

# De La Salle St. Helens

## Easter 2016 Newsletter



### Eastertide Reflection

Lord Jesus, throughout our Lenten journey we have sought, through our prayers, our almsgiving and our fasting to align our humanity to your humanity, in order that we understand better your divinity.

During this time we have prayerfully and gratefully meditated on your passion and death.

During this time we have sought to identify with Peter and not with Judas.

Now in this Easter season may we be people of hope not despair, by proclaiming your victory over death.

Help us to know that, even in the midst of our world of sadness, hopelessness and suffering, our hearts can be made to burn within us through breaking open the scriptures and through breaking bread with our neighbour.

Give us the gift of being, through our practical support, our kindness and our listening, beacons of hope for others who are suffering.

In doing so we can articulate the truth of Lasallian witness by living Jesus in our hearts forever.

Amen



# The Road to Emmaus. An Overlooked Easter Story (Luke 24:13-35)

*Resurrexit Sicut Dixit. Alleluia, Alleluia, He is risen!!*

The peculiarities of our school calendar means that our end of term comes at the beginning of Eastertide when the whole Christian community celebrate THE most important event in the history of humanity, the conquering of death and sin by hope and love in the person of Jesus Christ. What follows in the calendar of the Church is a prolonged period of celebration of light and life which should emanate from all Christian communities including our own at De La Salle.

There is one gospel story from St Luke that is often overlooked and yet summarises human despair being replaced by hope, comfort and inspiration. The story of Emmaus is unique because it is the only narrative that allows us to listen to how the disciples of Jesus interpret his death immediately following the event. We meet two disciples heading away from Jerusalem, the place that is identified as the graveyard of their hope.

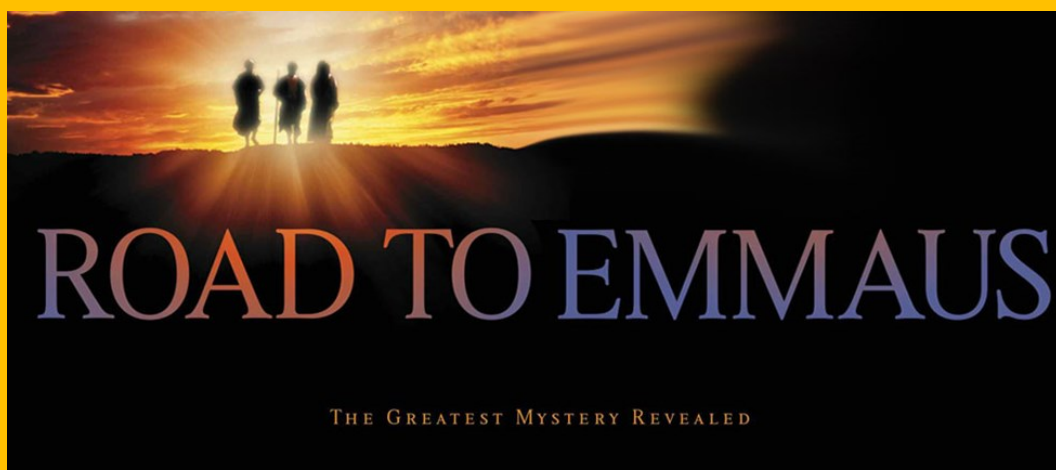
Whatever their identities, the narrative focuses on their condition as two people who are overcome by their own loss, frankly bewildered by the violent turn of recent events. They speak out of their experience of Jesus: that he proved himself a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and the people. They go on to speak of their expectations of Jesus: they had hopes that he would be the one to set Israel free.

There is a sense in which we can see the two disciples on the road to Emmaus as our contemporaries, fellow travellers journeying along a grey landscape of ambiguity and disappointment where, in the uncertain light of what is seen and sensed, so many cherished hopes, now withered, have been relegated to lost causes. However, what the disciples saw as hopeless we interpret as good news, not least because we interpret their story in that larger frame of scripture. And that is what the risen Jesus does in response to his two disciples.

In the light of their new experiences, their recognition of the risen Jesus, the disciples reassess their past: a recent past of injured hope is now healed in this fresh revelation. They are now able to understand why their hearts were burning within them. Their new experience helps them to make sense not only of the past few days but also of why they felt as they did on the road when the stranger was unfolding scripture to them. Their new experience gives them a new sense of purpose and a new authority, so they go back to the place they earlier longed to leave. Their return is not only to a place, but more importantly to a place they thought of as desolate.

The experience marks the beginning of their new lives and the story presents each of us with the challenge of seeking out encounters with Christ through encounters with each other and through the sacraments especially the Eucharist. The Emmaus story recollects how humanity is never alone, never abandoned by God. In fact it is an opportunity for us to reflect on how it was from Love that we are formed, it is in Love that we are sustained and it is to Love that we will find rest. The story of the disciples' journey on the Road to Emmaus is the fulfillment of a Divine promise "I will be with you always, yes until the end of time".

Have a blessed and happy Easter  
Mr Toal



## Message from Mr. Toal

### The end of another busy term!!

So we have reached the end of another busy term and one which reflects further progress that our school is making.

### Behaviour Policy

This term we have launched our new Rewards and Sanctions policy, based on the "Star system". It a policy in its infancy and the school will continue to review and moderate how appropriate this system is to the needs of our students and to the ambition of the school to raise standards of behaviour and participation in school life.

### Parental Forum

Recently the school held another Parental Forum evening allowing parents to listen to the progress the school is making and giving them the chance to communicate their views regarding their experience of the school. Parents raised concerns regarding homework, the school marking policy, communication and supply staff. The school will continue to listen to these concerns and looks forward to communicating progress in these areas throughout the next term and more formally at the next planned Parental forum in July. In addition this term we have also held a staff forum and we continue to glean student views through a very active Student Voice. Finding out the views and concerns of all our people in our community will allow the school to take the necessary decisions and apply the relevant strategies to accelerate progress, protect outcomes and keep everyone within our community safe

### Ofsted

At the end of March the school was inspected by Ofsted. This was the fourth Section 8 Monitoring Inspection. The final report is currently being written and will then be quality assured for accuracy and validation before being published. The school is confident that the final report will confirm and consolidate the school's view that progress is being made against the action points already pointed out by Ofsted. There is a final and fifth monitoring visit due and this may take place before the end of the summer term. Provided this final monitoring inspection takes place the school will then have a final Section 5 full school inspection which must take place before December 2016.

### Public Examinations

Can I ask you to keep all students preparing for examinations in your prayers. In particular can I ask that you keep a special place in prayer for our Year 11 students as they make final preparations for their Summer GCSE examinations

### Website

The school is delighted to announce that it has engaged a new partner in developing its website and in improving its external communication platforms. **Non conform** is the company chosen and they are a well-established provider in this field and they already engage with several schools some of whom have been judged as outstanding by Ofsted. Currently being designed, it is anticipated that the new website will be live at some point during the summer term

## Grease is the Word!

Grease was certainly the word at auditions for this year's production. Over 100 pupils attended auditions across two days to be cast in the stage version of the hit movie 'Grease'. Casting the show was extremely difficult due to the amount of talent we had to choose from.

Ranging from Year 7 up to Year 10, the pupils had to perform a scene from the musical and sing as part of the audition. A massive congratulations to everyone that attended. It was an amazing turn out and once again shows how much talent and ability we have here at De La Salle.

Ticket information will be announced after Easter.

Team Grease!!



# LENTEN FUNDRAISING

## Soaked by the Lenten Challenge!

As part of their Lenten challenge, each form had been asked to raise some money for their Year's chosen Charity group.

7D organised a 'soak the teacher' event, and would like to say a big thank you to all the Staff who got involved in their fund raising event, especially those involved in the actual soaking!

Many pupils took part in throwing the sponges at their chosen teacher, whilst many others gave donations to watch and cheer along at the event.

All of the staff were also proud of the pupils being sensible, unlike Miss Swaby who decided to throw the whole bucket, instead of a sponge at Mr Leggett and Mr Holland! 7D are overwhelmed with the amount of money they managed to raise, adding £101.51 to the total for Zoe's Place, which was above their target.

Thanks again from 7D and Miss Aldred.



## De La Salle Year 7 Ping Pong Tournament 2016



On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016, staff and students gathered in the courtyard to participate in the inaugural De La Salle Ping Pong Competition!

The tournament was played to raise vital funds for the year 7 charity, Zoe's place, which provides respite and palliative care for terminally ill children in Liverpool. With over 30 eager competitors, the stage was set for some exciting battles and electrifying performances. Lexine Palo, Isabelle Drake, Tom Eastwood and Tom Prescott referred the matches.

Ryan Mulligan and Ellis Turner (7L) valiantly battled through the quarter finals and the semi-finals to be the last men standing for

the thrilling final which saw Ryan narrowly beat Ellis 11-9.

The much anticipated duel between Miss Fair and Mrs De'Ath was swiftly decided resulting in a crushing defeat for Miss Fair who then went on to outclass Mr Toal in 3 straight points.

Congratulations to all competitors and spectators for their unbridled enthusiasm and superb teamwork! Special thanks to Mr Canning for his participation in the event.

**Miss Fair and Mrs De'Ath**



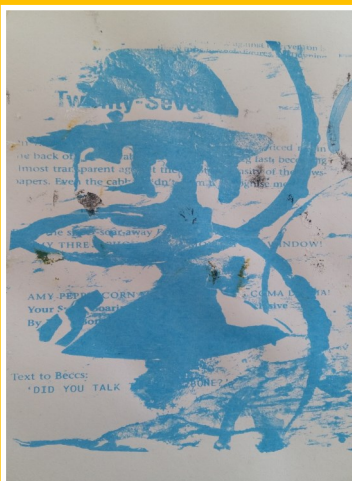


**Your kindness and  
generosity has not gone  
unnoticed by the homeless  
many thanks  
on  
behalf of Teardrops**

# Photography Studio

A photograph showing two young women in school uniforms (dark blazers, light blue shirts, and dark skirts) posing with their hands raised in a 'V' shape. They are standing on a white backdrop. In the foreground, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible, holding a camera. To the right, there is a large black softbox and a desk with a computer monitor. The background shows a room with windows and some equipment.

Five Year 11 boys took part in a visit to Carmel College Art department and a screen printing workshop in order to transform some of their own designs into high quality screen prints. The results are fantastic and the art department would like to thank the boys involved, *Joshua Anderton, Nathan Walker, Patrick Rotherham, Matthew Connor and Jonathan Quinn* for their creativity and involvement in the workshop and Steve Bonati for leading such an excellent opportunity.



# Year 11 - Pop-Up Maths Market



Following the success of last year's Pop-Up Maths Market, on 20<sup>th</sup> January over 100 Year 11 pupils spent the day learning maths in a different way... With over 30 mathematicians from Edge Hill University running the stalls, pupils visited these throughout the day where they learned some core GCSE topics using a 'hands-on' and memorable approach. Pupils' understanding of probability was developed at the casino stall, fractions were learned by drawing on tortillas, volumes had to be calculated correctly to avoid a spillage and no pupil should forget what stratified sampling is after visiting the 'skittles' stall!

At the end of the day, pupils were able to put their new knowledge to the test when they re-visited the stalls to answer actual GCSE questions. Pupils were overwhelmed at their success, agreeing whole-heartedly that their learning had improved and they felt better prepared for their GCSE:

"Being able to learn maths so quickly and so easily was great and learning visually made it much better."

"Realising new skills and seeing how easy it is to get a grade C. I feel more confident in this subject now and it will help me in class and exams"

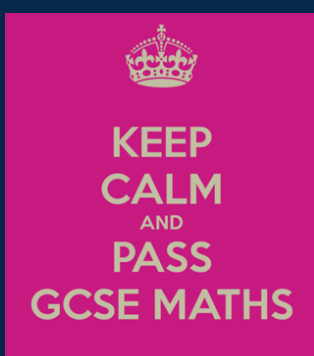
"The encouragement from the guests, especially when I got things wrong..."

"Learning topics that look hard to do but knowing how to work them out and finding that they're easy!"

"I enjoyed all of the stalls as they included interactive learning..."



## 1:1 Maths Tuition



Our mathematician colleagues from Edge Hill University joined us again on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to offer 70 of our Year 11 pupils an hour of personalised maths tuition. A tailored approach using information from the December mock exams ensured that all pupils involved received a 1:1 session that was specific to their own needs!

"Feel more confident to do the exam, he went over it and gave me examples until I knew it. Very happy! Went through the mock to help me - definitely do it again!"

"Miss was a great help in the one to one session and I really enjoyed taking part. I would love to do it again in the future."

## PRIMARY LINKS

## Our Lady's Macbeth performance



This is the second year in which Y6 pupils from Our Lady's Catholic Primary Prescott have participated in the National Schools Shakespeare Festival. Following on from the resounding success of Hamlet last year they performed Macbeth to a fee paying audience in the Epstein Theatre Liverpool to close this festival. The pupils were keen to perform to the Y7 pupils at De La Salle as many will be attending there next year. Both schools agreed that such a performance would assist in a smoother transition for Our Lady's pupils. On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February Macbeth was performed in front of Y7 and the families of the Y6 pupils on the grand stage in De La Salle. A faultless performance ensued which was extremely well received by the whole audience. The Y6 pupils also greatly enjoyed the experience and are eagerly awaiting further

transition activities with De La Salle. Thank you to the staff and pupils at De La Salle for making Our Lady's very welcome and being a wonderful audience.



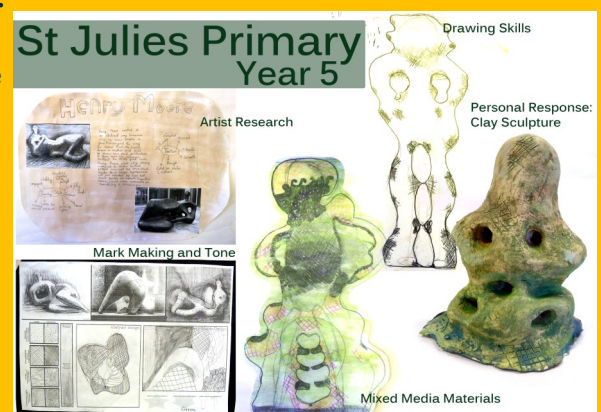
## Art Workshop: St Julie's Primary, Ecclestone

Year 5 students at St Julie's Primary School have undertaken an intensive art project based on the abstract work of Henry Moore. Students were challenged to use their imagination and think about the reasons why Moore created such warped and abstract figures. We discussed how Moore documented people taking refuge in the tunnels of the London Underground during World War Two; and how he saw these figures as distorted shapes because of the fear they were going through.

### Miss Winder explains...

Students showed incredible maturity and thought when asked to describe the feelings of those in hiding, and Moore himself. They showed great understanding of emotions and the techniques that grew from them. Year 5 were given an array of keywords each week, these built up over time to explain the new skills and knowledge they encountered. By the final week, students had accrued an impressive creative vocabulary, range of artistic ability and understanding of Abstract Art that reflected students many years older than themselves.

The students at St Julie's were enthusiastic and always willing to give 100% to each session, which is why the outcomes from the project were of such high quality. The manners and motivation to learn shown by the year 5 students will never be forgotten, it was a pleasure to meet them and I hope to see them all in De La Salle in 18 months time. Some students chose to enter their final sculptures in the St Helens Youth Open Art Competition; I wish them all good luck with their selections.



## Millie Costello 9I



During the past year, Millie has competed in her first International competition in Sweden, coming away with a silver medal. Millie attended trials following her success in the National Age Group Competition in December and was invited to be part of the Age 13-15 England Squad. One of only 9 girls in this squad - the only swimmer from the North. As part of her place in this squad, Millie will compete on behalf of GB in Hungary & Israel later in 2016. Millie hopes to trial for the Junior GB squad in September of this year.

## Jordan Benson 9T - Athletics

Jordan is our very own Usain Bolt, he literally runs like the wind blows.

Jordan was one of 7 athletes selected to represent Merseyside U'15s team in the Sports hall UK Championships (N.W Counties) which were held at Sports City Manchester on March 5th 2016.

Merseyside U15's boys had not qualified for the U.K National finals in over 10years.

Jordan entered 3 individual events:-

Finishing first in the Triple Jump, the 4 lap (230 metres) and second in the shot putt.

Jordan ran last leg in the 4x2 Lap Relay and came from behind to secure victory for his team.

Merseyside U15's boys won the team event and have at last secured entrance into the National Finals (17th April Sports City).

Jordan scored the highest points total at the competition and was awarded 'outstanding athlete certificate' which automatically qualified him as an individual entrance into the National Finals.

Jordan posted the fastest 4 lap time in the country at this competition. Following this, Jordan was approached by an England Athletics coach who said he had the finest triple jump technique he had seen in years!

Jordan is determined to be a huge success within athletics, and has recently stepped up a level at his new club 'Liverpool Harriers & Athletics Club' and is now competing at U16's.

## Katie Bennett - Football

Katie is without a doubt adamant that football is the career for her!

Since playing football with boys in primary school, being the only girl who joined in Katie has had to deal with a few knock backs over the years but has always shown great strength to overcome the knocks to her confidence, which has in turn taught her some good life lessons.

Katie started her football career in the 2010/11 season as a goalkeeper for St Helens town, but soon realised after scoring her first hat trick for Parkdale Sidac the following season that there where goals in her boots. Katie went on to become the league's leading goal scorer and helped her team win the league for two seasons.

In the 2013/14 season Katie was scouted by Liverpool FC and asked to attend a trial, the trials were different to anything Katie had experienced before but she wasn't fazed by it and was successfully selected. It was when representing Liverpool that Katie dropped back into defence and for two seasons successfully represented not only Liverpool but Merseyside County schools.

Katie now represents Wigan Athletic, and in their first season together went the whole season unbeaten, winning the league in style.

Katie's biggest memory to date has come most recently whilst representing Merseyside County schools. Although they have been close to winning the Northern Counties Cup, narrowly beaten finalist to Lancashire, Katie was not only named Captain but awarded the 'Attitude and Commitment award' for her coach can only describe as "a young girl who *deserves to be captain. Her attitude & her manner on the pitch is fantastic. She works hard every training session and I think she's a fantastic role model for girls!*"

# Achievements

## Thomas Westworth 9F - Karting

Thomas has been karting since the age of 6.

At 8 he had to take a driving/theory test to get a race licence and he has progressed each year thereafter.

In 2014 he was Cheshire champion in the 60cc cadet class as well as 3rd in Manchester Buxton.

In 2015 he was given a kart from Intrepid to try, with most competitors saying he would struggle to make the transition. Well 2015 turned out to be a fantastic year with Thomas being crowned Cheshire champion, winning with 2 races in hand, Manchester Buxton champion, winning 1 race in hand, winner of the Winter Series, Autumn Series and the most sought after 'Pippa Roberts' trophy, all at Manchester Buxton kart club.

With the year Thomas had, Intrepid offered Thomas another year driving for them in a much bigger kart with a 125cc engine!

Due to age, Thomas has now had to move class which brings more experienced drivers and challenges to the race course. Although daunting, it has not dampened Thomas's drive for success and he is still hoping for as good a year as last.

Thomas has set himself some goals for 2016, two of them being to compete in a national series and the tvkc Lincolnshire. Alongside this Thomas has been asked to do some international races including the world finals in France in November.

Watch this space folks – we may just have ourselves our very own Lewis Hamilton.



## Thomas Sam 9F - Football

Thomas is dedicated, focused and motivated about achieving his dream of becoming a professional footballer. In May 2015 Tom signed a 2 year contract for Huddersfield Town Football Club Academy. Whilst at the academy Tom has had many opportunities and new experiences, mainly involving travelling up and down the country competing in many competitive matches.

Tom recently had the privilege of visiting England's Training Ground, St George's Park in February Half Term participating in a tournament. This was a fantastic experience for Tom and showed him the level he is competing against.

Managing a balance between the demands of school work and football is a challenge but Tom is doing fantastically well, and this is down to his sheer determination to do well in his GCSEs and football.

Tom's future goal is to get a scholarship at Huddersfield Town Football Club when he leaves De La Salle High School.

## Joe Houghton 9B – Cross Country

Joe has competed frequently in XC events, as part of the mid Lancashire League.

The XC season started in September and saw Joe and his team winning the gold medal. Being such a competitive league, this was acknowledged from many running circles as a big achievement.

In January Joe competed and qualified for the Merseyside XC County Team, which later saw Joe compete with the rest of the Merseyside Schools team in the XC School County Championships in Birmingham, and most recently in Nottingham. Both these events were a fantastic experience for Joe and have given him massive boost ahead of the transition from XC to track competitions later this year.

## Year 8 Girls' Indoor Cricket Bolton Arena 9<sup>th</sup> March

Congratulations to Lizzie Duffy, Charlotte Parkinson, Sarah Vater, Niamh Snee, Alice Kenny, Emily Woods, Lizzie Tracey, Izzy Gent & Blythe Carter-Jones who made it through to the indoor cricket finals at the Bolton Arena. The girls displayed some majestic cricket prowess in all their games. The highlight of the day was beating Ormskirk in the last few balls of the final over 86 -79.

Well done Girls. Can't wait for next tournament **Mrs Royle.**



## Year 7 netball



Congratulations to the Y7 netball teams that have represented the school all year. The B team have played really well at the fixtures this year. At the recent tournament they placed 4th in their pool of 7 teams. The A team have remained undefeated all year and also qualified as the top team in St Helens for the Merseyside Youth Games. Well done Y7!!

## Year 7 Boys - Rugby

The Year 7 boys' rugby league played Cowley in the semi-final of the St. Helens schools cup on Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) at Cowley. De La Salle narrowly lost at home earlier in the season, and so this was the chance for some payback. The game was very close, with De La Salle scoring first, but then Cowley getting up a head of steam and scoring 20 unanswered points! With De La Salle 20-4 down with around 15 minutes to go the lads stuck in it and ended up getting a try back. This gave them new confidence and the tide started to turn. In a nail biting finish, De La Salle scored to tie the game at 20-20 with the kick to come. The kick was successful and the boys managed to hold on for the last 5 minutes for a great comeback win. They are now through to the final which will be played at Langtree Park.

## Indoor Athletics



Y7 & Y8 boys and girls competed in the St Helens schools indoor athletics finals. Y7 placed 4th overall and Y8 placed 2nd. Congratulations to all the competitors

# Achievements

## Merseyside Youth Games

On 21<sup>st</sup> March year 7 & year 8 girls' netball teams attended the Merseyside Youth Games at Wirral Grammar School. Despite the freezing cold weather both teams displayed some fantastic netball skills. Well done goes to Y7 Eve Clayton, Louise Halliwell, Elysa Worrall, Lauren Park, Lucy Richardson, Gabby Rigby, Hollie Bennison, Rose McCahey & Beth Mackie. Y8 May McMahon, Hannah Cotton, Mia Atherton, Blythe Carter-Jones, Izzy Gent, Emily Woods, Lizzy Tracey & Lizzy Duffy.



## Girls' Cricket

An excellent cricket tournament for year 9/10 girls at Hope Academy. The girls made it to the final and were narrowly beaten 49 – 51 with 4 bowls left. Congratulations to Emma Austin, Megan Thompson, Molly Pennington, Lauren Daly, Ella Taylor, Sophia Dowdeswell, Elizabeth Griffiths & Lydia Cook.



## Y11 GCSE PE - Reach For Success

30 Y11 pupils have been climbing after school at The North West Face in Warrington, to improve their practical marks for GCSE PE. The pupils have worked extremely hard and have pushed themselves to the limit to achieve success. Well done!

Mrs Hart & Miss Dance



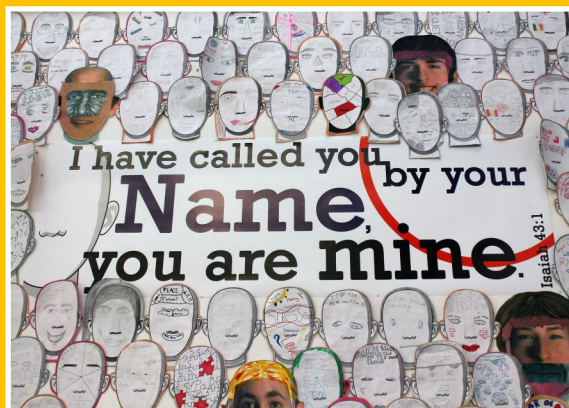
## Joe Houghton, Year 9, Selected to Represent Merseyside

On Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February five De La Salle pupils competed for St Helens in the Merseyside County Schools' Cross Country Championships at Arrowe Park. It was a very cold day and the course was a quagmire.

In the Junior Boys race Joe Houghton, year 9, took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and qualified to represent Merseyside in the English Schools' Cross Country Championship which was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at Wollaton Park, Nottingham, where he finished 199<sup>th</sup>.

Michael Brussels, year 8, also competed at Arrowe Park alongside Joe and finished 14<sup>th</sup>. Their team finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall on the day. In the 5km intermediate boys' race, Year 11 boys, Ben Oldham and Luke Platt were placed 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

In the girls equivalent race, Samantha Price, year 11, ran exceptionally well alongside senior girls (years 12/13) to finish in 23<sup>rd</sup> place.



To link in with the Year of Mercy, a cross curricular project is currently underway in school between the Art and RE departments. Inspired by a series of paintings by Simon Yorke, depicting homeless people, the viewer is forced to look the person in the eye and be reminded of their humanity. This sparked the question, which underpins our work, of what is the story behind your face?

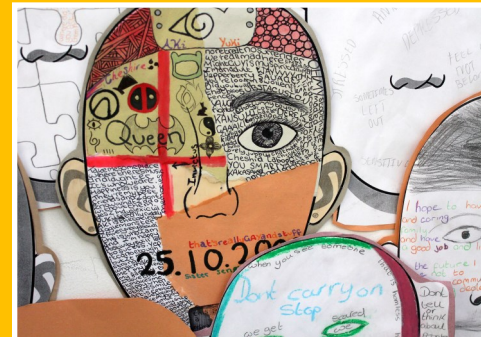
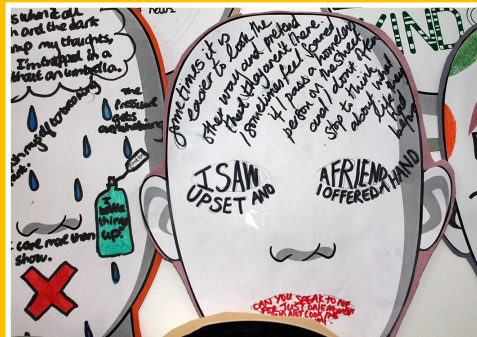
This seemingly simple thought really engaged staff and students and made us think that, we, as a nation should consider how we judge others, what they have been through and what they have to offer. Every one of us has experienced difficult times, but how often are we aware of what we each go through on a daily basis? How much do we hide behind a smile, bravado or a cheery demeanour? Spending time contemplating the way we judge or are

judged really opened up some very personal reflections and admissions, all which help to make us stronger, more tolerant and empathetic.

Simon Yorke explains:

'The majority of people avoid eye contact with the homeless, who beg on the streets, which is why I painted colour into the eyes. This gives a focal point to the paintings, drawing the viewer's eye to engage with these characters. The paintings are raised to eye level to challenge the way we see these people, changing the perspective which they are encountered on the streets (they are normally sitting on the floor).'

As a Lasallian School it is so important that we do not hide from challenging subjects and actively show our concern for social justice through Education and the service we provide. As the Year of Mercy unfolds we hope that our community will engage with the spirit of compassion, kindness and equality in all areas of our own lives and the society in which we live.

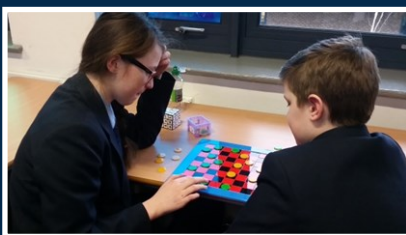


## Congratulations - Youth Art Open

Congratulations to the following pupils whose work has been selected to for exhibition at the World of Glass for the Youth Art Open. All work will be on display from the 26<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

James Dunleavy,  
Maisie O'Mahony Gardener,  
Eve Leach,  
Oliver Hewson,  
Rebecca Donaldson,  
Edward Hodgson,  
Rose Britch,  
Sadie O'Hanlon,  
Jessica Charnock,  
Ellie Westworth.





"Maths club is great! You can play loads of games and can meet new friends. Maths club is epic!"

January saw the start of Maths club for year 7, and since then it has been a massive success with a phenomenal number of pupils attending every Tuesday lunch.

The purpose of setting up the club was not to do Maths problems and sums all lunch, but to help children engage with Maths in a fun environment. Pupils are able to see how Maths can be used every day, in life and games.

With over 40 pupils turning up each week it is fantastic to see so many pupils coming along, getting involved in the Maths and playing together.

"It is fun and lets you make new friends and enjoy yourself. I also like the games because it's board games, and it's only fun Maths games." Hannah S - Year 7

"Maths club is excellent, I love it. We play lots of fun games that you will have no idea that they are to do with Maths." Jess H - Year 7

"Maths club is excellent! You learn Maths in games that you didn't know existed in them. It is a good idea and learn new things in Maths. I love the idea."

A massive well done and thank you to all the pupils who have turned up so far, and to the staff who have helped. Maths club will continue to run every Tuesday lunchtime.

Miss R Aldred

## UKMT Maths Challenge

Thirty pupils from Years 9 to 11 took part in the UKMT Maths Challenge.

All the pupils involved in this challenge have shown exceptional mathematical ability throughout their time at De La Salle and were nominated by their teachers to take this very challenging exam. Fifteen pupils achieved so highly that they have been given Gold, Silver or Bronze Awards.

Best in School Award/Gold Award: Jack Griffiths (Y11) and Stephen Walker (Y9)

Silver Award: Alen Boby (Y11), Sadie O'Hanlon (Y10), Joel Lalu (Y10), Liam Wilson (Y9)

Bronze Award: Jessica Rotheram (Y11), Tom Gill (Y10), Callum Cox (Y10), Sophie Latimer (Y10), Rebecca Donaldson (Y11), Daisy Bradbury (Y11), Luke Eccleston (Y11), Molly Hitchmough (Y11), Maddy Ashton (Y9)

Congratulations also to the following for their excellent effort: Charlie Dalton, Lucy Moran, Daniel Reece, Jade Kirkham, Joseph Potter, Lois Stahler, Edward Hodgson, Jack Birch, Niall O'Connell, Roisin Cook, Ella Best, Mollie Brown, Faye Skidmore, Ella Turner, Eleanor Whalley.

### Here are some examples of the type of questions on the test:

*In a particular group of people, some always tell the truth, the rest always lie. There are 2016 in the group. One day, the group is sitting in a circle. Each person in the group says, "Both the person on my left and the person on my right are liars."*

*What is the difference between the largest and smallest number of people who could be telling the truth?*

Choose the correct answer    A 0    B 72    C 126    D 288    E 336

From Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 2016, around 100 pupils in year 9 were taken to Lowe House church in St Helens for a day long retreat working with the animate team. I was fortunate enough to be one of the 100 pupils invited to take part on the trip.

Pupils were told to make their own way to Lowe House for 9:00 am so that the events planned for the day could begin. There was a brief introduction to the day before we were split into groups for the first games.

The first event was fairly simple- each group was given a sheet with some general knowledge facts and four spaces. One space had the correct answer while the others were left blank for false answers to be put in. Then the teams had to read the other team the questions while trying to steer them to the wrong answers, earning points if they answered the other teams questions correctly or if the other team got their question wrong. It was certainly interesting to see how far people would go with their lies just to earn points.

The second game was a little more active- a scavenger hunt. Each team was given a list of items around the property and tasks to do with some of them (this included taking a group selfie with a camera, which certainly interested some members of the team!). Each item/task had a specific number of points for completing it and these points were added on to the point total from the first game.

After a short break, we split into our groups again and were taken to separate rooms for the next event. Here we were sat around a table with 50 pictures on it. For the task we had to pick out some pictures based on a question given. For example, one question was "How would you describe your life now?" We received more of the questions before moving back into the main room for lunch.

Afterwards we were introduced to our penultimate activity. For this game a set of cones was laid out randomly in front of a blindfolded person. Another person must then guide them through, aiming to hit as few cones as possible. This was soon made harder as the second time around everybody else had to make lots of noise to put them off and the third time was the same but we didn't know who the person guiding would be (and as I was the blindfolded one here, I'm going to move swiftly onwards...).

Our final activity for the day was an affirmation. We split off into our small groups again and each of us were handed a booklet to write our names on. We then had to pass these booklets around and write what we thought of each other (for obvious reasons, the comments were kept positive). I found that this was a very enjoyable experience and a very revealing one too.

The day seemed to go much faster than normal. Time flies when you're having fun, they say, and this was definitely a testimony to that. The retreat was a really enjoyable one, and a chance to not only get to know each other, but to help us know ourselves a little better too. An unforgettable experience.

## Change to the PE Kit Supplier

There is an important change in the way that PE kit can now be ordered. This is in an attempt to make things even more convenient for parents and improve the system.

The current online option with SWi **has ended**.

The new suppliers are Whittakers – a well-established schoolwear business from Bolton – who will supply **exactly the same stock** as partners to SWi. Parents will now have two ways of getting the kit :

Online through **[www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/prod/De-La-Salle-School--St-Helens](http://www.whittakersschoolwear.co.uk/prod/De-La-Salle-School--St-Helens)**

At Whittakers shop in St. Helens, 38 Bridge Street, WA10 1NW. 01744 451812 ( the shop where previously Mr. Singh operated from ).

The link to the Whittakers online can be found on the school website.

Negotiations are ongoing as to whether a third option to include our current uniform suppliers – Slaters – will also be possible. Hopefully these changes will help provide an improved service to parents.