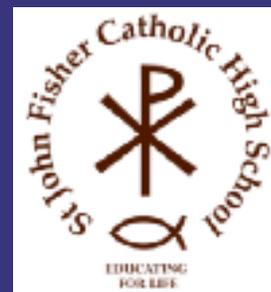


SJF NEWS

March 2016

News and Events from St John Fisher Catholic High School, Harrogate



On Thursday 18th February, their Royal Highnesses Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall visited the Royal Hall to celebrate the 50th Birthday of the Harrogate International Festivals. As the partner school of the Festivals, St. John Fisher were invited to perform as part of the 'mini festival in a day', with the Jazz Orchestra and Senior Choir providing music. The Jazz Orchestra provided music throughout the VIP reception with Prince Charles specifically asking to hear the band again after their slot had finished! The 82 strong combined choirs performed beautifully from the balcony of the Royal Hall as Charles and Camilla arrived on stage. Every student got to meet the special guests and we were delighted to be asked to perform. Happy Birthday Harrogate International Festivals!

Photos from the event are available to view at <https://katemallenderphotography.smugmug.com/Harrogate-International-Festiv> using the password 'royal' to view.



Year 10 History Trip to Germany February 2016



Fifty Year 10 students accompanied by Mrs Ball, Miss Lane, Mrs Todd, Mr Melville and Mr Sharpe visited Munich, Nuremberg and Berlin in February half term. Key aspects of the trip included visiting sights relating to the rise of the Nazis in Munich, Dachau concentration camp, the site of Nazi rallies in Nuremberg and the Holocaust Memorial and the Wall and the Reichstag in Berlin. This trip really supported the students' understanding of the Year 10 course and was led by an expert guide Dr Stephen Hartley who helped bring the sites to life with his in depth knowledge and concise style. Despite the cold weather the students learnt a lot and made the most of the opportunities the trip offered. Mr Best is now organising a return trip for current Year 9 students in February 2017.



Classics Visit from Leeds University

On 4th March, the Year 12 Ancient Historians enjoyed a visit from the Classics Department of Leeds University. Two current undergraduates gave a general talk on studying Classics at Leeds and this was followed by an academic taster session led by Maria Haley, a PhD research student in the Department. Maria's talk introduced some of the modern presentations of Sparta from cinema and video games and the students then analysed them against historical sources. Our visitors were very impressed with the students' knowledge and enthusiasm!



Harry Potter Week 2016

Following on from the successful Harry Potter Week in 2015 the Library once again ran a week's worth of themed activities at break times and during library lessons. The Library was decked out in themed bunting with owls and wands suspended from the ceiling. A daily Sorting Hat ceremony allocated students into the four Hogwarts' houses and house points were accumulated over the week by taking part in various challenges. Students took part in a competition to make a finger puppet character, completed fiendish quizzes, designed owls and puzzled their way through a Pictionary style game. At the end of the week prizes of chocolate owls were awarded as follows: Best decorated owl: Matilda Snowden, Best finger puppet: Aidan Miller, Best creative writing: Libby Roxby, Best artwork: Thomas Van Parys, Best quizzer: Ciara Gunn. The top scoring house this year was Ravenclaw.



I love Geography Workshops

All Year 8 students have taken part in a visit by a group of Ambassadors from the Royal Geographical Society. The team of undergraduate Geography degree students came from Newcastle University on Wednesday 9th March to lead 3 workshops throughout the day. All Year 8 students were challenged with the task of writing a rap to include descriptions about a range of geographical images and issues that their group had been given. The task proved to be entertaining and funny and some excellent geographical lyrics were produced. The raps were performed on the stage in front of the groups and Year 8 responded with enthusiasm to the task and presented their raps to their peers. Mrs Joy, Head of Humanities said "It was a fun workshop which allowed Year 8 to develop skills in group work and leadership and produced some creative ideas and use a range of geographical vocabulary in a fun and creative way."



International Women's Day

Tuesday 8th March is a Global Day marked as International Women's Day which celebrates the economic, political and social achievements of women past, present and future. To mark this occasion, students at St John Fisher took part in a number of events to raise awareness of gender inequalities that exist and to reflect on the copious women throughout time and across the world who inspire us. Most students and members of staff wore a name badge during the day with the name of an inspirational women on it. There was a fabulous response which generated lots of discussion about who each person was and why she is an inspiration.

"All Year 7 students took part in a lesson on the day exploring gender and equality issues and got involved in discussions about the gender inequalities that exist today in education, the workplace, pay and wages, sport and the media. We were then given some case study information of inspirational women and discussed with our groups the restrictions that the women faced in society because they were female and how they overcame those barriers. We shared our feelings about what boys and girls today could learn from them. The presentations sparked some interesting discussions and we learnt about great women such as Malala Yousafzai who was shot in the head in Pakistan for campaigning for all girls to go to school, Barbara Castle who fought for equal pay between men and women, Hedy Lamarr

Y7 find out more about Life in Kenya

In Geography lessons this term, Year 7 have been discovering what life is like in Kenya. To help with their understanding, on Friday 5th February Mrs Kendi Kinuthia came into school to speak to all Year 7 about her personal experiences of living in Kenya. Her presentation was fascinating and told us about the landscape and animals that live in Kenya, as well as information about the climate. She explained about the living conditions in Nairobi and explained some of the cultural differences of life in the UK compared to life in Kenya. Kendi grew up in Kenya and listening to her and hearing her first hand experiences of life in Kenya was fascinating. Jenny Horsfall in 7F said "I really enjoyed the talk on Friday and enjoyed hearing about life in Kenya. I was really interested to hear about the differences in the schools between the UK and Kenya and learning about the clothing that people in Kenya wear. It made me really want to visit Kenya as it sounds like such a fascinating country."



who invented Wi-fi, Mother Teresa who's kindness and compassion has helped millions of people, and JK Rowling who has worked hard to become an international literary success.

In addition, to these 'celebrities' we also learnt about the struggles of 'real women' in Uganda and India who are growing up in communities with very little sanitation or privacy and who do not go to school. Our final task was to design a tee shirt with a campaign message about what we can do to make sure there is fairness and equality between females and males around the world. I was really surprised by some of the huge differences that still exist between boys and girls in many parts of the world and am pleased we had the opportunity to talk about the people who have inspired us!"

Hannah Deacon in 7C

Five St John Fisher students receive the Gold Award in the Intermediate Maths Challenge

The UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) is a registered charity whose aim is to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The UKMT organises national mathematics competitions and other mathematical enrichment activities for 11-18 year old UK school students. Over 200,000 students from around the UK entered the Challenge with the top 6% receiving a gold award, the next 13% receiving silver, and the next 21% bronze. Earlier this term some of our Year 9, 10 and 11 students took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge and they performed extremely well. Our students managed to achieve 4 gold awards, 16 silver awards and 30 bronze awards.

Around 5,500 students from all three year groups sitting the Intermediate Challenge are invited to sit either the grey

or pink Kangaroo papers, dependent on school year. We are extremely pleased to have five of our students qualifying for this paper: Joshua Rowe (Y11), Benjamin Nurse (Y11), Philip Battersby (Y9), Matthew Ball (Y9) and Matthew O'Connor (Y9).

Well done to all those who took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Congratulations to those who achieved an award and those who qualified for a follow-up paper. Please copy the following into your web browser to view the results:

<http://sjfchs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Intermediate-Maths-Challenge-Results-2016.pdf>

Lions Art & Design Peace Poster Competition

At the end of December, members of Mrs Bibbing's Year 7 Art Club entered the Lions Art & Design Peace Poster Competition and the Winner was Ella Morrison of 7A and the Runner-Up prize went to Eleanor Birchall of 7M.



Fisher Students Win Bronze in Technology Tournament



Reception Multi Skills Festival

The Reception Multi Skills Festival was held at St John Fisher one Monday in early March. The Primary Schools who attended were St Mary's, St Joseph's (Harrogate) and St Joseph's (Wetherby). There were about 100 Reception pupils involved in the various activities with the help from forty Year 9 Sports Leaders from St John Fisher. The event was a great success with all the pupils developing new skills and meeting new friends from different schools.



Students from St John Fisher recently attended and competed in the annual Harrogate Rotary Technology Tournament. This is an annual event where schools within the Harrogate district get together and try to solve real world problems in a creative and innovative fashion.

The event was organised into three age groups, where students pitted their developing technological capabilities against their peers from other schools. This year the challenge was to design and build a prototype electric vehicle or 'pig' capable of travelling along a pipe for inspection and removal of debris.

In the highly competitive 11-14 age group St John Fisher students finished a very creditable 3rd place. Well done to everyone taking part and representing St John Fisher in such a fantastic way.

St John Fisher "Wear Red Day"

St John Fisher "saw red" on behalf of the Children's Heart Surgery Unit in Leeds. Students attended school in a wide variety of red hats, socks, shoes, ties and suits. Every February the charity asks the community to "wear something red" and make a donation. Mr Pritchard, Headteacher explained that "this charity has a very special place in the School's commitment towards others. A number of St John Fisher students owe their lives to the wonderful work this unit does for our area. Myriam Barker, receiving a cheque for £1,010 on behalf of the Unit, thanked the school warmly for its outstanding commitment to us. This is the second time in the past eight months that this school has literally put its heart into our work. We are very grateful."

Pictured are Deputy Head Mr Stansfield and Myriam Barker, 18 year old Daniel Horne, 17 year old Izzy Cook and 13 year old Katie Jackson, all recipients of life changing surgery in the Children's Heart Surgery Unit.



Jericho

Year 7 student Rory Kelly appeared in ITV's recent production of Jericho. He played a village boy and could be seen in many of the scenes. Rory filmed over May to October last year, on location near Sheffield. Filming took place mostly over the summer holidays and involved full days. Rory enjoyed every minute especially meeting the stars of the production.



Rory is pictured on the left

Manchester United Trip

On what has been a difficult season so far, 13 students, accompanied by myself and Mr Ibison enjoyed a great night of football when the Reds hit 5 past the Champions of Denmark to earn a two leg fixture against Liverpool in the Europa League. There were confused faces when the name of Marcus Rashford was announced before kick-off with even loyal United fans not quite sure who he was. A last minute injury to Martial gave the 18 year old who is still at school his chance and his 2 vital debut goals added to the relief and expectation of the evening. All enjoyed this late night excursion with the usual sights, smells and tastes that accompany a big match, and the real possibility that we witnessed the debut of a United legend.

Mr Hughes



Marcus Rashford

Under 16 Boys Football reach the Semi-Finals

The Under 16 Boys Football team have progressed into the semi-finals of both the Area Cup competition and also the North Yorkshire Cup competition.

They defeated Harrogate Grammar away 3-0 in the quarter finals with an outstanding first half performance (3-0 at half time) and despite being put under constant pressure in the second half, they held on to ensure a semi-final match with St. Aidan's this Friday at home.

In the North Yorkshire Cup, Fishers travelled away to Whitby College and gave a great example of how to play counter attacking football as they once again ran out 3-0 winners to set up a semi-final against Ripon Grammar - away on Tuesday 22nd March. Results will be posted on the school website. Good luck boys!

Battle of the Books

The annual Battle of the Books competition took place at Ripon Grammar School on 24th February. Ten teams from secondary schools in the Harrogate area took part and the winners were Roundhay School from Leeds.

Well done to our knowledgeable team who although they didn't win, won one of the six rounds against stiff competition.

The team were:

Matilda Snowdon 9H
Gwyn Owen 10C
Will Pritchard 10B
Olivia Geraghty 9F
Reserves
Charlotte Krier 10H
Sophie McCudden 9M



Author Visit



Scottish author Cathy MacPhail, visited school on Tuesday 23 February to talk to Years 8 and 9 about her books and what inspires her writing. Cathy has won the Royal Mail Book Award twice and is Patron of Reading at Falkirk High School. Her latest book 'Another Me' has been made into a film. Students were able to talk to Cathy at lunchtime about their own writing projects. A writing competition was also launched for all students to write a 200 word story using the opening line: 'I heard a knocking at the door and I knew he had come for me.' Entries should be brought to the Library and the closing date is 23 March.

Following Teresa Flavin's visit to Year 7 in January students have been busy with Teresa's challenge to write fifty words on a spooky place local to them. Teresa judged the entries and the winning five are featured on Teresa's blog which can be found at <http://www.teres aflavin.com/blog/50-word-spooky-story-winners/>. Congratulations to the winners: Georgia, Libby, Matilda, Evie and Kate who have each won a limited edition 'Blackhope Enigma' sketch book.

Year 9 Geographers 'Slum It' to understand some of the Urban Challenges experienced throughout the World



As part of the new GCSE Geography course, Year 9 students have been understanding a range of challenges that take place in urban areas and have been learning about what living conditions are like in Low Income Countries around the world. The students have been focussing on what living conditions are like in slums and have been getting creative and have recycled materials from their home and created their own miniature slums to produce a miniature size display of Dharavi slum in Mumbai, India.

As well as having fun, building the slums, the students labelled the features of the slum and gained a deeper understanding of the characteristics and challenges of living in a slum and then researched some of the schemes taking place in Mumbai to improve living conditions in Dharavi.

Sixth Form History and Politics

Sixth Form History and Politics students have relished in the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the political process through a visit to the Houses of Parliament and Imperial War Rooms followed by guest speakers visiting St John Fisher.

Whilst at the Houses of Parliament, students enjoyed a tour of the House of Lords and the House of Commons gaining an understanding of the day-to-day running of the cornerstone of our democracy. This was then followed by a trip to the Imperial War Museum London, in which students immersed themselves in the heart of the British war effort, the Cabinet War Rooms.

Sixth Form students then welcomed the opportunity to gain an even greater understanding of the political process through visiting guest speakers - the Liberal Democrat and Harrogate Borough Councillor, Helen Flynn and Andrew Jones, Conservative MP for Harrogate and Knaresborough and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Transport. Students made the most of the opportunities to question Helen Flynn on the successes and failings of the Liberal Democrats whilst in the coalition, as well as how the Liberal Democrats can seek to regain their role and influence in the new economic climate.

Similarly, students questioned Andrew Jones on the development of the northern powerhouse, the legitimacy of British involvement in the Syrian conflict, as well as his views on the upcoming EU referendum. The students did the Associated Sixth Form proud, with their political passion and making their voices heard to our representatives. We look forward to welcoming Andrew Jones and David Simister of UKIP back in our preparations for the EU Referendum in June.



Students pictured with Andrew Jones MP above and David Simister UKIP representative below



Former student returns to St John Fisher as a Labour MP

Former St John Fisher student Richard Burgon, returned to school to talk to the Sixth Form in his new capacity as Labour MP for Leeds East. A strong supporter of Jeremy Corbyn, Mr Burgon emphasised his belief that issues to do with image and the national anthem were trivial in comparison with the need to tackle inequality and reform of the economy. There was a very lively Question & Answer session which Mr Burgon said had been the highlight of his day.



Sixth Form Travel & Tourism Trip

At the beginning of March, Sixth Form Travel and Tourism students embarked on their fieldwork trip to York. During the day they were wowed by a 5* Hotel, amazed by a Georgian townhouse and maybe, without letting it on fell in love with The Flying Scotsman. The fieldtrip gave the students an insight into a popular UK tourism destination and enabled them to analyse how successful York is at meeting the needs of a variety of visitors.

In a short space of time they were able to use the public transport network without getting lost, visit and compare two types of accommodation and visit two popular attractions in York. The fieldtrip was an enriching day, which has placed the students in an excellent position to complete their assignment. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed themselves and although they never quite made it to Platform Nine and Three Quarters they were a credit to the Associated Sixth Form.



Outstanding Teacher Nomination



Science teacher Mr Ibison was one of four nominees recently nominated for an outstanding teacher award. Over 200 pupils and teachers from across the UK were nominated for the Pure Potential Awards, a national award ceremony which celebrated the achievements of state educated students, teachers and careers advisors from across the UK. The 48 shortlisted nominees were invited to attend the awards ceremony in London earlier in March to launch National Careers Week. The awards showcased all of the wonderful things they do to help others and the community around them.

Mr Ibison has been a long serving Head of Physics at St John Fisher and in that time he has inspired a generation of young people to follow Physics and Science at the highest levels. He has supported many students to fulfil their dream of attending prestigious universities. It was one such student - Blessed Mahovo who nominated Mr Ibison for this award.

Mr Tanner-Smith the Head of Science, said he was pleased to support the nomination " as a reflection for the hard work and dedication that Mr Ibison has demonstrated over the years and continues to do so with the same enthusiasm, as he approaches retirement."

Mr Tanner-Smith is looking to develop the links and opportunities that are offered by Pure Potential, with its core values that ALL students should be given access to advice, information and contacts to help them make the right decisions about University and careers. The students that Mr Tanner-Smith and Mr Ibison met at the event were a true inspiration and a credit to both their families and to the institutions that they are educated within.

Oxbridge Offers

The following St John Fisher Sixth Form students have been successful in gaining degree offers from Cambridge:

Lilly Davidson to read French and Spanish, Ben Wharton - Engineering, Catherine Graham - Medicine, Rachael Philp - Geography, Rhiannon Lyon - Chemistry and Blessed Mahovo - Chemical Engineering. Well done everybody and good luck with the exams.



Students pictured with the St. Aidan's cohort who also received offers from Oxford/Cambridge

Year 13 Travel & Tourism

On Friday 12th February, our Year 13 Travel and Tourism students were given the exciting opportunity to participate in a visit to Rudding Park Hotel. The students were not only there to marvel at the facilities Rudding Park has to offer but to gain an understanding of how a business within the hospitality industry offers benefits and opportunities for its employees. The students were a credit to the Associated Sixth Form and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity the afternoon presented to them.



National Youth Music Theatre Success

Sixth Form students Kitty Watson and Sally Hall have auditioned with thousands of other hopefuls and successfully landed roles with the prestigious National Youth Music Theatre (NYMT). They have been cast in the London premiere of Benjamin Till's award-winning World War 1 musical "Brass", one of four major productions and a 40th Anniversary gala celebration being staged in the West End by NYMT in the Summer of 2016. Well done girls!