering £16,790. This is breathtaking especially as we are all experiencing financial difficulties in the current economic climate. We were all touched by the tragedy in the Philippines, firstly by the earthquake then the most powerful storm ever experienced on Earth. Our students showed their love for their fellow man by generously supporting fundraising activities to help in any way they could. I was humbled by their Christian spirit and so proud of each and everyone of them.

May God bless you and your families and keep you safe this New Year.

Paul Halliwell
Headteacher

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday 6 January	School starts at 8:45am
Friday 10 January	Whole school Mass
Monday 13 January	Year 11 Parents' Evening 6pm-8pm
Tuesday 14 – Wednesday 15 January	6th Form Taster Day
Monday 3 February	Start of Assessment Week #3
Monday 3 February	Year 10 Parents' Evening 6pm-8pm
Thursday 13 February	Year 12 Parents' Evening
Friday 14 February	Start of Half Term break 3:25pm
Monday 24 February	Return to school 8:45am
Tuesday 4 March	Year 9 Options Evening 6pm

GOVERNOR NEWS

NEW CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

Former Bonaventurian, Tim Campbell, MBE, was named as our new Chair of Governors in November and takes over from Monsignor John Armitage who retired in the summer after 12 years as Chair.

Tim left St Bons with eleven GCSEs and three A levels before going on to Middlesex University. He was the first ever winner of BBCTV's 'The Apprentice' in 2005 after which he joined Sir Alan Sugar's company 'Amstrad.'

Tim has remained close to St Bons and has been a Governor with us for many years. He is extremely supportive and we welcome him aboard.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

ARMISTICE DAY AT THE CENOTAPH

St Bonaventure's, along with the Catholic Newham Primary Schools, proudly represented the young in our community for Armistice Day at the Cenotaph in East Ham Park.

Representatives from the school council observed the two minutes silence following a moving rendition of 'The Last Post' played by Year 10 A's Nattan Yeshitila on the trumpet.

Nattan also signalled the end of the silence with 'The Reveille'.

Readings by children from the primaries added to the solemn occasion with Father John Armitage and Father Bob from St Michael's parish leading with prayers.

Once again, our students were complimented on their impeccable behaviour and smart appearance by many members of The Royal British Legion and other members of the public who were amazed to see youngsters carrying on with the tradition of Remembrance Day.



PRESENTATION EVENING

Olympic long jumper and current British Indoor and Outdoor Long Jump record holder, Chris Tomlinson, was the special guest at our presentation evening in November.

The evening began with relatives and friends of last year's Year 11 being treated to a performance by our Year 11 school band. Awards were then presented to the very smart looking former students, many of whom have continued with their studies at our Sixth Form Centre with others making the welcome return to school to meet up with their peers and teachers once again.

Chris presented certificates to the students and then gave out prizes for achievement and effort before addressing the audience. His speech provided encouragement and was inspirational, with the message of to always follow your dream and he gave tips on how to remain focused and never give up.

Last year's Head Boy, Mark Kawesa, won the St Bon's Boy of the Year accolade and posed for photos afterwards with Chris and Mr Halliwell.



After the ceremony was over, Chris was happy to be photographed with students and spent lots of time chatting to parents and teachers too.

Although he lives in Middlesbrough, 32 year old Chris has links with Newham as he is a member of Newham and Essex Beagles. He was impressed with the calibre of our students and remarked how fantastic he thought the school was. Parents too commented how the students had all matured, especially when photos were shown of their sons from their time in Year 9.



STEM NEWS

A DOZEN DYNAMIC DESIGNERS

Twelve Gifted and talented Year 8 students who excel in Science and Design Technology proved they had the 'X factor' when it came to designing and problem solving for bosses at one London giant.

The students completed a Bronze Crest Award which saw them working with experts and engineers from The London Thames Tideway Tunnel project to make links between Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, commonly known as STEM.

The group worked on a project called 'Why Does London Need London's Tideway Tunnel?'

The Thames Tideway Tunnel is a major new sewer that will protect the River Thames from increasing pollution for at least the next 100 years. The boys had the opportunity to meet an Engineer working on the tunnel and they were set a challenge to design and build a crane boom that will support the weight of a model tunnel section.

Daniel Ogg, Utility Engineer on the project was very impressed with the boys' solutions to building the model crane boom. They worked in groups to build their model and the winners were the group with the crane boom that supported the most weight.

The Crest Award is a nationally recognised qualification which is highly regarded by colleges, sixth forms and employers as well as being endorsed by UCAS as part of personal statements when applying for University.

The students who were successful were: Bogdan Cainamisir, Alan Kakkassery, Kai Palfreman, Noah Miayoukou, Devontae Perkins, Rejus Slatkevicius, Andrew Wynn, Zaid Mangera, Daushaun Stephen, Ekiel Antoine, Shaun Haslam, Jaiden Odle and Dylan Mibirizi.

Miss Sinead Larkin who worked closely with the students said: "We really impressed the experts with our problem solving methods. Some wonderful designs were created and it really made the students think what they could do to help with such an enormous yet vital project such as this. They were a credit to our school and proved that they have what it takes to be designers of the future."

SCHOOL COUNCIL

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER VISIT

All seventeen members of the School Council visited the Palace of Westminster in December and were the special guests of former St Bon's student and now Member of Parliament for Southend West, David Amess.

Headteacher Mr Halliwell arranged the visit by writing to Mr Amess as he thought the school council would benefit enormously seeing first hand how democracy works.

When he was at St Bon's, Mr Amess lived in Plaistow but he hasn't forgotten his old school and its students. He was only too pleased to accommodate the request and even arranged for the school council to sit in the Strangers' Gallery in the House of Commons whilst the historic Autumn statement was read out.

The boys spent time in the House of Lords too and a visit to the chapel and a tour was incorporated into the day.

Mr Amess stayed with the school council for most of the visit and he answered questions and was charming throughout, often reminiscing about his school days at St Bon's. He was impressed by the maturity of the students and shared jokes with some of them too.

It was a really memorable day for the boys and many watched the news that evening to hear the Autumn statement being reported on and were able to say: "We were there."



YEAR 9 NEWS

CHUBA IS NEVER GUNNER FORGET US

It's always nice when former students return to school to pay a visit and it was no different when up and coming Arsenal footballer, Chuba Akpom called in to say hello.

Chuba popped in on November 8, to tell staff how he was doing and what it's like playing for one of the most successful football clubs in the country. He even had time to pose for a photo with two Year 9 boys, Obuasa Djabatey and Donell Kyeremeh.

Headteacher, Paul Halliwell added: "Local boy Chuba is welcome back anytime to inspire students or just drop in for a chat."



LITERACY NEWS

VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY FOR WRITERS' CLUB



Drum roll please... the long-awaited and much anticipated publication of St Bonaventure's first ever book written entirely by students is now available to order.

The 'We are Writers' club have been busy penning over 100 pages of poetry, stories and diary entries and creative writing on the theme of Discovery. Very appropriate seeing as how the whole process from its inception to its publication this week was an incredible journey for all those involved.

Mrs Templeman, Mrs Waldron and Ms Massett worked tirelessly with the boys to ensure the very first Bon's book was full of inspiring, unique and interesting pieces. For weeks the work was checked, re-checked, modified and tweaked before it was finally submitted to Scholastic. In fact, such was the talent of our students that they actually produced more than 700 pages of work that had to be condensed to fit it into a handy-sized book. A 'War and Peace' sized epic could easily have been submitted as the boys were so full of ideas.

The finished book is a testament to the talents of the students. It's a celebration of their imagination and gives the reader a glimpse of their passions and interests.

The finished product looks professional and glossy and is a fantastic collection of work. The Art Department became involved too as they held a competition to find a winning design for the front cover. When it arrived in school weeks before Christmas there was a buzz of excitement as the boys were all keen to see their work in print.

The foreword was written by the performance poet, Adisa the Verbalizer. Selling for £5.99, the book went on sale at lunchtimes at the book fair in St Francis' Hall. There's still time to order your copy from Ms Massett and all money raised will go to buying new books for the library.

Don't forget to put your order in and discover for yourself just how wonderful the book really is.

EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUB

NEW DANCE CLASS DUE TO START

A NEW and exciting project is due to start in the New Year for students interested in street dance.

The sessions are not only open to established dancers but anyone interested in learning a new skill from beginners to those keen to brush up on their moves or those who see it as a way of improving their fitness.

The sessions will take place on Friday's straight after school finishes and experienced dancers from The Royal Academy of Dance in London will take classes.



There is no charge to students as our school has secured funding so there's no excuse not to have a go. Sessions are expected to be popular and follow on from the highly successful street dance 'Create and Innovate' week that was so popular last summer. Many of our boys showed a real flair for dance and said they were keen to have more intense, regular lessons to improve their techniques.

Due to run for 30 weeks, the after school dance classes promise to be fun and popular. Why not go along and make it your New Year resolution to learn a new skill, make new friends, get fit and bust a few new moves.

See Ms Armstrong for more details.

CHARITY FUNDRAISING

FILIPINO TYPHOON FUND

Students donated a fantastic £835 to the Philippines Typhoon Disaster Fund in one day last term by holding a mufti day.

£225 alone was collected from Sports Science Sixth Form students who took part in a sponsored double marathon, that's a whopping 52 miles, on treadmills. PE staff also took turns, providing welcome relief for the students from time to time.

More collections took place in the weeks that followed along with novel ways of raising cash such as guessing the number of sweets on a jar. Many students are of Filipino origin and still have family there so the Typhoon Haiyan disaster had a huge impact on many students who are all keen to help in any way possible.



Mr Halliwell passed the initial collection money to Father Bob Hamill from St Michael's Parish in East Ham and thanked students for their kind generosity and kindness.

FILMING THE LESSON OF THE DAY

Former Head Boy and popular student, Chris Achiampong, made a welcome return to school in September this time in front of film cameras as he starred in a promotional video for his new employer, global giants, EY.

Chris, who's now 18, started work with the former Ernst & Young, now called EY, on their School Leaver five year programme. He had already completed a three week internship with the organisation on their Smart Futures initiative and was excited to be starting his career with such a prestigious world class business.

EY quickly recognised Chris' potential and snapped him up to feature in one of their promotional videos they were making to publicise the Smart Futures career path.

The crew of ten from Agile Films arrived in school and included a sound engineer, make-up artist and producer as well as a cameraman to interview both Chris and Mr Halliwell.

Chris was interviewed about his experiences at EY, why he thinks they provide excellent opportunities for school leavers who might not want to go on to University and his hopes for the future.

Mr Halliwell was interviewed about the links St Bon's has with EY, the summer internship programme and Chris' time as a student at St Bon's.

EY Smart Futures is a work experience programme for Year 12 students who are, or have been, in receipt of free school meals, or who would be the first generation in their family to go to university. It's a three week paid placement at EY in the summer that will give youngsters the chance to learn about EY and themselves. They are paired with a mentor throughout Year 13 to help plan their career formula.

Chris from Manor Park did so well on this programme and after gaining 3 A levels in English, History and Business Studies, he decided to pursue a career in the city. When he looked into things, EY were the ideal option for him. He would receive a salary, gain invaluable experience and an accountancy qualification.

The filming was part of EY's global rebrand. The video features on their website and accompanies new leaflets that also feature Chris entitled 'Find your career formula' which is a guide to the EY school and college leaver programmes.

Mr Halliwell added: " We knew Chris was something special whilst at St Bon's and it now seems that EY have seen Chris' potential and star quality as well."

The official launch of the promotional film took place at EY's Headquarters in More London just before Christmas.



CELLIST HITS THE RIGHT NOTES

One of our young and talented 14 year old students was congratulated last term after learning he had been accepted onto the London Schools Symphony Orchestra.

Jordan Anson, who's in Year 10, and from Custom House, is an exceptional cellist and gives up each Saturday to play at the Centre of Young Musicians in Lambeth. Although he has only been playing cello for four years, Jordan is already wowing his tutors by reaching Grade 8. He applied to join the LSSO in the summer and underwent a series of gruelling auditions, playing pieces as part of an ensemble as well as a solo. Jordan chose the complex 'Tarantelle' for his individual piece.



His talent must have impressed the Head of Strings and the Conductor as Jordan received a letter to say he had successfully gained a place on the world renowned orchestra.

The LSSO is a symphony orchestra with musicians drawn from students in London schools and features professional conductors and soloists. It offers talented London schoolchildren first class musical training and education. Founded in 1951, the LSSO is one of the most potent symbols of the talents and achievements of London's youth. Every year concerts are held at the Barbican Centre with intensive rehearsals crammed in during school holidays.

The youngsters who are selected for the prestigious LSSO have to be dedicated to succeed. The rewards are great with regular tours throughout Europe commonplace. Last year they played in Poland but performances as far afield as Japan and Argentina are not unheard of. The orchestra is a significant ambassador for Britain abroad.

Headteacher Paul Halliwell added: "This is a fantastic opportunity for Jordan. His determination has shown that you can succeed with enthusiasm and hard work."

DEWAR SHIELD ON DISPLAY

Visitors to our school have been greeted with a huge football shield strategically placed in reception. The trophy stands almost a metre tall and has been now proudly on display since September drawing daily gasps of "wow" and "that's huge."



The object of all the attention is the enormous Dewar Shield London Cup that was won by last year's Year 10 under 15 football team (now year 11) back in May when St Bon's was victorious over West Dulwich's Kingsdale Foundation School. The final score on the day was 2-0 with the match being played close to home at Clapton FC's Old Spotted Dog ground. Team coach and teacher, Graham Hayes, is proud of his team and of the trophy but says he's glad he doesn't have the unenviable job of polishing it.

The trophy will remain in school until next year's competition comes to its climax.

FORMER HEAD BOY SPREADS HIS WINGS AND HEADS OFF TO INDIA

Sixteen year old Mark Kawesa, who was Head Boy last year was named as the first Jack Petchey Award winner of the year. Mark, who is now studying for his A levels was chosen for his tireless dedication to fund raising and his unique and inspirational methods he devised for raising money.

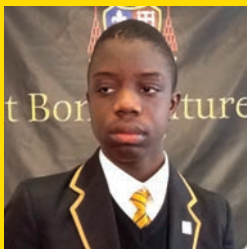
From ice cream sales during the scorching summer term to mufti non-uniform day events, tempting doughnut stalls at various high profile occasions to home cake bake sales, Mark became expert at utilising his entrepreneurial skills to ensure the funds kept swelling.

The ultimate goal for this frantic marketing campaign was to raise enough money to send Mark and a group of East Ham Air Cadets from 282 Squadron in East Ham to Western India last autumn on expedition to help build a school for children born into poverty who have no access to educationa worthwhile endeavour indeed.

All Mark's efforts at trying to help his squadron get to India didn't go unnoticed by Mr Halliwell. He went on to explain: "Mark was constantly looking for novel ways to raise money and I felt he really deserved to be honoured for his efforts. When I asked students who they felt deserved the award, Mark's name kept coming. When Mark said he wanted to donate his prize money to the India trek fund, I wasn't surprised. Mark is a very generous and humble young man who always thinks of others before himself."



JASON WINS JACK PETCHEY AWARD



Fifteen year old Jason Kutosi, who's in Year 11, was named as our November winner of the Jack Petchey Award.

Jason is a very courageous young man who receives his award for his sheer determination not to let his disability hinder his every day life, his excellent attitude to school and his studies and his positive outlook on life.

When he was in Year 9, Jason became unwell and need life saving brain surgery. He was in a coma for three months and his recovery was slow. His operation was described as life altering and left Jason with limited mobility. Nine months after his operation, Jason stunned doctors and teachers by insisting on returning to school. He says he loves school and his attendance is excellent. He is determined not to let everyday obstacles and barriers stop him from carrying on as normal.

His strength of character makes him a role model to everyone in school. He is admired by his teachers and fellow students who are all amazed at his courage.

Jason will receive a special medal at the Jack Petchey Awards Ceremony in Stratford next summer when students from schools across Newham will be invited to attend.

SECOND JACK PETCHEY WINNER



YEAR 11's Ryan Davis was named as the October Jack Petchey Award winner of the year. Sixteen year old Ryan's name cropped up time and time again when staff and students were asked who they thought was deserving of October's award.

Ryan is a dedicated animal lover who has been volunteering at Newham City farm in Beckton during his weekends and holidays since he was 12. He gave his time freely often working outdoors in awful weather but never complaining as long as the animals were cared for. An impressive undertaking.

He now works at the farm at weekends and gives a lot of his spare time to caring for the animals as well as trying to convince his peers and teachers at school to become animal lovers. He never misses an opportunity to promote animal welfare and has an affinity to animals and pets of all varieties, from large farm animals to rodents, snakes and insects. He takes the animals from the City farm out on animal roadshows and was at The Mayor's Show last year and is always proud to be associated with the project and promoting the farm.

Ryan's commitment doesn't end there. He was responsible for setting up and maintaining a tropical fish tank in one of the science laboratories at school for the benefit for all students. Science staff at school are particularly proud of Ryan. With his winning cheque, Ryan is planning to purchase and set up a vivarium and stock it with exotic animals for the benefit of the whole school for years to come. He says it's his mission to educate others how to care for animals and it looks like he just might be achieving his goal.

After completing his GCSEs next summer, Ryan, from Manor Park, wants to study animal husbandry at Writtle College in Essex and it's his dream go to University to explore zoology.

With his kind heart and dedication to animals, everyone at St Bon's feels sure he will achieve his goal and wishes him the best.

SIXTH FORM STUDENT'S ACT OF KINDNESS

A former Rokeby student who is now studying for his A levels at our Sixth Form generously donated £200 to the pioneering Anthony Nolan cancer charity. 17-year-old Prashanta Ray, who is in Year 13, decided to hand over the money he received as part of his Jack Petchey Award to a representative from the organisation.

Aisha Molofsky Lalloo came in to accept the cheque and chat to the students about Anthony Nolan. She was pleased to tell Prashanta that his random act of kindness would put two people on the bone marrow register and potentially save two lives.

This was music to Prashanta's ears as he is a very caring young man and is keen to follow a career in medicine after studying at university.

Aisha added: " Without the generous donations of people like Prashanta we would not be able to continue our life saving work."

Anthony Nolan saves the lives of people who need a blood stem cell, bone marrow or cord blood transplant.



EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SIX FORMERS

Nineteen Sixth Form Students from St Angela's and St Bonaventure's Sixth Form Centre were successful in gaining a place on a highly regarded programme.

Sponsors for Educational Opportunities, or SEO for short, is an organisation that links young people to professional mentors. They have partnerships with over 40 leading City firms and employers. Students are assigned to a mentor who works for one of the firms in either the field of Accounting, Investment Banking, Law, Public Relations, Marketing or Advertising.

Insight days with employers are planned as well as the students applying for work placements. Visits to top universities will also be on the menu.

Twelve Year 12s and seven Year 13s gained a place.

The official launch of the programme will take place in the coming weeks.

Careers Advisor, Chris Jarvis, commented: "Competition is high to get on the SEO programme so to have nineteen successful applicants from one Sixth Form Centre is a marvellous achievement and a wonderful opportunity for the students."

YEAR 7 NEWS

HISTORIC HOSPITAL HOSTS OUR BOYS

In November, a group of thirty Gifted and Talented Year 7 science students took part in the Children's Commissioner's Takeover Day 2013.



The Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel hosted the event with our students treated to a tour of the children's hospital. They saw some amazing facilities first hand and were tasked with designing a logo for the children's hospital in a bid to raise their profile. Feedback was given to the Head of Nursing at Barts Health Trust on how our students thought hospital care could be improved.

The idea behind the day is to give children and young people the chance to work with adults for the day and be involved in decision making. They are encouraged to speak up for children who are not often asked their views and who might be vulnerable. The children who become involved benefit from the opportunity to experience the world of work and make their voices heard, while adults and organisations gain a fresh perspective on what they do.

It is hoped that it will help break down barriers between generations and encourage children's active involvement in their communities.

Mr Cawley, who went with the boys added: "Our students really threw themselves into the concept and gained invaluable experience. It highlighted perfectly how valuable learning outside the classroom can be."



STUDENT WINS ART COMPETITION

Two of our talented art students won prizes in the St Luke's Painting Competition organised by the Knights of St Columba just before Christmas.

Malcolm Ebose who is a deputy head boy and is in Year 11 scooped first prize in the competition and Year 8's Harithan Savundrarajan won third prize.

The competition was held at Christ the Eternal Redeemer Church in Gidea Park.



The entrants came from schools all over London and the youngsters had to produce a piece of artwork based on a passage from the bible. But it was Malcolm's depiction in acrylics of the fiat of the blessed Virgin Mary that wowed judges.

His interpretation captured Mary's acceptance of God's will to become the mother of Jesus perfectly said the judges and his work touched them as it successfully conveyed the feelings and emotions she must have felt when she was asked to take on the enormous task.

A £250 prize and certificate was awarded to Malcolm who is studying Art GCSE. Harithan won £100 and a certificate.

After being on display at the church the paintings were returned to school and put on show for all staff and students to admire.



CHARITY NEWS

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Mrs Wheatley's office was looking a bit cramped in the week before we broke up for Christmas as hampers took over a huge chunk of her space....but she's didn't once complain as it was all for a good cause.

Generous students and staff were busy donating food items for the Christmas Hamper Appeal, an appeal that only started during the last week of term.

Enough food was brought in to make up 15 large sized hampers which was sent to St Antony's Church where the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in Canning Town collected them before distributing them to the needy.

The charity 'Families in Crisis at Christmas' benefited this year and really needed this boost in these times of austerity.

Once again, St Bon's staff and students showed just how caring they truly were and never more so than during the holy season.

POETRY COMES TO LIFE

A group of our Year 11 GCSE students visited the Dominion Theatre in the West End last month as part of their English Literature studies.

'Poetry Live!' was a chance to see and hear poems read aloud and discussed in a grand and exciting venue with excellent acoustics.

The poems form part of the syllabus and were performed by a brilliant collection of poets such as Carol Ann Duffy, Simon Armitage, Gillian Clarke, Grace Nichols and John Agard. Discussions followed and the poets were able to answer questions about their poetry.

Carol Ann Duffy is one of the most read, studied and loved poets today and has the title, Poet Laureate.

Teacher, Naomi Stevens, who went with the students said: "They saw the poems come alive and I'm sure it really helped them absorb the poems better and helped with their understanding. People were there who provided guidance to our students and it really helped them. It was a really valuable session."



DT NEWS

MR YOUNG'S CHRISTMAS WORKSHOP

In the run up to Christmas, Teaching Assistant Roy Young, who works in the Design Technology Department, was busy thinking up novel ways to boost the Department's profile in school and decided to take orders and sell Christmas tree decorations.

He took orders for some large pieces including rocking horses for staff members but for the Christmas market he thought that some Nordic inspired, Ikea-type tree hanging decorations might better suit people's budgets.

3D angels, Christmas trees and nativity scenes proved best sellers with many students buying decorations and presents for their parents.

Let's hope this is one tradition that lasts.



MOUSTACHE FOR CASH

What's this, dozens of hirsute boys taking over our school!

It certainly looked that way last month as students from all Years sported moustaches of all shapes and designs for a good cause.

With Movember still fresh in their minds and several teachers supporting the great cause by growing their own facial fur and raising awareness of men's cancers, the CAFOD group decided to follow suit.

Fake moustaches of all varieties, colours and styles were purchased and some artistic boys even designed and made their own.



The day of the 'tash turned out to be a fantastic idea when boys from all year groups donned their creations in a bid to raise money for the CAFOD Philippine Disaster Fund.

Students could then buy a moustache from the CAFOD group that had set up a stall in the front lawn at break-time and lunch hour and join in the fun.

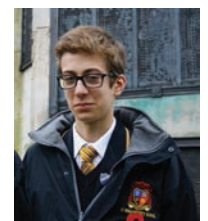
SCHOOL COUNCIL

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTED

Meet our School Council. A total of 73 boys were nominated in the Autumn and after interviews this was narrowed down to 28. Each Form Group in years 7 to 10 was represented.

Miss Charles kindly assisted and guided the boys and gave them help in writing speeches and public speaking. The boys then had to deliver a prepared speech to their Year Groups and then voting began.

Three boys from each Year were chosen and joined Head Boy, Alex Palfreman, and his team of deputies onto the full School Council.



HYDROGEN CHALLENGE FUELS CREATIVE SIDE

Year 10 Science students were treated to a special workshop in November by two young science experts from Arcola Energy who were scouting for technologists of the future to design a hydrogen powered model car.

The London Schools Hydrogen Challenge is open to secondary schools across the capital and is a Mayoral programme that works towards developing London's hydrogen economy. It's an interactive competition open to Years 7 -11 and this year will involve approximately 40 schools.

Students were tasked with designing, building and testing a hydrogen powered model car whilst learning about the environment and exploring the role hydrogen could play within a low carbon society in the future. Renewable energies are seen as the way forward as carbon based fuels are not sustainable.

The workshop provided the perfect opportunity for students to work in a creative, exciting and fun environment.

Miss Racon, who organised the day, went on to explain: "We had six groups of boys all working together as a team to come up with a design that they thought would travel the



furthest. It was a car race with a difference. They then organised a test drive of their models and were able to tweak and refine their designs, all the time discovering how their model could be improved. The atmosphere was brilliant with the teams all willing their models to go the furthest. They were very enthusiastic thoroughly engaged in the workshop and Arlan Harris and Fahad Shabbir from Arcola energy commented how innovative our students were."

Team 6's Philip Hayman, Eugene Annan, Zac Anane-Ayei and Faibin Joseph were declared the St Bonaventure's School winners after building the most efficient car that travelled a magnificent 24.2 metres. Their design was small and compact and secured them a place at the London Schools Hydrogen Challenge finale at City Hall in March 2014.

Last year's winners, Heartlands School from Wood Green, received a range of hydrogen education kits for their school.

No doubt the winning team will spend the next few weeks thinking about ways to improve their design and they say they are looking forward to City Hall in March and competing against the other London winning teams.

YEAR 10 NEWS

STUDENTS TASTE UNI LIFE IN MAGNIFICENT SETTING

Year 10s visited the awe-inspiring Royal Holloway University in London in December and were blown away by its grandeur and architecture.

The group consisted of 12 members of the 'Switched Onto Learning' cohort. Whilst there, they worked on activities which included getting to know the students ambassadors, finding out and discussing the advantages and disadvantages of going to university and the financial implications of being a university student.

The boys got into groups and delivered their own presentations on either the three differences of University education compared to school education or three reasons why a degree at Royal Holloway would benefit them. They also had a tour of the campus.

Many of the boys compared the setting to that of Hogwarts but all agreed the day was absolutely fantastic and certainly gave them a lot to think about.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

A Christmas Extravaganza took place on December 4, and was a runaway success just like the highly successful Spring and Summer concerts.

Musically gifted students wanted to make sure the Christmas spirit was well and truly in the air and decided what better way to do this than with an evening of Christmas music.

Musicians treated the audience to an array of festive songs and included soloists singing Christmas classics, a string quartet, junior band, guitar ensemble and chamber choir all performing with their special tribute to Christmas.

Head of Music, Keasha Brockett, who organised the evening added: "What a wonderful way to start the festivities."



SUCCESSFUL SCIENTISTS

Two of our Sixth Form Students who have their hearts set on a career in medicine learned they could be one step closer to fulfilling their dream after successfully winning places on the STEM Inspiration Bursary programme.



Sixteen year old Alfiya Shaikh, who's in Year 12 and is studying Physics, Maths, Biology and Chemistry at A level, joined our Sixth Form from Plashet School and found that she had secured one of only 50 places on the programme. Likewise, Tasnia Ali, also 16, who sat her GCSEs at Stratford School Academy and is studying A level Maths, Psychology, Chemistry and Biology was successful. Competition was tough as over 260 eager students applied from all over the capital.

Interviews took place in October and Alfiya and Tasnia began the two year programme consisting of a series of Saturday workshops after the half term. Studying at Imperial College, South Kensington, they will gain practical hands on experience of laboratory experiments in Physics, Chemistry and Biology. The pair will concentrate on the STEM subjects of Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics.

The aims of the bursary are to motivate and elevate students towards high levels of attainment and to encourage students to apply to university where they will hopefully continue to study the STEM subjects.

Alfiya and Tasnia will gain confidence in their abilities as their academic and interpersonal skills develop, receive career advice and help with university applications, all fantastic skills needed to help her on the ladder to success.

Mrs Racon added: "It's a wonderful opportunity for them to work with like minded people. It can only be a positive experience and I feel sure they will flourish and get closer to their dreams of a career in medicine."

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CHAPLAINCY NEWS

Last term has definitely been a time of preparation and establishing new initiatives that enable our community to engage with the person of Jesus Christ.

Each month has had a character and theme of its own. In September there was a sense of new beginnings with the new intake in Year 7 and 12 and chaplaincy also started a new crop of after school clubs. The new Year 10 students continued their valuable work in the Justice and Peace groups. Hosting an organisation called Breaking the Cycle who came to speak to the school about the power of forgiveness and attending the Justice and Peace conference in St John Payne School, Chelmsford, to explore and combat the topic of Human Trafficking.

Our newly formed Chaplaincy Art group and other budding artists in the school have produced some of the artwork displayed here for the St Luke's Art completion. We went to Gidea Park, to see their work exhibited in November where many of our boys received Highly Commended for their work and two boys came away with first and third prizes.

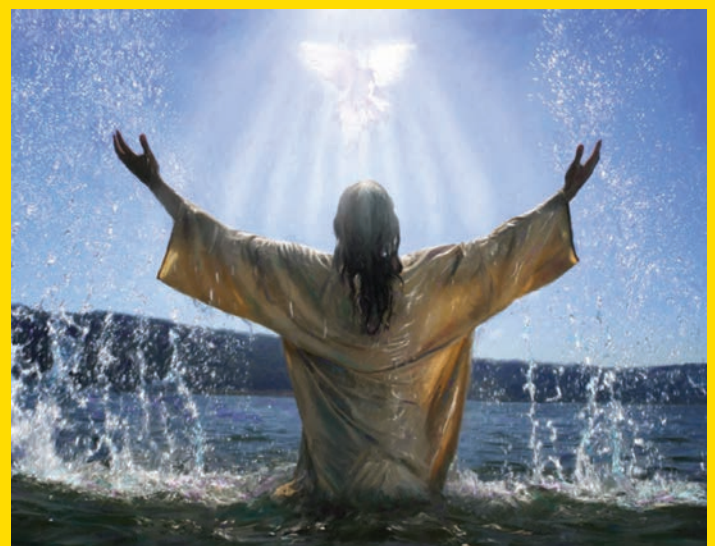
October has long been known as the month of Mary and lunchtime Rosary Club was attended by a steady group of students from all Year Groups with those regularly joining us in prayer receiving a rosary at the end of the month. We were also blessed by visits from John Pridmore and Sheldon Thomas who have become regular visitors to the school. They addressed Year 10 and 11 students about the dangers of life without love and how the power of God can make a real difference as experienced in their own lives. As a follow up to these talks the students had the opportunity to start afresh through our reconciliation services. Year 11 has had the further opportunity to grasp the opportunities in life by attending Real Achievers Pursuing Purpose Workshops on a monthly basis with Sheldon Thomas' organisation – TAG. Thirty students have taken up this opportunity and benefited from workshops that help them reach the dreams they aspire to in life.

November is traditionally the month in which we remember those who have died and this was a tragic month for us as a school with a number of bereavements associated with the school community.

As we start this New Year, I am aware that I am at the end of a season in my own life and this week will be leaving school to take a job working for the National Office of Vocations at the Bishop's Conference of England and Wales. I am sad to be leaving and excited about this new opportunity all at the same time. I'll miss the community I have come to know and love here but hope that this will be farewell and not goodbye. Please pray for me as I pray for you.

With blessings in Christ Jesus,

Teresa Carvalho, School Chaplain.



RADA HERE WE COME

What are the chances of two talented drama students from the same Sixth Form Centre making it onto a Youth Company drama course at the world famous RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Art?)

The answer is quite high, especially when there are only 16 places to begin with.

Well that's what happened to two of our Sixth Formers as they heard they'd been successful in wowing thespians at the renowned and respected institution in Bloomsbury after a series of auditions held in September.

Both Gavin Joseph and Ose Egbajale auditioned for a place on the prestigious RADA Youth Company and were overjoyed to find out that amazingly they had both been offered places.



Competition for a place was fierce and almost 200 youngsters aged between 16 and 20 from all over the south of England and the London area auditioned as RADA is generally regarded as one of the best drama schools in the world. It's built a reputation as a world renowned centre of excellence offering the best possible facilities, exceptional teaching and strong links with the acting industry.



The Youth Programme provides drama training and performance opportunities for young people and is designed to help young actors develop their acting and theatre performance skills. They meet every Saturday during term time and sessions are intense and require commitment. Gavin and Ose will learn invaluable skills including improvisation, devising methods, stage combat, movement and voice and text work and how to use their breathing to support their voice. An end of year public performance of a classical play this summer at RADA's

Jerwood Vanbrugh theatre is a chance for the students to showcase the skills they have learned over the year.

Both boys are 17. Gavin is from Ilford and is studying for A levels in Drama, English and Biology whilst Ose lives in North Woolwich and studies Drama, Media and Sociology.

THEATRE TRIPS A HIT

Our English Department was one of only 40 from across London whose school was selected to join the Old Vic Theatre's Schools Club. Students from Years 10, 12 and 13 attended a performance of Shakespeare's 'Much Ado About Nothing' starring James Earl Jones and Vanessa Redgrave. These lucky students also received an Old Vic drama workshop on the play when the Old Vic's team visited St Bon's in October.

The next performance we will attend is January's 'Fortunes Fool' by playwright Ivan Turgenev. As members of this exclusive club the students will also see two more free performances at the famous Old Vic.

Additionally, our Year 13 English classes attended a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at the Noel Coward Theatre this term. Popular presenter, comedian and actor, David Walliams, played the role of Bottom much to the evident delight of the students and theatre goers who were thrilled with his portrayal and were excited to see such a current, modern actor take on the role.

On a lighter note, every single Year 7 student visited Theatre Royal Stratford East last month as part of the Mayor of Newham's 'Every Child a Theatre Goer' programme. They were treated to a rousing performance of the popular pantomime, 'Dick Whittington.' For some of our boys, this was the first time they had ever visited the theatre. Panto is traditional British musical comedic theatre designed for families that is unique and not seen anywhere else in the world. After an afternoon of songs, corny jokes, awful one-liners and overall silliness, they all emerged smiling into Gerry Raffles Square.

What a way to kick off the Christmas season... Oh, yes it was!



ZOROASTRIANISM STUDIED

Our students were faced with the following question last term: What do the three Wise Men (the Magi) and Freddie Mercury from rock band 'Queen' have in common? The answer is they were all of the Zoroastrian faith.

Once a religion that dominated central Asia and the Middle East, Zoroastrianism influenced all the Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity and Islam) with its ideas on God, creation, faith, after life and doing good deeds. Today its few believers live in India, America and the UK. Indeed, the first non-white MP in the UK was an Indian Zoroastrian from East London!

Pupils in Year 8, 9, 12 and 13 all visited the UK's first and only exhibition on Zoroastrianism at SOAS (School of African and Oriental Studies) with expert guides and enjoyed finding out about the 'everlasting flame' at the centre of this intriguing faith.



DOUBLE OLYMPIC MEDALIST VISITS

There was a buzz of excitement as double Olympic medal winner and World Athletics Gold medal winner, Christine Ohuruogu, visited School at the end of September.

Christine met with a group of our Psychology and Sports Science students and fielded questions about her sport and her many triumphs.



She even brought along her winning medals and allowed the students try them on.

Christine is a local girl. She was born in Forest Gate Hospital, grew up in Stratford and is proud to say she still lives in Newham. She's one of eight children and her older brother went to St Bon's and has fond memories of the school she reported.

She was happy to answer questions from the teenagers about her role models, if she has a race plan, her motivations, training and diet, what music she listens to during training, her goals in life and other probing questions. Ever the professional, Christine took the interrogation all in her stride and spent over an hour being quizzed by the group.

Christine was open and honest with the students and seemed to enjoy chatting with them afterwards.

Mr Halliwell added: "The Psychology students wanted to know what motivated Christine while the Sports Science pupils were fascinated to hear about her training. We had some very talented athletes in the group including Emma Nwofo who's a successful heptathlon athlete and Cleve Charles, a basketball champion, so they were intrigued to hear Christine's recipe for success. It was a pleasure to welcome her into our school. She's an inspiration and very humble and an excellent role model for all our students."

MEDIA STUDENT YOHANNA WINS PRESTIGIOUS PLACE

It was a case of lights, camera, action for one Year 13 student as she prepared to take her place on a young filmmakers course at the world famous national BFI (British Film Institute) Film Academy last term.

17 year old Yohanna Duraiswamy, who is studying Media, Psychology and Biology, was one of only eighteen aspiring young filmmakers who have been given the opportunity to develop their practical talent and work with film industry and education professionals.

The budding filmmakers were tasked with producing a short film in the genre of Gothic Horror to coincide with the forthcoming BFI Gothic Season.

The extensive programme included hands on filmmaking workshops plus free access to screenings and events at the 57th BFI London Film Festival, the BFI Gothic Season, monthly future film events and the 7th BFI Future Film Festival.

Yohanna was actively involved in the exhibition and distribution of her own work and will ultimately gain a Silver Arts Award.

Lulu Lory, Yohanna's Media teacher went on to explain: "This was a fantastic opportunity for Yohanna to learn from the very best in the film industry. She had to show flair and dedication as the course will take place after school, at weekends and during half term. The experience she will gain will be priceless."



CSI ST BONS

Visitor's to our school could have been forgiven for thinking something terrible or a gruesome crime had been committed as one particular classroom looked more like a scene from popular TV series "Whitechapel" or "CSI New York."

No such crime had been perpetrated, we were glad to report, it was merely Mr Pointon's Year 11 BTEC Science class thoroughly enjoying themselves by immersing themselves into the fascinating and often bloody world of forensic science.

Similar scenes of devastation were reported in Mr Heyburn and Mr Snowe's classrooms.

Since the beginning of September, the groups had been studying the subject and looking at the skills Scene of Crime Officers (SOCO) need in their work. They analysed hair samples, photographed crime scenes, bagged up weapons and other tools used in crime and took casts of footprints.

As part of the module, the students followed a real case from the time it was committed right through to conviction.

Later in the term, students looked at fingerprinting, blood spatter analysis and blood matching techniques as well as taking witness statements. Lots of report writing and evidence gathering followed the hands on lessons, but it was felt that there was no better way for the students to really take in and absorb the often intense world of forensics than by actually seeing for themselves what it entailed.

Mr Pointon's group of 14 created their own crime scenes. One "victim" sustained a head injury, complete with fake blood. The others in the group had to ascertain what had happened, the modus operandi, locate the weapon and take samples.

The forensic science lessons continued right through to Christmas.



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