



NEWSLETTER

Summer (1) 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

Summer has been trying to shine forth at various points over the last couple of weeks. It has certainly been kind to Year 11 as they sit their GCSE's. Our young people have again, taken to these tests with maturity and good humour. I hope you will continue to join our prayers for them and their families.

The season brings a sense of expectation and focus, with teachers and support staff alike conscious of keeping Year 11 calm and prepared. However, the prospect of the prom is always a nice distraction...more of that in July!

Please keep Mrs Myra Ward, who was PA to the three previous heads, and Mr Tony Cullinane, former Chair of Governors in your prayers at this time.

Mr Wright.

Romero Award

On 7th May at the year 7 Easter Mass we had the pleasure of welcoming Judith Hoar, a validator of the Romero Award Trust. She presented us with a certificate to recognise our completion of the participator level of the Romero Award. The Trust works to recognise and encourage Catholic Social Teaching in schools. The participator level helps schools self-assess to see what they already do to live their mission as a Catholic community throughout all aspects of the school; in policies, in the curriculum and practically. Judith wrote 'The school's engagement with raising money for a variety of charities both locally and nationally is to be celebrated.'



Miss Southcombe.

Paralympian Visit

On Tuesday 2nd July Paralympian Kate Grey will be a guest of the PE Department. She has represented Great Britain in Swimming and she will be working with girls at the school to spread the message about the value and importance of PE and leading a healthy lifestyle.

In addition, Kate will be leading assemblies and workshops focussing on resilience and positivity.

Mr Sheers.



Big Bang

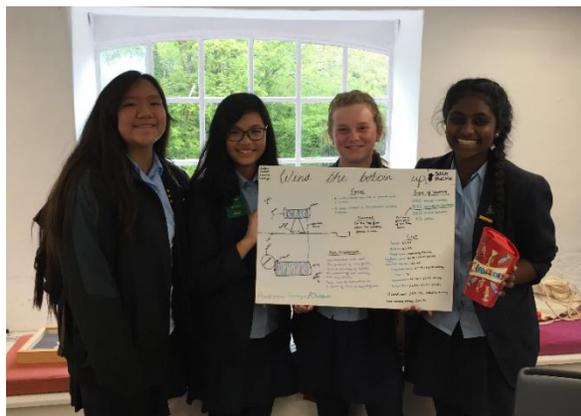
In April, 40 year 10 students took a trip down to the Ageas Bowl Hilton to attend the Big Bang Event. Put on by the EBP south, it was a STEM careers fair, looking at some of the not so common jobs related to STEM.

The students looked around a decommission helicopter, hearing stories from the Navy officers there about missions they had been on and the complexities of flying the aircraft. They were challenged by BAM construction to build the highest tower from lolly sticks and cups (which they won 32 layers!)

The students felt it was time well spent, with some coming away with clear careers ideas, others just amazed at the different careers available. *Mrs Roberts.*



STEM Challenge at Whitchurch Silk Mill



Thursday 9th May.

Twelve students went to take part in the STEM challenge at Whitchurch Silk Mill. The winning team are pictured with the concept board for a new feature of the museum.

Well done to all involved!

Mr Gomersall.

Challenging Times

Bishop Challoner's brightest Mathematicians have had a challenging time recently, with Years 8 and 10 participating in not one, but two different maths challenges.

The challenges run by the UK Mathematics Trust aim to stimulate mathematical problem solving by applying mental, logical and analytical skills, with a bit of strategy thrown in. It involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour, all under exam conditions, and over 200 000 students in the UK take part. Certificates are awarded to the top 40% of entrants. In February, 60 Year 10s entered the Intermediate Challenge, and congratulations go to our certificate winners - 1 gold, 7 silver and 9 bronze. The certificate for Best in School was awarded to Angel C, who was also one of the 3% who qualified for the Pink Kangaroo Challenge (its unusual name hinting at its international roots), which is a fantastic achievement! At the end of April, 62 Year 8s entered the Junior Challenge and the results were very impressive - 2 gold, 14 silver and 19 bronze. Sam B and Piotr L were in the top 3% and so qualified for the Pink Kangaroo, with Sam also being awarded Best in School. Congratulations to Year 8 certificate winners on these brilliant results!

The Southampton University Maths Challenge took place in March and attracted 1500 entrants from over 40 schools across Britain. It involved written solutions to interesting mathematical problems based on the theme of the Periodic Table, giving a link to Chemistry this year. We are delighted to announce our prize winners: from Year 10, Brandon K (Certificate of Merit), and from Year 8, Alistair S (Second Prize), Alex B (Third Prize), Sarayu K (Certificate of Distinction) and Olivia P (Certificate of Distinction). They have all been invited to attend the Prize Evening at the University of Southampton later this month.

We hope everyone who participated enjoyed the challenges, and many congratulations to those who had their achievements recognised. We are very proud of you!

Mrs Porter

Challoner Makes Music

A huge well-done and thanks to all the members of Choir who participated in songs from Grease at the Anvil a couple of weeks ago. Special mentions also need to go to Dhanya, Meadbh, Ellie and Marie who performed excellent solos in front of a packed and appreciative audience.



Students from Years 8 – 10 were also involved in an exciting music project called Impossibilities. This consisted of four workshops in school led by two young musicians from the Guildhall School of Music in London. The aim was to create an original piece of music using world music as a stimulus. The end result was an amazingly original and imaginative piece with complex rhythms and melodies. Students performed their piece,

called *Ephemeral*, as part of a lunchtime concert celebrating world music on the main stage at the Anvil.

As an added bonus, they also got to hear an Indian choir, a gamelan orchestra, steel-pan band and some African drumming.

Finally, a group of students went over to St. Joseph's Church this week to entertain local parishoners as part of their **Holiday at Home** party. We had some great performances ranging from vocals to guitar and woodwind instruments. Our new student leaders, Hannah and Joe, also performed as part of this, thus officially stepping into their new roles! The afternoon concluded with some rousing renditions of old classics such as *Supercalifragalisticexpialidocious* and *You are my Sunshine*, much to everyone's enjoyment. Drinks and cakes were gratefully consumed by all, and it was a lovely opportunity to bring generations together.

Mrs Smith

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This past weekend saw our year 10 Bronze DofE students participate in their Practice Expedition. 41 students along with 7 members of school staff travelled to the New Forest to complete the 2 day expeditions. The groups planned their walks covering approximately 25km over



both days. We stayed at Holmsley Campsite just south of Burley. The weather tested our resilience and kit! Well done to all involved. We are now preparing for the Assessed Expedition in July.



If you are in year 8 and 9 and interested in doing your Bronze award watch this space for the launch of our 2019-20 intake. Mrs Cooper will come into Assembly to let you know further details very soon.

Mrs Cooper

MS Society Cake Sale

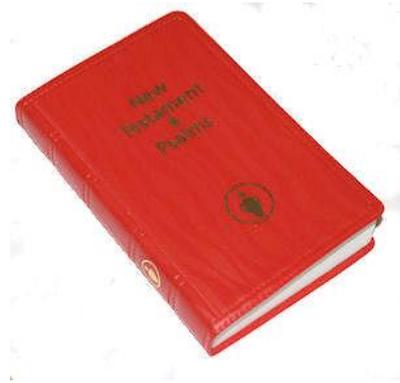
Congratulations to three students in Year 8 – Alice, Hanna and Angelica, who baked a selection of amazing cakes to sell to staff, raising vital funds for research into MS. A total of £119.50 was collected and the sweet treats were appreciated by many of the staff!

Mrs Thorpe



Y9 Gideons Assembly

Our thanks to Neil Owen from Gideons UK who came into school on Monday 20 May to lead an assembly for our Y9 on the work of The Gideons International organisation and to present a pocket-sized version of the New Testament and Psalms to every Y9 student, which had been inscribed with their names and the date of presentation.



This book has useful guidance at the beginning about where to look in the New Testament and Psalms for support when feeling, for example, afraid, hurt, needing peace, thankful, etc. It also has some prayers to help people in different situations to speak to God; pointers to verses for guidance on life; a 'what the Bible says about...' section; where to find certain key New Testament texts; and suggested readings from the Psalms.

Sincere thanks to Gideons UK for this very generous gift to our students.

Bookings opened for the Y11 Retreat in January 2020 and the Y10 Retreat in March 2020 at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury

Members of the St Cassian's Retreat Team came into school assemblies on 7 and 8 May to speak to our Y10 and Y9 students about the opportunity to join the Y11 or Y10 retreat next year. A retreat offers students a break from their busy lives to look at what really matters to them and to develop their relationship with God and each other. The themes of these retreats, designed for small groups of students from up to four schools, are Awareness; Reconciliation; Good News.

Matthew, Dhanya, Roshni and Alinia, who had all attended the Y10 Retreat in March, also spoke at the assemblies to give their personal perspectives on what they had particularly enjoyed and why they would recommend students applying to attend next year. The Y11 Retreat will run from after school on Thursday 16 January to lunchtime on Sunday 19 January 2020; the Y10 Retreat similarly runs from 19 -22 March 2020. Both Retreats cost £131. Letters have been emailed to parents and copies are also available from Mary Lee.



Rome and Subiaco Pilgrimage 2020

Mary Lee spoke to Y7s and Y8s in their assemblies on 9 and 10 May about pilgrimages in general and the forthcoming school pilgrimage to Rome and Subiaco in particular. Amelie, Ben, Daisy, Genette, Kiera and Luke joined her to tell students their own highlights of their school pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi and why they would recommend applying for the pilgrimage in 2020. One of the highlights for students was the opportunity to see Pope Francis at the General Audience outside St Peter's Basilica:



Next year's pilgrimage visits three important shrines: St Peter's Basilica and St Paul's Basilica in Rome and St Benedict's Monastery in Subiaco. It links to aspects of the RE GCSE Curriculum. The main activities will be: to celebrate a private Mass in St Peter's Basilica; to have guided tours of St Peter's, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, St Sebastian Catacombs, the Roman Forum, the Colosseum and Palatine Hill; to visit St Paul's Basilica, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain, the Capuchin Crypt and the Leonardo Museum; to attend a General Audience with Pope Francis, if he is in residence that week (2020 schedule not yet published); pizza and ice cream making demonstrations in Rome; and a guided tour of St Benedict's Monastery in Subiaco. Four nights' half board in Rome at Villa Benedetta and five lunches at restaurants are included with flights on BA. The cost based on 40 students participating is £706 and the pilgrimage is open to current Y7-Y9 students. Letters and application forms were emailed home to parents and are available from Mary Lee, but need to be in by **7th June**.

Next year, instead of visiting Assisi, there will be a trip from Rome to the hilltop town of Subiaco to visit St Benedict's Monastery and the cave where St Benedict, one of our School House Saints, lived as a hermit before developing the Rule of St Benedict.



Assemblies

This half term included Mrs Cripps reflecting on Easter; Ms Partington and the UNICEF student leaders explaining their next UNICEF initiative; Alinia, Lottie, Rupa and Sinead from Y10 led assemblies on mental wellbeing in Mental Health Awareness Week; and this week, Mary Lee is focusing on the Ascension of the Lord.

As we shall not be in school next week to hold School **Ascension Day Masses**, please note the times of Holyday Masses in local parishes:

St Joseph's Basingstoke:	Wednesday 29 May Thursday 30 May	Vigil Mass at 7.30 pm 9.15 am
St Bede's Basingstoke:	Thursday 30 May	9.30 am and 7.30 pm
St Michael's Tadley:	Thursday 30 May	10.00 am at St Oswald's Church, Burghfield 7.30 pm at St Michael's Church, Tadley
St John the Baptist, Andover:	Wednesday 29 May Thursday 30 May	Vigil Mass at 7.00 pm in Whitchurch 9.30 am and 7.00 pm in Andover

Confirmation 2019

Please remember in your prayers the 60 young people from the two Basingstoke and Tadley parishes, most of whom are students at Bishop Challoner, who are due to be confirmed by Bishop Philip on Saturday 8 June at St John the Evangelist's Cathedral, Portsmouth: may this be a time of great blessing for them, their families and the parish and school communities.



Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you will renew the face of the earth. Amen.

Portsmouth Diocesan *Don Bosco* Boys Camp

Sunday 28 July to Saturday 3 August 2019

Fr Mark Hogan will again be leading a camp for boys of secondary school age at St Cassian's, Kintbury. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that the boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £210 (part bursaries may be available on application). To find out more or to reserve a place, please email dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Opportunities for Y11s after their GCSEs:

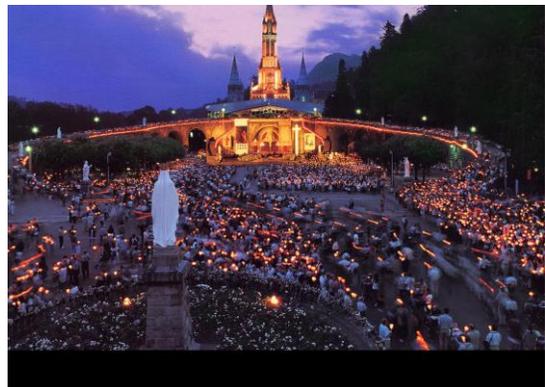


YES Week at St Cassian's Retreat Centre for Young People: last year, some of our Y11 students participated in the YES Week after their GCSEs and had an amazing time on this week-long summer retreat. It is an opportunity to grow in faith as part of a Christian community – it is not a holiday! There will be a daily programme of prayer, reflection, discussion, liturgy and relaxation. Participants must be in Y11 or above; Y11 students will require a letter of recommendation from Mary Lee, our Lay Chaplain.

This year's YES Week begins at 6 pm on Monday 8 July and ends at 11.30 am on Sunday 14 July. The total cost is £140 Application forms are available from Mary Lee.

Portsmouth Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes led by Bishop Philip Egan: 24-30 July 2019:

Young people from Y11 upwards from around the Portsmouth Diocese will be coming together to serve those Diocesan pilgrims who are less mobile, working in pairs to push wheelchairs and assist those Diocesan pilgrims who need help getting to the various liturgies and events. Cost: £475. Brochures and booking forms are available from Mary Lee. Discretionary bursaries to help with the cost for young people who wish to serve in Lourdes are available from the Catenian Bursary Fund.





Primary Catholic Partnership – Teacher Training information event

Would you like to train as a primary teacher with an Ofsted ‘Outstanding’ partnership?

You can train locally with the Primary Catholic Partnership either for a PGCE or through School Direct. Why not come along and find out more? We will be holding a short open event at St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, Floral Way, Andover, SP10 3PF on Tuesday 21 May at 2.30pm. As well as hearing about routes into teaching, there will be an opportunity to meet the PCP Director, current trainees, and teachers who have completed the course and are now working in the Andover area.

The PCP offer personalised, school-led training, rated ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and can arrange placements in schools across Hampshire including the Andover area. You will be taught by practising teachers and leaders in a high quality training centre with family-friendly hours.

If you have an honours degree and you are keen to teach primary children, we would like to meet you. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office on 01264 361806 or office@st-john-andover.hants.sch.uk. More information about the PCP can be found at www.pcp-scitt.org.uk

