



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUNTIO

April 2017



A celebration of The Wonderful World of Fiction: Curiouser and Curiouser

As a celebration of the wonderful world of fiction and encouraging reading for pleasure, Curiouser and Curiouser, the latest theatrical offering from St. Gabriel's, was a production like no other!

Audiences were taken on a magical journey according to their house group (Gryffindor, Slytherin, Hufflepuff, and Ravenclaw) through a specially constructed 'maze', wherein they encountered much-loved characters along the way including, The Cat in the Hat, Miss Trunchbull, the Three Little Pigs, and The Queen of Hearts herself. But not only was our audience able to meet with them; oh no, they were able to directly interact with them, explore their worlds, and delve into their journeys, all before re-joining to have a grand ole party in the Mad Hatter's tea garden!

In a manner unprecedented, this theatrical endeavour has been supported by the entire school, with all areas offering up their talents onstage and off. Each KS3 form, for example, has produced a scenic element for the show, each one inspired by their own exploration of a particular novel, and Years 7 through to 9 have focused on Road Dahl novels, the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, and esteemed novels that have enjoyed adaptation to film respectively.

A local author, Paul Jenkins, visited and reviewed the show concluding, "The show ended with those timeless words from Charlie & the Chocolate Factory – "Want to change the world? There's nothing to it". After watching this show – it left me knowing that books can definitely do that. As an author, my interest is always sparked by anything that engages people with reading and this show did exactly that. Learning after the show that the content had come entirely from the very talented young people performing to us only hit home further the power that stories can have. They can transport your mind away, make you look a little more at yourself in the mirror or guide you to new places that you never even knew existed. This show was a fantastic way to engage people, especially children with literature and should be heralded as a huge success."

Curiouser and Curiouser took place on the 27th – 30th March, and the interaction didn't end with the performance as audiences were invited to share and continue their experience online with #curious.



Welcome to our spring term edition of Pronuntio

As we approach the celebration of Easter, we still recognise that we continue to walk with Jesus to the cross. This lent, we remember others that we walk with; the vulnerable, the challenged and the needy. They too carry their own crosses. St Joseph's Penny (Caritas Salford) is one way we can journey to the cross. Raising money for others is a great tradition at St Gabriel's; the cake sales and talent shows are in full swing! Please donate generously. I trust you will find this edition of Pronuntio reflects the varied work and enrichment that has gone on this term. My thanks to everyone who makes this possible. Have a happy and holy Easter. **Mr S.A. Smith**

Pride Of Bury

Soroptimist International is a volunteer organisation that promotes the well-being and development of all women across the globe. This year the Ramsbottom branch decided to recognise the achievements of young women living within the Ramsbottom area and we are delighted to announce that Ella-Rose Sherman has won this year's Soroptimist International of Ramsbottom's Young Woman Achiever Award. The award was presented at a Gala dinner held at the Red Hall Hotel and recognises Ella's commitment to community and charity work, most especially through St. Gabriel's. Ella-Rose received the annual shield, a personal shield to keep, a certificate, and a monetary prize from Mrs Barbara Lord, president of the branch. Our congratulations go out to Ella-Rose and her proud family.





Y8 Castlerigg March 2017

This March, thirty five of our Year 8 pupils experienced the weekend retreat to Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District to discover more about their faith and meet new friends. The retreat was a wonderful experience for our pupils and they arrived back home both spiritually uplifted and with a more deep rooted understanding of their Catholic faith. The pupils were keen to learn, engaged and as always they were a credit to the school, and it will be a weekend that will live long in their memory. The Manor is situated at the heart of the Lake District, and our pupils also got to enjoy a beautiful walk around Derwent water to sample the beauties of nature and enjoy some quality time in the great outdoors. The retreat was staffed by Miss McLoughlin, Mrs Evers, Mrs Loster and Mr Faulkner and our thanks go to these staff for making this retreat possible. The annual retreat goes a long way to helping our pupils grow in faith and confidence, helping set them on a firm foundation for the future.



Ash Wednesday

This Ash Wednesday the pupils took part in their own form liturgy where they took turns to read prayers and readings from the bible. They then watched a media clip on the importance of Lent and how it helps us renew our own faith in preparation for Easter. In response to this liturgy, the whole school created a display on turning a new leaf to show how we are going to change one area of our lives on which we wished to improve.

The Form Liturgy was then followed by a second liturgy at dinner time led by Fr Chris and the Pupil Chaplains with the distribution of Ashes. Year 7 and 8 pupils were then able to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the afternoon.



HOW CAN LIFE GO ON?
HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY 2017

Holocaust Memorial Day

On Holocaust Memorial Day the RE and History Departments worked together to create a very successful whole school event in which we all had the opportunity to honour and remember the survivors of the genocide. Pupils were invited to take part in various reflective activities around the hall. One activity was to take a pledge against prejudice by adding their fingerprint to a 'Stand up against Hatred' poster. They also remembered those that lost their lives in the Holocaust or subsequent genocides so they are never forgotten even after their deaths. Pupils were encouraged to remember a victim from their stories which were situated all around the hall; they lit a candle and wrote a prayer which was added to the remembrance tree. Pupils and staff were also invited to taste a piece of Challah bread to celebrate and reflect on Jewish life and culture. This was an emotional, reflective and significant event which pupils took part in with sensitivity and maturity.

Holocaust Memorial PSHE Sessions

In conjunction with the special event in the hall, pupils at St Gabriel's took part in specially designed and resourced PSHE lessons. These lessons concentrated on genocides currently happening around the world today, in particular Darfur. The theme of the lessons focused on 'how can life go on?' Pupils focused on the story of one survivor, Abdul Aziz and his experiences of coming to Britain, leaving his family and having to start again in a new place and the difficulties he faced. Pupils also studied drawings created by young people depicting their experiences of genocide, and then discussed their findings in the classroom. Pupils were encouraged to be aware of the plight of refugees such as Abdul Aziz, and the difficulties they may have in a new country.



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST

Holocaust Memorial Assemblies

To raise awareness around school and in the wider community of Bury, pupils at St Gabriel's took part in an Assembly led by the Pupil Chaplains. The assembly focused on the current Holocaust memorial theme 'How can life go on?' The assembly focused on genocide and what the term actually means, and then concentrated on the story of a survivor of the Holocaust, Eliezer 'Elie' Wiesel and the difficulties faced by those who survive. The assembly also focused on the law and how the severity of a criminal sentence is increased if it is deemed to be racially motivated and why this happens. Pupils also came together in prayer to remember all those who have suffered and lost their lives in genocides in the past and in the present.



LET'S END ~~HATE CRIME.~~

Pupils from across Bury's secondary schools have been working together to help tackle issues of hate crime in our schools and communities.

Four St Gabriel's pupils (Lucy Horton, Eve Cryer, Zak Dunne and Maral Haghbin Azar) were selected to take part in an event, funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCC), at the New Kershaw Centre in Bury.

Representatives from Greater Manchester Police, Bury Council, voluntary and community groups, the Sophie Lancaster Foundation and the OPCC supported them to develop a campaign to raise awareness of the consequences of hate crime, and they learned about the support available to young people who may have experienced such incidents.

Our Pupils were then able to talk to their peers in Pupil Chaplaincy about what they had learnt on that day.

One of the talks was by Tony Lloyd, Greater Manchester Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner, who said, "Young people are often victims of hate crime, but they also have a vital role to play in helping to eradicate it. It's important that we ensure that young people have information about hate crime, what to do about it and – crucially – get the message across that they are not alone. By educating the younger generation that it can never be acceptable to target someone because of who they are, they can work with us to build stronger, cohesive communities and end hate crime in all its forms."

St Gabriel's Supports Safer Internet Day 2017

On the 7th February 2017 St Gabriel's joined the global Safer Internet Day campaign to promote the safe and responsible use of technology amongst our pupils and the wider community.

Coordinated in the UK by the UK Safer Internet Centre, Safer Internet Day 2017 focused on the theme 'Be the change: Unite for a better internet'.

Celebrated in over 100 countries, Safer Internet Day saw St Gabriel's join hundreds of organisations right across the UK and globally to 'be the change' and help create a better internet.

To celebrate the day, St Gabriel's pupils took part in specially designed and resourced PSHE sessions with over 1000 pupils and over 60 staff getting involved.

St Gabriel's was a part of a nationwide day of action involving the #SID2017 social media campaign and youth events, where young people had the opportunity to have their say about the digital issues that affect them.

Will Gardner, Director of the UK Safer Internet Centre and CEO of Childnet, said, "Safer Internet Day is an opportunity for everyone across the UK and globally to unite for a better internet. Whether you are a young person, parent, carer, school or organisation, we can all 'be the change' and take positive actions to make the internet a better place. Hundreds of schools and organisations have pledged their support for Safer Internet Day and it is this collaboration that helps ensure Safer Internet Day has such a positive impact, reaching 40% of UK children in 2016 and growing year on year."



Wheels Keep Turning

It's been a journey over the last five years for one of our Yr11's. He was one of a select group of pupils who, when he was in Year 8, took part in Bike Week, one of the very first St Gabriel's cycle events. Ever since then he has been a stalwart of our organised rides. Of course I am talking about Joe Whelan. When asked about his first cycling memory he said it was of cycling on the grass in Nuttall Park- a real stamina builder!



From here he was encouraged at primary school. At Hollymount he took part in cycle weeks, challenges and the fondly remembered Bikeability course.

Joe's parents are no slouches, his mum is a member of the Bury Clarion Cycle Club whilst Dad is a keen cyclist and commutes to work in Manchester.

Joe has switched cycling on grass for cycling on wood! He is a member of the 'Velo team' at Manchester Velodrome competing on the indoor track at Sportcity. He cites his influences as Mark Cavendish, Bradley Wiggins, the Yates brothers and upcoming talents the Rotherham brothers, who are members of the Velo team. He is pragmatic about a future in cycling as he says that sponsorship is hard to come by due to the sheer amount of competition out there.

Joe doesn't just appreciate one style of cycling but follows keen cyclists' belief that 'you can never have enough bikes'.

As with all athletes, Joe is careful with what he eats- no sugary food, good carbs and quality protein for recovery. He supplements this with gym work three to four times a week.

Mountain biking on Holcombe Moor is one of the Whelan ways of varying his cycling diet. Another is on the road and Joe says he prefers this to the track as it is less pressurised, less competitive and more relaxed.

When Joe leaves this year he plans to study Maths, Further Maths, Computer Science and Physics! He is already considering studying something aerodynamics (linked to cycling of course) at university. So it might be Joe's last Big Pedal with us at Gabs this March but as far as Joe is concerned I'm sure that the wheels will keep turning.

A Wet and Windy Walk Around the Jumbles

Year 9 students took their first steps towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award on one of the wettest days of the year! With walk times ranging from 3 hours to 5 hours (mentioning no names Miss McLoughlin) the common feeling was, we hope the weather's better on the final expedition!



Science On Show

On Wednesday 1st March we had many of our feeder primary schools attend a primary science fair. Each group produce a fantastic display, one from St Joseph's and St Bede's was about states of matter, another from Guardian Angels produce a lovely display on Electricity. During the day the primary schools' displayed their work to pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. The University of Manchester came in to finish a fantastic day with a flash bang show. This was enjoyed by all groups as well as our year 7 pupils.



Competitions Galore

The participation of St. Gabriel's students in a variety of History related competitions has increased several fold. Students have considered the issue of peace in the Queen's Commonwealth competition, been creative in the Historical Association's Historical Fiction Competition and analysed the role of under appreciated individuals in the second year of the St Gabriel's History Competition. By participating, students are demonstrating not only their interest in current affairs and History but also their commitment to personal development. We hope to announce several winners in the near future!



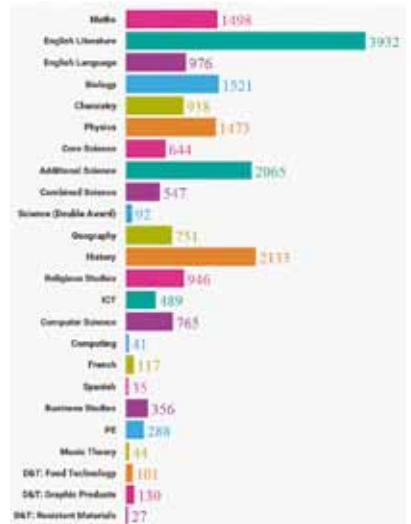
THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2017

We have had over 50 entries to the 2017 Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition from Years 7-9 this year, writing on the topic of peace – a massive increase from last year. From 'What's in your toolbox to peace?' to 'My peaceful place' students wrote about their attitudes towards peace and what young people can do about it. Winners will be announced in August 2017, fingers crossed!



GCSEPod Update.

Lots of Year 10 and 11 pupils have been making the most of GCSEPod to help them with their studies. So far 20,000 pods have been streamed or downloaded. For more information or help with the resources contact Dr Hargreaves.



GCSE History trip to Cannock Chase

Year 10 History students visited Staffordshire, to learn more about how casualties were dealt with on the mud soaked battlefields of World War 1, to enrich their understanding of life on the Western Front. They also compared the weaponry of British and German soldiers in World War 1, and considered why some were more successful than others. A visit to the Staffordshire Regimental Museum allowed not only a look into a reconstructed WW1 trench system, but also a look at the conditions faced by those who protect our country in the present day. As the picture suggest, it wasn't all work!



World Book Day 2017

For World Book Day 2017, the English department was transformed into a realm of children's literature. From the scarecrow from *The Wizard of Oz*, to *Cat in the Hat* – teachers transformed into children's book characters for the day. Key Stage 3 pupils took part in a project of writing, designing and creating their own children's stories. The pupils exceeded all expectation, creating imaginative and engaging stories with beautiful illustrations, pop-up books and puppets. On World Book Day, pupils were invited to attend lunch time events run by the English Mentors. Pupils entered competitions in quizzes and illustrations.



French Spelling Bee

Year 7 have been busy learning for the annual French Spelling Bee Competition. In the Autumn term 120 pupils were asked to learn 50 words to spell in French, using the French alphabet. They took part in class competitions, with the top 3 from each class going through to compete against each other in front of the whole of Year 7. They had to learn a further 50 words for this round and so on 7th March, 11 very nervous Year 7 pupils competed for 3 places in the regional final. This takes place on March 30th at Trinity Church of England High School. We wish Isabel Daibell, Karis Davidson and Oliver Portlock the best of luck as they learn another 50 words and compete against pupils from over 100 schools in the North-West!



BBC School Report News Day

On Thursday 16th March, a group of 19 Year 8 boys transformed the school's Resource Centre into a collaborative, creative and bustling newsroom. Pupils researched a range of stories, conducted interviews and presented their stories. The stories were then shared online with the BBC. Stories included: Science week at St. Gabriel's; *Curiouser and Curiouser*, (with an exclusive interview with Mr Young) and the literacy boards created in conjunction with *Curiouser and Curiouser*, Zak and Malachy visited forms with Miss Dobie to take a sneak peek at the work pupils have completed. Follow their twitter account to view their top stories! [@gabs_reporters](https://twitter.com/gabs_reporters)



Cultural Adventures in Madrid

St Gabriel's GCSE Spanish students set off for a cultural adventure in February half term. Thirty students accompanied by Mrs Frame, Miss Williams, Mr Faulkner and Mr Bacon headed off to Madrid, the capital of Spain. Four days were spent really getting to know Madrid by Metro and on foot. It is hard to look back now and believe how much was packed into those four days! After flying into Madrid airport we were transported by minibus to our accommodation in the centre of Madrid. The pupils quickly got to know the building and found the rooftop social area.



The first day was spent at El Rastro open air market, where pupils could buy all manner of souvenirs and goods. We were blessed with amazing weather as we wandered around the stalls. In the afternoon we got the Metro to see a local football game at the Campo de Fútbol de Vallecas and really got into the chanting and cheering during the match. We even had a go at eating Pipas!

The second day we had an outstanding tour of the Bernabeu stadium. Even the least enthusiastic about football couldn't help but be left amazed by the atmosphere and the fascinating interactive tour. We then caught the Metro to the Hard Rock Café for a well deserved lunch. Day two finished with a Flamenco lesson and a Flamenco show. We really have some talented dancers at St Gabriel's!

The third morning was spent at Las Ventas Bullring. We really got to understand the history of bullfighting and even managed a bit of sunbathing across the benches! We had a short walk in the sunshine to the Retiro Park and sat eating ice creams by the side of the boating lake. We spent the remainder of our free time in small groups, checking out the shops and of course our spoken Spanish!

The pupils showed an incredible positive attitude during the trip and embraced all the Spanish Cultural activities

¡Bravo St Gabriels!

Mardi Gras Masks

To celebrate International Day this year the MFL Department launched a Mardi Gras Mask competition. Pupils were able to design masks in the lesson and go home to perfect them.

There were many outstanding entries however the overall winner was Isabella Sutcliffe with runners up of: Maisie Cunningham 8M, Jacob J 7A, Jacob Evans 7M, Holly Makin 7R and Ruby McQuilton Morgan 7L. Well done to all the pupils who entered!



Thinking of Teaching?

If you think you might like to pursue a career in teaching, whether in a primary or secondary setting, we have the expertise within our alliance to provide outstanding training in all of our partnership schools. 40% of our School Direct PGCE Trainees in this year's cohort have already secured jobs for September 2017.

We would encourage you to apply soon if you are interested in completing the School Direct PGCE course through the St Monica's Catholic School Teaching School Alliance.

Places still available include: Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, English, Religious Studies, Geography, History, Maths, Computing and MFL French. If you are a graduate and wish to explore your options in teacher training further, do not hesitate to contact St Gabriel's RC High School, or visit the school website for more details.



Business in the Big Apple

On Friday 17th February a group of Year 11 Business Studies pupils and staff boarded a coach and travelled down to London Heathrow for the first leg of their journey to the Big Apple - New York City! The following day we flew out to JFK. That afternoon we were taking in the sights in Time Square and in the evening we dined at Hard Rock Café. During our four day trip we visited Central Park, took the ferry across to Liberty Island, dined in Bubba Gump and Heartland Brewery. The pupils showed the utmost respect at the 9/11 Memorial Garden and whilst in St Patrick's cathedral, they were very moved by the experience. We also had a tour of Wall Street and the famous department store Macys, followed by lots of shopping! Oh and lets not forget the Empire State observatory at 9pm - what a view that was! Our pupils were a credit to the school and it was an absolute pleasure to take them on this amazing trip. They have definitely made memories that they will take with them and never forget!



Non-fiction in Forms

Key Stage 3 pupils have been expanding their reading repertoire with a scheme focusing on non-fiction texts.

The trial comes in line with the changing demands of the GCSE specifications, particularly with regards to English Language. Pupils are now expected to read non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries on a wide variety of topics. In preparation for this pupils have been reading articles from an array of subject areas including topics of: tribes of the Amazon rainforest, Christmas in Victorian times and children being denied the opportunities offered by the outdoors.

9W pupils, Tilly and Faizah, have particularly enjoyed the interesting whole class discussions provoked by the articles.



GCSE Performance Evening

On Wednesday 8th February, Year 11 pupils entertained an audience of family and friends with a selection of musical items in preparation for their GCSE performances. There was a variety of solos and ensemble pieces, as well as pupils' own compositions. The evening was a huge success and pupils performed brilliantly. Congratulations to all involved, and good luck with your future exams! Always remember, "Where words fail, music speaks"!

Music Technology Trip to Holy Cross

On Monday 13th February, pupils from Years 7, 8 and 9 went on an educational visit to the Music Technology department at Holy Cross College. They attended a workshop along with pupils from other local schools, where they learned about mixing and sequencing techniques, and had the opportunity to record a live band performance. Year 7 pupils were also invited to perform in the recording, and really enjoyed the experience.



Forthcoming Musical at St Gabriel's!

We are pleased to announce that our next production in November 2017 will be... (drum roll please)... SWEENEY TODD (The Demon Barber of Fleet Street)! There will be a meeting in the last week of term to provide more information, and auditions will be held after Easter.

Music Tour to Prague Announced

Next February half term 2018, the Music Department has organised a choir trip to Prague, where pupils will perform in a variety of venues and experience the culture of this historic city.



Mock Interviews

Year 11's were put through their paces in the mock interviews earlier this term. It was not as much a grilling as those which take place in the TV series, *The Apprentice*, but there is no doubt that Alan Sugar would have been impressed with so many of our students. 180 Year 11's went through the mock job interview process by applying through a formal letter of application. Over 30 adults from our St Gabriel's community came into school on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th March evenings, from all walks of life and professions. Each student received a 20 minute interview based on a job application and feedback from the interviewers. It was an extremely useful exercise and all our students performed well and found the interview very worthwhile. This process is a key aspect of our Careers Programme in helping our students to be one step ahead of the game. St Gabriel's is very grateful to the many interviewers who gave up their time to help and support our Year 11's. One interviewer stated that he had interviewed a number of 18 year olds the day before, at a college, and they were not a patch on our students who were confident, well prepared and willing to push themselves forward in a very competitive and challenging job market.



SPORTING NEWS

Basketball

The Year 9 team, under the guidance of Mr. Jackman performed really well in the league fixtures. They finished in the top 4 and qualified for the finals day. They lost their semi final to eventual winners Philips High School but recovered to win the 3rd/4th play off against Prestwich. Well done to all those involved.

Football

The Year 10 team reached the semi-finals of the Catholic Cup and were very unlucky to lose a hard fought game to St Monica's 6-5 in extra time.

There was better news for the Year 11 team who have reached the final of the Catholic Cup after wins against, St Bedes and Barlow High School set up a semi final against a very strong St Peter's team. In an exciting game the Year 11 boys performed brilliantly to win 7-3 and reach the final. The year 11 team are currently unbeaten this season and as well as reaching the Catholic Cup final they are progressing well in the Bury Schools Cup as well. Hopefully we will be able to report on some cup success in the near future.



Year 8 BURY WINNERS

Congratulations to the Year 8 Girls who played in the Bury rallies. The girls were unbeaten throughout the tournament and were crowned Bury Schools Year 8 Champions. The girls showed true determination and commitment- Well done to all!

Year 11 Netball

The time has come where the Netball season is coming to a close for the year. Miss Maymon and Mrs Thatcher would like to say a massive thank you to the Year 11 Netball girls for their hard work and commitment for the 5 years of working with them on and off the netball court. Thank you to Charlotte Benson, Holly Smith, Beatrice Brett, Jody Reynolds, Teegan Rose, Megan Waters, Mia Bosnjak, Charley Hardman, Hannah Kelly and Meghan Walsh.

Netball 7-10

All the netball teams are currently training hard to compete in the Bury Schools tournaments, County tournaments and the Catholic tournaments. Stay focused and drive to succeed.