



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUTIO

Dec 2013



Welcome again to our latest edition of Pronutio.

It has been a wonderful term with so many successes and achievements. Our production of Les Misérables and appointment of a number of school chaplains have been significant events this term; both helping to drive forward our agenda. Whilst in the summer we achieved our best ever examination results, you can see throughout this edition of Pronutio our focus on the school's mission and distinctive Catholic nature: developing the 'whole child'.

I hope you enjoy reading through Pronutio and recognising the successful and wonderful faith community that we are at St Gabriel's. At this time of year we remember these words: "I have come that they may have life and live it to the full". (John 10:10).

A very happy and holy Christmas to you all.
Mr S.A. Smith



Pupil Chaplaincy at St Gabriel's

'It is up to you, young followers of Christ, to show the world that faith brings happiness and a joy which is true, full and enduring'. **Pope Benedict XVI**

This November, pupils in Year 9 and 10 were given the opportunity to apply for the position of Pupil Chaplain at St Gabriel's to serve as a member of our School Chaplaincy Team by supporting the Catholic life of our school.

14 pupils applied and were interviewed for the position. As a result, 6 pupils were appointed to the role. Rebecca Barbosa, Mollie Cooper, Chloe Gregory, Sarah-Jayne Hartley-Rudd, Anna-Louise Howarth and Hugo Knowles. The remaining candidates were invited to create our first ever Pupil Chaplaincy Team.

The Pupil Chaplaincy team will be joyful witnesses of Christ in our school; commit to developing outreach work to support local, national and international charities; assist with the development and delivery of the prayer life of the school, and be present to welcome visitors to our school community.

On 15th November, our first ever Pupil Chaplains attended a training day at Salford Cathedral Centre. At the end of the day, our Pupil Chaplains were specially commissioned by Fr Anthony Sudlow, assistant priest at Salford Cathedral.



The training day allowed our Pupil Chaplains to truly consider the importance of Chaplaincy in school and to understand that as Pupil Chaplains, it is their privilege and duty to both protect and share that which is most sacred in our school community: the message and love of Jesus Christ.

Our Faith is a Joyful Faith: Year of Faith Mission Week 2013

This time last year, Pope Benedict invited us to embark on the 'Year of Faith' and to find opportunities to 'open the door' to reflect on our faith. From the 21st -25th October we celebrated the end of this special year with a whole school mission.

A mission is a time to stop, to take a step back from everyday life, reflect on Gospel teachings and consider what they mean to us all. During the week, our time of mission focused on 5 important aspects of our Catholic faith: forgiveness; assertiveness; inspiration; thanksgiving and happiness. Our themes were discussed and explored through assemblies, lessons, prayer workshops and special lunchtime prayer stations. All of the events were created and experienced by staff and pupils alike.

The end of this Year of Faith is only the beginning of a lifetime of exploration and formation.

CAFOD
Just one world



Phillippines Appeal

Over the last few weeks, St Gabriel's community has raised over £1000 for CAFOD's Typhoon Haiyan Appeal.

When the news of the devastation broke, pupils and staff came together to work out a way of raising a donation as quickly as possible.

Pupils contributed readily to collections in their form classes as well as to a raffle for a hamper of goodies generously donated to school by a parent.

We had bucket collections after three evening performances of our school production of 'Les Miserables'. We are grateful that so many parents and visitors donated to the cause through this. On Friday 22nd November, staff held a 'Cake@Break' sale in the staffroom with all proceeds going towards our appeal.

We continue to remember in our prayers those in need in the Philippines and those on the frontline responding to the devastation caused by the typhoon. We hope that our contribution will in a small way make a difference to the communities they are working with. To find out more about the work CAFOD is doing in the Philippines and in other parts of the world, visit: www.cafod.org.uk



RE Writing

The RE department are delighted that Olivia Johnstone won first prize (£30 Amazon voucher) in the Theology and Philosophy essay competition. This year's title was 'Violence in the name of religion can never be acceptable'. Assess this view.

Miss Francesca Fell from Holy Cross said, 'All the essays we received from St Gabriel's were of an exceptionally high standard. Students engaged maturely with the question and drew on a number of religious traditions to support their opinions. St Gabriel's produced the winning entry again this year, a testimony to the quality of teaching and learning in the RE department.'

Well done Olivia!

In the summer term all KS3 pupils entered The Catholic Young Writers Award 2013 which is sponsored by the Catholic Writers Guild of England and Wales. The pupils had to write a reflection on the importance of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A number of our pupils gained runner-up prizes including Lauren Booth and Rebecca Barbosa Year 10 and Anna Hill Year 9. They received a decorated Catechism. Congratulations to all involved!



Les Miserables

Do you hear the People Sing? You certainly can at St Gabriel's! Les Miserables is the first show the school has produced in five years; it took place on the 20th, 21st and 22nd November and involved 87 students from Years 8-11. This was a huge show that involved a 20 strong orchestra and a complex set comprising of a bridge, a barricade, a wind machine, glaciator, three projectors and intelligent lighting and sound. Rehearsals for the show have been on-going since June and the cast have worked tirelessly and with total dedication throughout the whole process. We were delighted that we had a full house for every performance and even more delighted that the cast received a standing ovation on each evening of the show! It was a very busy week as they also performed twice on Tuesday 19th for both the feeder Primary School's and Year 7. Yet this did not faze them. It is an absolute testament to the hard work and tenacity all the cast members have demonstrated. They've gone the extra mile in terms of rehearsing (which involved a variety of Sundays and Summer/October half-term dates) and in putting energy and sparkle into every single performance.

There were two casts for the principle roles in the production. We heard two beautiful renditions of 'I Dreamed a Dream' by Hannah Kent and Rebecca Watson who played the role of 'Fantine' with real vigour, maturity and emotion. Laura Bell and Eirinn Kilvington expertly played the role of 'Eponine' and wowed the audience with 'On My Own'. Beth Mellor and Lydia Jowles played 'Cosette' which was one of the hardest singing parts of the show; they mastered this part with utter professionalism and dedication and were accompanied by Luke Walsh and Oliver Iannaccone who played 'Marius'. The boys did a fantastic job playing the romantic lead and moved the audience with 'Empty Chairs and Empty Tables'. Xavier Jacques played 'Enjolras', the leader of the revolution and led the army of students with both his musical aptitude and his dedication to the role. 'Gavroche' was played by the brilliant Dane Longden and Hayley Anderton: the audience were gripped with emotion at their death scene. The comedy characters of Thernardier (Dominic Dilger) and Madame Thernardier (Siobhan Cassidy/ Shannon McCann) had the audience in fits of laughter with the 'Master of the House' scene and continued to provide 'light relief' throughout the show.

Finally, the show wouldn't have been possible without Jack Kilroy who played 'Jean Valjean' and Simon Bell who played the antagonist 'Javert'. Simon's singing ability, acting skills, interpretation of 'Javert' and commitment to the show has been phenomenal. Jack Kilroy is a past student who is currently in Y12 at Holy Cross studying four A-Levels and we will be eternally grateful to him for dedicating so much time and expertise to the character of Valjean and the production itself.

A big production like Les Miserables requires a lot of staff support and we are so very grateful to all those people who volunteered their services to ensure the production was a success. Costumes, set, props, stage management, make up, visuals, art work, the programme, publicity... The list is endless. We could not have done it without you all! A special thanks to John Coles (a past student) who gave up so much of his free time to organise the lighting and sound.

Les Miserables has brought together a new community within the school. Students from different year groups and performance backgrounds have bonded together and made new and lasting friendships

Les Miserables here at St Gabriels has been a huge success! Every single cast member gave 110% to the performance and each of us has come away with cherished memories. I personally will never forget Mr Young's grins when something that we had been working on for weeks became amazing. It was a real team effort and the production has brought all of us closer as friends and some of us have made friends we will be in touch with for a long time after we leave St Gabriel's. I will miss playing the character of 'Cosette' so much and sharing the stage with such talented people.

Beth Mellor - Year 11

I loved participating in Les Miserables and have enjoyed spending time performing with old school friends and many very talented people. The staff have been inspirational in how they have given up so much time and put in so much effort to make the show amazing. I have learnt a lot from participating in such a huge production; I hope you enjoy the show!

Jack Kilroy

Working with the Les Miserables cast has been an amazing experience and one I surely won't forget. The dedication put in to making this performance has been extraordinary from both students and teachers. It's been an honor.

Tom Crawford

Taking part in Les Miserables has been really rewarding! It has been a great opportunity to mix with my peers to find that they have similar interests. From the first rehearsal everybody has been incredibly supportive! Gavroche has been a really fun character to play as he is quite cheeky and brightens up the musical! The teachers have been working so hard to make the production enjoyable and they really are inspirational with the work they have done. Everybody is just fantastic; it is an experience I will never forget!

Hayley Anderton

Les Miserables has been a great experience and I have really enjoyed being part of it. I've learned lots of new techniques that have improved my acting and singing! I'm just happy I got involved and had the chance to be in a good musical with great people.

Oliver



English Mentors

A number of Year 11 pupils have been selected to assist the English Department by supporting the learning of younger pupils. Those invited to be mentors have been chosen due to their expertise within English, or for their enthusiasm for the subject.

So far, the mentors have helped Year 10 pupils in their preparation for controlled assessments by offering reassurance, advice and by reflecting on how they might have done things differently. All pupils who have visited the English mentors have been grateful for the help they have received and have definitely had their confidence boosted by talking potential problems through with their peers.

Whilst turning up for lunchtime duty is an important aspect of life as an English mentor, they are also asked to sit on a Pupil Panel to advise the English Department on the success of our current schemes of work and are encouraged to share any suggestions on how to improve the learning experience of our pupils. Overall, we have been thoroughly impressed with the manner in which our mentors have represented the English department and look forward to our next Pupil Panel meeting on Shakespeare and the Literary Heritage!

We would also like to thank those mentors who did such a fantastic job in their organisation and supervision of the HungerGames: Catching Fire event; it was brilliant and we were thrilled with the huge excitement generated on the day!



Happy Hunger Games!

This term saw the return of St. Gabriel's Annual Hunger Games Event. The English department was once more bustling with students from across the year groups, enjoying a feast of Hunger Games activities organised entirely by our Year 11 English Mentors.

Students were treated to quizzes, raffles, 'Fan-Fic' activities and the race to find as many of the hidden Mocking jay symbols continued throughout the week!

The English mentors did a fantastic job organising and hosting the event. Congratulations to Alice Cranfield Y11 who won the overall prize in the keenly contested Hunger Games Quiz. We look forward to seeing you at our next themed lunch time event, 'Harry Potter' by popular demand!



Spotlight on 'Personal and Religious Education'

Pupils have been working hard recently in PRE, especially on their various projects and presentations. KS3 (Year 7, 8 and 9) classes have been learning about equality. In particular, they studied the work of the suffragettes, racism and religious tolerance. Year 8 and 9 also studied some of the effects of alcohol consumption. In January, Year 7 pupils will be starting a brand new course called Faith in Action, looking at a variety of individuals from all walks of life who have had a positive impact on society. Year 10 and 11 have been considering their hopes and dreams and earlier in the year wrote some life-writes. They have been preparing themselves for college and adult life. Most recently, they have also studied the laws and risks of illegal drugs.



All year groups commemorated Black History Month as well as Remembrance Day. Mrs Harvey and Mrs Dempsey would like to thank pupils in all years for the hard work they put into their projects on Les Misérables in the run up to the school production. In the summer, Mr Richard Cooke (a local business man who ran a very successful business but gave it away to do charitable work and run a church) and his wife Mrs Anna Cooke who runs a CAP (Christians Against Poverty – a free debt counselling charity) centre in Bolton, each gave a talk to pupils about business principles, monetary values, avoiding debt and good money management skills. Following the success and positive feedback received from pupils and staff alike, we will also be looking into the future possibility of partnering with Greater Manchester Fire Service and other local organisations.

Coffee Morning Generosity 2013

Another year goes by and the St Gabriel's community coming together to raise money for our adopted charity Bury African Outreach. This year's highlight was definitely the flash mob phenomenon organised by the cast of Les Miserables. A packed hall were treated to excerpts from the show from principles Hannah Kent and Simon Bell as well as a rousing rendition of 'Can You Hear the People Sing?' by the student chorus at the barricades.

As always there was an outstanding response by pupils and parents to the call to bring in goods to sell for Coffee Morning. Pupils took literally the request to have a clear out and in the week before the small pile of donations became a mountain! One form from Year 8 particularly excelled with a grand total of 136 items brought in. Congratulations to Connie Makin whose Coffee Morning generosity won her the prize of one of Mr Wray's home baked chocolate cake creations.

It was great to see a record turn out enjoying all the fun of the fair and making a grand total of £2577.50 which will fund education projects in Uganda. A special mention should go to Malika Street from Year 11 who managed to raise an amazing £40 from her eclectic busking repertoire in the front entrance. We now look forward to Lydia and Tom from Bury African Outreach visiting school in January to update us on news from the children our money supports.



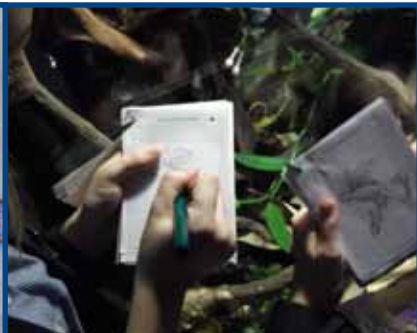
GCSE CREATIVE ART ENRICHMENT DAYS

During November Year 11 Art pupils had an activity packed day at The Manchester Gallery and The Manchester Museum at part of their GCSE course. At the gallery pupils explored their current exhibition 'The Vanity of Small Differences' by Grayson Perry. The artist's dramatic and colourful tapestries represented people's different lifestyles and tastes. Pupils spotted symbolic objects and characters such as mobile phones, cage fighters, a football shirt, a miner's lamp, customised cars, references to celebrities and started to uncover the stories behind them. They also investigated the historical galleries to reveal the meanings and myths behind their permanent collections of 18th and 19th century paintings. Pupils studied visual elements of the mythical artwork such as snakes, wings and fish to practise their structural drawing skills.

In the museum pupils were able to get close to the live reptiles and larger mammal exhibits to examine their unique features. They produced photographs and sketches based on live animals such as snakes, lizards and frogs which was a wonderful opportunity to draw from real life.

Our second day was all about getting creative with different processes; printmaking techniques, Japanese calligraphy and mixed media collage. Pupils developed their current theme of animal structures to design prints based on butterflies and insects. They produced mixed media papers combined with Japanese Haiku poems inspired by nature. Pupils carved, punched, rolled and printed to produce their final insect and butterfly compositions!

Elli Smale and Roxanna Taffazoli commented, "We enjoyed the modern exhibition as it gave us inspiration and ideas to use in our own work and the printmaking gave us more experience with different techniques and materials". The creative days really helped pupils to discover how to use the galleries and museums as a learning resource and to experiment with new techniques in preparation for their personal research phase in the new year. Well done to Year 11 and their fantastic mixed media artwork!



Child development News



Year 11 pupils are continuing their Reality Works experience attempting to look after twins. Last year they successfully looked after one child for a weekend. The babies are programmed to behave like a new born baby, even waking in the night! The girls had to attend to the babies and work out what each cry meant. I asked the girls to comment on their experience last year.

Generally the girls thought that it was a fun and enjoyable way to experience life skills and what being a parent of a new baby would be like. They also thought that it brought the curriculum to life.

Other individuals added:

Clare "It was a very challenging experience."

Lia "It definitely gives you an insight into parenthood."

Mollie "It was hard work but rewarding."

Laura "It was very tiring and I wouldn't like to do it again."

Alice "It was best experience ever."

Emily "It was harder I thought it would be."

Chloe "It was hard to figure out what the baby needed."

All the girls returned to school on the Monday morning looking shattered and happy to return the babies and return to normality.



Y11 Geography Fieldwork in sunny Blackpool



In July, shortly after Travel Day, the Year 11 Geographers got on another coach to Blackpool but this time it was for a very different experience. They swapped their stick of rock for a trundle wheel and used fieldwork techniques such as measuring the width of the beach (taking care to avoid the jelly fish!), land use mapping, sketching and questionnaires. All of their efforts were to help them with their Controlled Assessment fieldwork, which took place in Manchester in September, as well as helping them to gain a better understanding of the geographies of tourism in a coastal resort. The pupils worked hard all day gaining a real-life experience of the geography we study in class and despite the lack of roller-coasters a good day was had by all.

YEAR 9 BECOME STAR CHEFS

Students in Year 9 have recently been working on the Sainsbury's Active Kids Get Cooking 2 Star Chef award. In order to receive the award they had to design, make and evaluate a pizza as part of their Food Technology course that focuses on multicultural foods. Here are some students from ALSW with their certificates.

Mrs Jenkinson



Music and Performing Arts update

Amongst all the busy rehearsals for Les Miserables, we have managed to keep other extra-curricular groups active.

Informal Recital - 22nd October

A selection of solos and duets were performed by students from across Years 8-11 to parents, carers and friends in the drama studio. The idea of this small scale performance is to provide students with an opportunity to try out recently learned music in front of a friendly audience. Congratulations to all who took part.

Festive Music

The chamber choir have been involved in providing musical entertainment within our wider community at:

- Grundy Day Care Centre Christmas Party - December 5th
- Killelea Home for the Elderly - December 18th

Annual Carol Service - 17th December

Our 40th Carol Service was held at St Joseph's RC Church, Peter Street, Bury. Choirs, instrumentalists and soloists provided a range of festive music to accompany the various Christmas readings. This annual event shares the Christmas message with our wider community... a happy and holy Christmas to all!

Success

Congratulations to Jack Sindall (Year 10) who has recently been chosen to represent Bury in the Regional Rotary Young Musician of the Year in January. Congratulations also go to Hannah Kent (Y11) who has just found out she has got through to the next round of auditions for 'Star of Stage'. This is a national musical theatre competition held by 'Sound of Music' star Connie Fisher.

They are incredible achievements. Good luck!

Netball News

It has been another successful start to the Netball season for St. Gabriel's Netball Teams. All teams have been training hard and competing in a variety of fixtures and competitions including the Bury League, Greater Manchester County League, Manchester and District Netball Tournament, Catholic Schools Tournament and the U14 and U16 National Schools' Tournament. The girls have taken inspiration from their fantastic performances in their residential netball trip last year and there have been some outstanding performances and excellent results including scores such as 28-0 and 44-2!

The U14 Netball Team have performed particularly well so far this season, achieving 3rd place in the recent U14 National Schools' Netball Tournament which was held at Wright Robinson Sports College on Saturday 9th November. Despite adverse weather conditions, the girls performed amazingly well, throughout the whole morning, beating schools such as Altrincham Grammar, Bolton School and North Chadderton. The squad won the group stage with a great goal difference and were placed 3rd in the competition. Every member of the U14 squad played with such determination and spirit on both the Saturday and the re-arranged matches held in St. Gabriel's sports hall. Well done! All squad players should continue to play with this passion and enthusiasm throughout the remaining Bury league and Greater Manchester league matches.

Well done to all girls involved, particularly the new Year 7 Netball squad; they are working extremely hard and getting better and better with each game. Keep working hard girls; you have the potential to do well this season.

Miss Rhind and Miss Maymon



Cross Country

Congratulations to all girls who took part in the Bury Schools Cross-Country who all ran extremely well despite the very muddy conditions.

The following girls had great success:

- Abbie Sheppard 4th**
- Rebecca Gartland 4th**
- Sophie Whittaker 2nd**
- Lauren Booth 6th**



Basketball

The Year 11 Basketball squad had a very successful season, narrowly missing out in the semi-finals to the eventual winners Philips High.

St. Gabriel's finished the regular season in second place in their league. In doing so they qualified for the play off semi-finals. The game was very close and tense, with the scores level going into the last few seconds. As the buzzer sounded Philips took a shot which agonisingly for St. Gabriels hit the ring and went in. Although very disappointed the boys should be proud of their efforts.



Cross country

The Bury School's Cross Country Championships took place at Heaton Park in November and witnessed some excellent performances.

Harry Stainton won the Year 11 boys' title with an emphatic run. All his hard training paid off. Well done Harry.

The Year 8/9 boys were overall champions, beating 12 other schools to win the title - A fantastic effort from the boys. The winning team members were:

Kelvin Cockcroft (4th)
Patrick Watson (10th)
Tanaka Bvakacha (12th)
Zach Chidgey (14th)
Matthew O'Reilly (15th)
Curtis Johnstone (19th)
Adam Mannion (21st)
Joseph Whelan
Ben Bolus
Joseph Klusiatis

Sprint Ace Hannah is crowned county champion

After success with the school netball team winning a national competition, Hannah Kelly of Year 8 has gone from strength to strength by becoming Greater Manchester Champion at both the 75 metre and 100 metre sprints. Hannah also competed in the North East Youth Development League winning all the races she entered and breaking her running club (Bolton United Harriers) records at 100m, 150m, 200m and high jump. Hannah is now rated in the top 10 in her age group in the UK and is setting her sights on future Olympics.



Important Reminders

The severe weather policy is on the website. Please read it and ensure your child is clear about arrangements in the event of severe weather during the school day.

Buses continue to operate as last year

Thank you for everyone's cooperation in improving the standard of school uniform and particularly footwear. Information on uniform can be found on the St Gabriel's website.