

De La Salle St. Helens

Christmas 2015 Newsletter



Welcoming the Stranger

God, no one is a stranger to you and no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over refugees and asylum seekers

Protect those separated from their loved ones this Christmas, those who are lost and those who have been exiled from their homes

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be, and help us always to show your kindness to strangers and those in need

Instil in us a sense of justice in order that we can localise global need and globalise local need

Support us as we seek develop De La Salle as a place of welcome and refuge which celebrates diversity and promotes opportunity for all

We ask this through Christ our Lord, who was born into poverty, was a refugee and migrant and who travelled to another land searching for a home

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever

Amen



Christmas card designed by Christi Lalu Year 7

A message from Mr. Toal



When the time came for the baby to be born, she gave birth to a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them at the inn (Luke 2:6-7)

This extract from St Luke's Gospel informs us of the birth of a baby who would transform the world. Yet even this most wondrous of events is presented against a back drop of rejection and ignorance as the pleas of Mary and Joseph were ignored.

Today's ongoing asylum seekers crisis highlights the plight of those who suffer, are ignored and are rejected. It's a crisis which demonstrates the continual need for all in our community to remain compassionate and merciful to those in suffering at Christmas and throughout the year.

Mercy is a core Christian value and Pope Francis has asked Catholics to celebrate a Jubilee Year of Mercy, which begins in early December. The Holy Father appeals to us to make the Church an "oasis of mercy" in all areas of life parishes, communities and families and schools. He prays that we can find the space and time to contemplate God's mercy and adopt this as our lifestyle. He challenges us to find the space and time to show mercy especially to the poor, homeless and lonely people living among us.

This is a real challenge for us in our consumerist society where the cult of the self and the culture of celebrity imperil our ability to live, grow and serve as ambassadors of Christ. The challenge presented to us this Christmas and throughout the holy year of mercy, is to live "an experience of community in which the walls of the ego are torn down and the barriers of selfishness overcome" (*Laudato sii*'149).

As another year ends the world continues to teeter on the edge with threats to our security and the ongoing plight of people on the move fleeing from persecution. It was an environment that Jesus was born into with the Holy Family encountering a society bedevilled by conflict and division. It was an unwelcoming atmosphere and one which forced them to become asylum seekers searching out refuge in a foreign land.

Yet the joy and peace of a child born into poverty offers us the opportunity of a new beginning and the hope to start the year afresh. As we enter into this Year of Mercy let us all work and strive to adopt attitudes and mind-sets where we can accept difference, celebrate diversity and promote justice, for all. Let us pray for a successful year for our school community where the progress we have made can continue and where all within our school can strive to become the best they can be. Jesus reminds us that "Blessed are the merciful", perhaps mercy is the gift you should seek to give and receive this year.

Wishing everyone in the community of De La Salle a happy, healthy and holy Christmas.

Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

A message from the Chair of Governors

Being Chair of the Governing Body here at De la Salle is not only a tremendous honour, but also a tremendous responsibility. Along with my fellow governors, we strive constantly to ensure that, as advocated by our founder St. John Baptist De la Salle, "our school runs well" and our children are happy and safe, and reach their full potential.

You will see from this newsletter that our students are given every opportunity to take part in as many diverse activities/experiences as possible, which not only broadens their horizons but also raise their aspirations - whilst having a good deal of fun!

Our living Christian ethos is the "life blood" of our school, and is embedded in every aspect of school life. It's part of school mission in which we are challenged to witness to the Truth of the gospel and to demonstrate that it's by our actions that we exist as a community of faith and a community in faith. Our teachers are charged with a specific responsibility to ensure all within their tutelage have the opportunities to become the best they can be and to challenge our students to excel in every area of school life. St John Baptiste de la Salle reminds our staff of the precious nature of such a mission.

"To touch the hearts of your pupils and to inspire them with the Christian Spirit, is the greatest miracle you can perform, and one which God expects of you."

Mindful of this, I pray that in this Christmas season all within our community can share in the aspiration not so much to have more, but to be more.

I hope and pray that all our families, who constitute the extended family of the community of De la Salle school, have a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year

Councillor Teresa Sims
Chair of the Governing Body

Year 6 and 7 Community Mass

Bishop Tom Williams led the Mass at Christ the King Cathedral as the community of schools feeding De La Salle came together to celebrate their shared faith.

Also celebrating the mass were local Parish priests Canon Tom Neylon, Fr Phil Swanson and Fr Martin Kershaw. Altar servers were provided by De La Salle and Our Ladys.

The congregation consisted of Yr7 pupils from De La Salle as well as the Yr 6 pupils from Corpus Christi, Our Ladys St Austins, St Bartholomews', St John Vianney St Julies, St Teresas and St Thomas Of Canterbury. Also in the congregation were representatives of the governing bodies of all the schools as well as a number of parents who had travelled to Liverpool in order to join us in our celebration.

The theme of the mass was Growing In Faith Together and in the weeks leading to the mass every pupil had written their hopes and dreams on a paper leaf. As part of the offertory procession a representative pair of pupils from each school brought forward a sample of their school leaves and placed them on the altar.



This theme was highlighted by Bishop Tom in his homily where he accentuated the need for us to grow in faith together as a Catholic community this was further emphasised in his speech by the new Headmaster of De La Salle Mr John Toal.

At the end of the mass Bishop Tom presented each school with a small tree and a packet of seeds as a living witness to the growth of our faith. Also each pupil was presented with a commemorative bookmark to serve as a reminder of their participation in the mass.

Dementia Friends

Recently Matthew Davis, from the local authority came in to talk about Dementia Friends. More than 50 people turned up and everybody listened intently. The session we had was very eye-opening and I learnt a lot about what dementia actually is and how it affects people. It really made me think about people who suffer with dementia and I went home with a lot of new knowledge. I thought that the session was also extremely fun and we played dementia bingo and we did other activities. The session has helped me in other areas of school like Drama when my group did a short play about dementia. I think that the knowledge I have now will help me in the future and I think that everybody should learn more about it.

Emily Caldwell



Presentation Evening 2015



On Thursday November 19th an enjoyable evening was had by all as the Year 11 Leavers of 2015 joined us to celebrate their GCSE success and the 5 years they have spent at De La Salle.. The guest speaker for the evening was Eamonn McManus, the Chairman of ST Helens RLFC. Eamonn was a past pupil of West Park Grammar School, who went onto Cambridge University and became an investment banker in Hong Kong. He returned to his home town 20 years later, taking his position at St Helens RLFC where he has made a great impact. He gave an

inspirational speech to the young people, telling them to believe in themselves and continue to work hard.

Our Chair of Governors, Mrs T Sims welcomed everyone to the evening and Anne-Marie our chaplain led us in prayer.

Mr Toal, our new Head teacher addressed the year group and Mrs Wellens wished them all the very best in the future.

Along with GCSE certificates, awards were given for excellent performance in examinations or individual contributions given to the school.

We wish all our Leavers well in their chosen path.

Mrs. J. Wellens



Congratulations!!!

Tom Westworth:

Tom Westworth, 9F , has been Go-Karting since he was 6 years old. He's sponsored by the Italian magnet Intrepid, and has raced on some of the biggest tracks in the UK. He's won 2 competitions and placed 3rd in others. His kart can reach speeds of up to 90mph!

Written by Maddie Aston 9F

Michael Gaffney:

HUGE congratulations to our Year 8 student Michael Gaffney, on winning a Bronze medal in Birmingham on Saturday November 14th with the North West men's Artistic gymnastic team.



Olivia Hussey:

Congratulations to Olivia Hussey of Year 11 on winning Young Sports personality of the Year at the Pride of St. Helens awards on Friday November 13th.

Year 10 trip to New York



During October Half-Term, 44 students and 6 staff visited New York City for a trip of a lifetime. The trip was led by our RE Department. As a link with the GCSE RE Curriculum, students visited UN Headquarters, Ground Zero, Ellis and Liberty Islands, the newly built One World Freedom Tower, and St. Patrick's Cathedral. Whilst there, we also experienced the subway during rush hour, a Broadway show, Times Square and The Empire State Building, Central Park, Grand Central Station, and had dinner at Hardrock and Planet Hollywood. It really

was a packed trip! All students behaved beyond impeccably and we are proud of them all. As well as visiting key places, we hope the trip has broadened the horizons of our students and raised aspirations, and know that some of them planning how their careers can enable them to move to NYC! We have just launched the trip for our current Y10, for February 2017.

Mr. Holland (RE)



Operation Christmas Child



Seven children recently visited Operation Christmas Child. I really enjoyed it and felt it was very rewarding. I am the type of person that likes helping people. Some of the people who had made the boxes had put a lot of thought into them as they made hand made cards, hand made pots of sweets and little pamper boxes etc.

We mainly did boxes for the girls as they didn't receive many but there was enough to go around. Although it made me happy that people were helping others, it made me sad that they were going to people who had nothing.

When we were checking the boxes we had to make sure everyone had the following items: a flannel; a bar of soap; a toothbrush and toothpaste; sweets; hat; scarf; gloves; a cuddly toy or game and maybe a card and underwear.

Once we had checked through them we strapped them up with elastic bands and put special tape on. The tape meant they had be checked and they were ready to be shipped/ flown out.

This was a great experience (Thursday December 4th) and I felt privileged to have been picked to share this happy time with the volunteers, but I will never take anything for granted again. I will always remember the people that don't have anything and how they wont have as nice a Christmas as I will.

I hope life gets better for them an I will always help them.

Abbie Hyson 75



MFL European Day - September



The MFL Department at De La Salle celebrated the European Day of Languages on Thursday 24 September '15. Instead of having their usual Language lessons, Y8 pupils were treated to a choice of activities. This consisted of Flamenco dancing (led by a Spanish lady from Seville), a European food tasting session and a quiz on European football. As the photos show, all the pupils entered into the spirit of the day with 'gusto'. Bravo, Year 8!

Mrs L Pritchard (MFL Subject leader)



Aspire to be—Oxbridge talk



Three past students from De la Salle came back to school today to share their experiences of how they achieved their dreams of getting to Oxford and Cambridge!

The three girls, Beth Edwards, Mia Neafcy and Sarah Devlin pictured above with some of our students, all left De La Salle in the summer of 2013 with some fabulous GCSE results and went on to study A Levels at Carmel College. Sarah was offered a place to study French and Spanish at Magdalene College Cambridge, Beth was offered a place to study Law at Cambridge and Mia was offered a place to study Law and French Law at Oxford, but before they leave for their new adventures next week, we invited them back to school to inspire our current students to think seriously about aiming high and to start believing now that they too can achieve their dreams with hard work and determination!

The girls spoke very fondly about their five years at De La Salle and of the encouragement and support they had always received here. They spoke about always getting involved and encouraged students to find 'super hobbies' outside of school that would make them stand out from the rest, in a personal statement on an application form.

The girls spoke in depth about how they were encouraged to apply to Oxford and Cambridge when they arrived at Carmel College, after being identified for having excellent GCSE results. They then were given fantastic support by the staff as part of the College's High Achievers Programme. They spoke about writing personal statements and what was important to include, about interviews and what they were like and what to expect, as well as talking freely about the untrue 'myths' about going to Oxford and Cambridge like 'you have to be from a private school' or 'you have to be posh'! All totally false of course!

Twenty eight students attended the lunchtime talk and listened intently, asked lots of questions and the feedback from them was that they had found it very informative. Sarah, Beth and Mia are coming back to school next Wednesday to talk to the whole year 11 cohort during assembly. It was lovely to have the girls back, to inspire, encourage and instil the belief that nothing can stop you reaching for your goals and that you can achieve anything!

Balfour Beatty Engineering Workshop

On Tuesday 10th November, a group of science students in Year 10 attended a workshop held by three employees of Balfour Beatty, who visited De La Salle to inspire young people to study STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and offer them more information on their options if they went down the path of studying engineering.

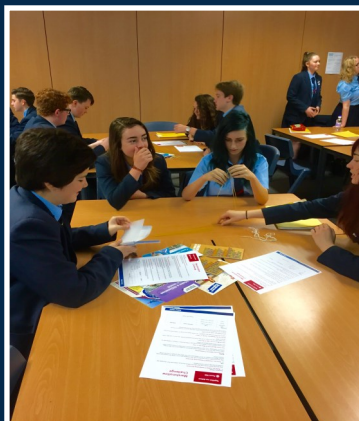
We took part in a Q&A session about what we all thought engineering actually was. This threw up some very different ideas and a realisation that engineering is all around us in every aspect of our daily lives – from the devices we use and the buildings we live in to the power we consume and the food we eat. Engineers use their skills to improve the design performance and efficiency of just about everything we use today and to develop the products and processes of the future!



We were then set a challenge: to build the tallest and/or cheapest structure out of spaghetti! Everything had a cost attached (as it would in a real building project) and each group had to come up with a design and plan the project! This was really pressured towards the end as everyone started to panic as time was running out! It really did give us an insight into the pressures of a real engineering project and the problems that can arise!

Two groups were awarded prizes of iTunes or Google Play vouchers. The session was fun and very informative, helping those who took part to have a better idea of what being an engineer is really about. It also offering us some insight into how studying engineering can benefit us in different ways and just how many areas of engineering there are that most of us have never considered. Thank you to the team who came from Balfour Beatty!

Samantha McQuiggan Y10



Year 8 win the LaSallian Cup

The year 8 boys' football team won the La Sallian shield tri tournament against strong opposition last week. The boys showed great stamina to win two 40 minute games back to back. The lads played very well to beat De La Salle Liverpool 3 - 1 in a game they totally dominated. Cameron Bott scored the first and two by Miles Jackman ensured victory. The boys then showed great determination to beat a physically bigger (I m sure one player had a beard) De La Salle Jersey 2 - 1. One nil down with four minutes left Jack Lowry and Miles Jackman netted to seal a win in a very close contest. The after match dinner was dominated by Sam Mathers who still got on the coach with a chocolate eclair in his hand, quality Sam. Well done to all the boys who were great ambassadors for the school.



Mr. Lally

Christian Brother Visit



Recently we were lucky to have a visit from Br. Ger, a Christian Brother. He runs a charity that helps refugees, who arrive here seeking asylum,. He was accompanied by two young men from Eritrea, who told very moving stories of their lives, families and their journey to England.

We were able to give them a cheque for £100 raised by the pupils.

A. Harrison (School Chaplin)



Hockey



Congratulations to the Y10 Hockey team for their hard work this term, it is certainly paying off! A great result against Cowley 0-0 holding them to a draw is no mean feat. A special mention to the Y8 girls that strengthened the squad too. Well done to the Y7 and Y8 teams who have made a great start to the season, with the Y8s winning both their games and the Y7s losing the first game, but coming back with a well-earned draw in the second. #lovehockey

Mrs. Hart (PE)

Netball

Year 7

Congratulations to the Y7 netball team, they have played a number of matches this half term and remain undefeated. Some outstanding performances such as: 12 – 0 Victory against St Cuthbert's. #undefeated

Year 11

The Y11s competed in their final Netball fixture at Sutton in the St Helens Central Venue. They played brilliantly as a team and were placed 2nd overall. Well done Girls! #finishonahigh

Years 8 and 10 Netball

Both teams have had some fantastic performances this term. In particular the Y10s scored a staggering 18 goals in one game against St Augustine's to win 18-1. The year 8 A and B team have been awesome again this year, keep up the hard work! #thisgirlcan



Mad Friday



Well done to all the pupils who have attended our extra-curricular clubs this term. Special mention to our Friday after school session which has been packed for Badminton, Hockey and Football. #funonfridays

Follow us on twitter - @DL\$PEDept

We went to Warrington to the indoor climbing centre with my friends in Y10 Asdan group. There were 5 pupils and 2 Staff. They were Peter, Niall, Ryan, Jonny, Myself Josh, Mrs Bullock and Mr Stephens.

We climbed walls and my friend (Jonny) went all the way to the top. He was so brave. It was a bit scary for me so I only climbed up to the position that I felt more comfortable with.

After climbing we went to Greggs for lunch then we came back to school. It was a fantastic day!

Josh



I went rock climbing with Ryan, Niall, Peter and Josh on Wednesday 18th November. We put the harness on, around your waist and the bottom of your legs to tighten the straps. We went over to the wall, the lady attached the rope to the handle and I put the rope towards my face, so I didn't want it going over my arms. I put my foot on one rock and I reached my arms to put my hands on the other rocks. I went up to the top of the wall, I cupped my hands together on the rope and I used my legs to bounce off the wall. My friends were congratulating with me, for doing all of this rock climbing session work. I would like to thank Peter for taking me and my friends on this ASDAN trip. I am very proud to be part of this team. I learned how to balance at very high heights, I learned how to grip tightly and how to be a team player. Great driving by Mrs Bullock.

Jonny Muehr



Year 7 Boys' Rugby League

The Year 7 boy's rugby league team has made excellent progress since the start of the year. There was a huge turnout at the trials to pick the team, and an initial squad of 20 boys were chosen. This included experienced players and boys completely new to the sport and the season kicked off with a mini tournament of all St. Helens teams to try and qualify for the National Cup competition. The team tried hard and played well in parts, but inexperience and unfamiliar team mates meant that we did not quite make it through.

As training began, and boys started to get to know each other and practice together so performances gradually started to improve, even though results still did not go our way. However, the boys persevered with new ideas and with a better understanding the team got their first win against Haydock High. Since that win confidence has been high, and defence and attack much better, and the team is now on a roll, with some big wins against St. Helens schools. The last game saw a convincing win against Sutton High in the first game in the St. Helens Schools Cup meaning we go into the winter break playing well and on a high.

Mr. J. Whelan - Head of PE

Year 10 Art Trip



Year 10 Art students had the opportunity to visit Yorkshire Sculpture Park this term in order to witness a wide range of artworks which will enrich their GCSE studies.

The students cultivated some impressive discussion on the work which varied from abstract sculpture to contemporary video pieces

Mrs. J. Millea - Head of Art

American Football



Since returning from half term, Coaches Iain Jardine and Danny Boardman have been running an American Football programme as part of their Degree at Edge Hill.

The coaches have been delivering the basics of American Football, throwing and catching, route running and positional play.

Between 16 and 24 pupils from Y7 and 8 have been involved so far with more pupils welcome every week!

Come and try something new- challenge yourselves and have some fun!

Mr. Leighton (PE)

Creative Arts Subject Fair bursting with interested students!

On Thursday 5th November 2015, as part of the **Aspire 2 Be Programme of Lunchtime Talks**, a very successful **Creative Arts Subject Fair** was organised for all year groups, allowing them to drop into the Hall over Lunchtime and discover the amazing opportunities within the Creative Arts Industry.



Colleagues and past students from Carmel College came to showcase all the amazing work from students currently studying the creative arts and design technology subjects that our students are able to choose to study at A Level and beyond. Fabulous work was on show from all the different subject areas including **Graphic Design, 3D Design, Textile Design, Fine Art, Photography, Drama and Theatre Studies, UAL Art and Design Diploma, Music Tech, UAL Performance and Production Arts Diploma, as well as English Fil and Media Studies!**

There was a constant flow of interested students from all year groups, including many from the lower years, who were all loving the opportunity to see examples of work, ask questions to both the tutors and the students about the courses they were actually studying right now!

It was a great example of how our De La Salle students can be really inspired by seeing and hearing about the success of older students who they can relate to and who were once in the position that they are now – ie just starting out on their career journey.

It was a fantastic lunchtime Fair that students really enjoyed and feedback suggested that it was an extremely worthwhile event – for both students and for staff – allowing staff to also network with colleagues from Carmel College and vice versa.

Take a look at the photographs from the event and see the amazing work on show.

Mrs. J. Meredith



Macbeth Film Review

They can tempt him.

They can promise him anything, but the witches cannot do his killing for him.

To get what he wants; he will have to murder again and again...



Macbeth is the story of a fearless warrior and inspiring leader brought low by ambition and desire. A group of year 11 students, accompanied by Miss Duffy, Miss Fair and Mr Canning, took in a twilight viewing of this thrilling reimagining of what wartime must have been like for one of Shakespeare's most famous and compelling characters.

The Scottish play bares its teeth and draws blood in this unflinching adaptation that accentuates the carnage as doomed Macbeth is undone by paternal grief and naked ambition. Shot on location in England and Scotland, this

interpretation of the Shakespearian classic is rugged and raw, stripped bare of some of the original text for the sake of dramatic expediency and visual spectacle.

Macbeth dramatizes the story of a heroic Thane who is tempted by witches and urged by his wife to murder his way to the throne of Scotland. But having killed King Duncan, Macbeth's conscience tortures him and increasingly isolates him from the ambitious Lady Macbeth. With Macbeth driven slowly mad by guilt, his murders continue until Lord Macduff leads an uprising against him.

This remarkable film, based on a story of all-consuming passion and ambition and set in a war torn Scottish landscape, sees Australian film director, Justin Kurzel, recreating the classic Shakespearian tragedy. The cast is filled with some of Hollywood's most famous stars, including Michel Fassbender, who plays the unhinged, murderous Macbeth and Marion Cotillard, who effectively portrays Lady Macbeth, his scheming and devious wife.

It'd be no spoiler, for example, to reveal that Birnam Wood does indeed "come to Dunsinane" at the end of the film. In this version, however, Birnam Wood's prophesied coming isn't represented by Macbeth's foes Macduff and Malcolm bringing their forces to the castle camouflaged by the branches of the forest. The forest is instead burned for a tactical smoke screen, with the ash floating onto the fort. It's part of Kurzel's attempt to both insert a new realism and do something different with the story. The strong storytelling via the camera and the edit almost negates the need for dialogue.

Fassbender – excellent as a mentally and morally sick man getting progressively sicker – delivers a turn that illustrates the actor's ability to render even those capable of the most monstrous deeds sympathetic. Kurzel reveals his personal style with copious slo-mo, colour filtering, and blood-drenched violence. The early battle scene that sees Macbeth and his army decimate a rival clan is astonishingly crafted. As it stands, Kurzel's beautiful, atmospheric film is a compellingly hallucinatory take on *Macbeth*.



Tesco turkeys for the homeless

Yr7 pupils from De La Salle showing off the turkeys that they bought using money raised by the Yr 7 forms in order to contribute to a Christmas dinner for those using the homeless centre this Christmas. Also in the picture is **Glyn Heppenstall Manager of Tesco St Helens** who generously supported the pupils in their fundraising.



Primary Links - St. Julie's

Mr Ashton-Hunt has worked at St Julie's this term working with Y6 on the Elements of Music including written standard notation. We have listening to the Planet Suite by Gustav Holst and have looked at the characteristics of each planet in terms of their respective makeup eg. Heat, gasses, distance from the Sun etc. We have compared this to the way Gustav Holst uses orchestration and Tonality in music to musically describe each of the planets in our Solar System.

In addition to this we have begun singing, preparing for the Grandparents Performance Y6 are putting on. The school recognises the importance of grandparents and accepts that often they don't get to see much of their grandchild's work in school. They are putting on a short performance of some well known, and not so well known Christmas carols. Some of the songs are a little different than usual including a Shepherd's rap that will be auditioned for the class this Friday.

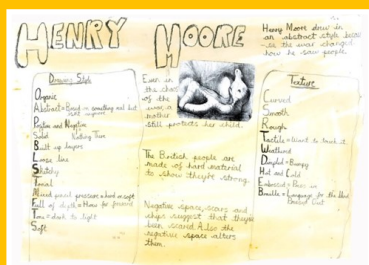
Primary Links - St Teresa's

Emmer Winder our Artist in Residence has worked this term with Year 6:

Year 6 students from St Teresa's were involved in a 6 week program of study looking at the work and techniques employed by British artist Henry Moore. Students covered a wide range of techniques which embodied as a whole, an entire mini GCSE project. Students produced a very mature and well thought out range of research sheets, experimenting with ideas and materials. Very impressive work annotating thoughts about Moore and how war affected his work during the 1940s were investigated. A special focus on British values lead the students to create a strong, tolerant clay sculpture based on the human figure. The overall shape was made abstract and the surface scratched to represent how fear changed the public and left them scarred from their experiences.

It is clear that there are many talented year 6 students from St Teresa's eager to join DeLaSalle next year and enjoy many more creative lessons.

Please see attached photo's and follow the link <http://www.scartgallery.co.uk/gallery-primary/> to see the primary gallery.



Primary Links - St Thomas of Canterbury

Mr Cain and Mr Leather brought over their Year 6 to De La Salle to make toasties with Mrs Owen, see photo's attached. On their next visit in December they will be baking Christmas biscuits.



Primary Links - Corpus Christi

Mrs Loftus has started work with reception doing Mexican Hat dance and Bollywood with Year 2. After Christmas she will be doing creative dance based around a variety of themes with the juniors.

Primary Links - St. Austin's

First the yr 5 class watched me demonstrate how to make bread, as we were using bread rolls to make the toasted snack. We left the bread dough to one side to allow it to rise whilst the class made their own toasted snack. Whilst the snacks were cooking the pupils completed a worksheet about their lesson, they had to cost out the snack and then find the origins of all of the ingredients. All the pupils were very keen and enthusiastic and made me feel very welcome.



Primary Links - Future Events

St Bart's

Mr Lee will be going into St Bart's to teach the juniors basic music rhythms and learn how to use the glockenspiels.

St John Vianney

Miss Halcomb will be starting in December on various art projects with the juniors.

Year 9 - Form tutor pupil of the week

The following pupils have been selected by their form tutor throughout the last term for going the extra mile and carrying out a positive act in and around school. Whether this is excellent attendance, fantastic punctuality, pupil of the lesson for good work, collecting sponsored walk money or helping out with a school charity, we feel as a year group that needs to be recognised. Well done to you all.

Miss. Taylor - 9F – Abby Shelbourne, Tom Marsh, India Hurst, Alex Traynor

Mr. Mulligan - 9A – Thomas Dodd, Beth Mimmagh

Mrs. Small - 9I – Grace Steen, Alicia Millington, Shaun Hill

Mrs. Mayren - 9T – Leah Spurrier, James Ball, Adam Wright, Niall O'Connell, Heather Ward

Mr. Hampson - 9H – Max Cotter, Amy Hull

Mr. Smith - 9J – Lewis Hunter, Ryan Cottington, James Nuttall, Hannah Milner

Mr. Cummings - 9B – Libby Cummings, Courtney Hughes, Daisy Gregory, Ella Speakman

Mrs. Melia - 9D – Ciara Dowling, Elizabeth Griffiths, Liam Leyland

Mrs. Smedley - 9L – Roman Boyle, Eleanor Whalley, Adam O'Rourke, Thomas Whitley

Mrs. Hart - 9S – Lucy Burke, James Monk, Emily Manning

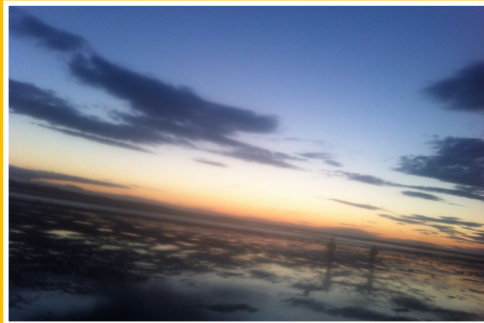
This weekend was the National Age Group Championships (the big one that Millie has been working towards all year). As it is her first year in the 13/14/15 category, it is a good indication of how she compares with older athletes too. Millie did brilliantly coming 11th out of 101 (Only the top 12 get to swim their solo).

As a result of her performance at the weekend, Millie has once again been invited to trial for the England Talent Programme. She will go down to Crystal Palace this coming weekend for the trials. If she is successful, this will be her 4th year in the programme. She is hoping to have progressed to the Age Group Squad which involves more competitions.

Millie has done really well over the past few months in competitions - She got 5 silvers for Figures, Solo, Duet & 2 teams in Glasgow at the Scottish Nationals in October. She also gained her first international silver medal at the Swedish Championships 3 weeks ago.

Millie was recently awarded Young Sportsperson of the Year in the St Helens Sports Development Awards. She was also shortlisted for the same award in the recent Merseyside Sport Awards held at the Adelphi Hotel, Liverpool 2 weeks ago.

Lindisfarne Trip



In September this year a group of year 10 and 11 pupils went to Lindisfarne Island by coach. We arrived at the SVP camp on the island after a 5 hour drive, unpacked then went to the on a walk in the dark around the island. This included going down to the shore to see where the first Viking raid took place and then walking round the main street.

The next day we got up early and were given the Lindisfarne challenge to complete. We had to take photos of ourselves at certain places around the island and collect various items like a feather, some driftwood and a cheap post card. We spent the majority of the morning wandering around the island looking for the things on the

challenge. We also spent time looking around the priory which was built on the site where St Aidan and St Cuthbert both lived over 1300 years ago.

We were then given some free time which most people used to go shopping but we decided that we wanted to go up to the castle. The castle was decked out with so much amazing gear left there by the previous owners from the Victorian era. It was so pretty and there was a man who worked there that told us all about the house. For example did you know it had four owners across its life and all four did full conversions because they owned it in different time periods? The castle is now owned by the National Trust.

After lunch we walked down to the beach and went paddling in the sea. It was freezing, as you can imagine, but everyone, even Mr O'Callaghan, went in! I thought I'd mention that it had been raining all day but we still had a great time.

We then went on a walk down to another part of the shore at sunset to listen to the seals on a rock in the sea singing. The sky looked fabulous; it was so colourful and bright.

When we got back we painted and decorated some rocks that we had got on our walk to the beach. We then split into teams and had a quiz. This got VERY competitive to say the least! We then tried to roast marshmallows on a barbeque in the courtyard.

After this we all went back to our rooms to sleep until, at about 11 o'clock, our school Chaplain Anne Marie came in and said that we should go outside and look at the stars. Though we were exhausted and looking zombified, we manage to trudge our way into the main room where Mr O'Callaghan was waiting to take us on a walk to a field where there was no light pollution so we could see the stars in all their glory; and glorious they were. We could see the Milky Way. Never have I seen so many stars that were so bright at once!

The next day we had a very relaxed morning where we had breakfast, packed up and left the island.

The trip to Lindisfarne was absolutely incredible and I would recommend it to anyone. It is such a beautiful place and we had a great weekend.

Katie Tomlinson

Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in
the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
and open the door of love
all over the world.

Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil
by the blessing which Christ brings,
and teach us to
be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening
bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and
forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**

