

**Dear Parents**

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Once more this has been a very busy term and twelve weeks have passed by very quickly. Please take the time to read about the many and varied events that our students have been engaged in this term.



The last two weeks in particular have seen the college engage with both the BBC and ITV in projects that have demonstrated the diversity and quality of work going on in the college at present. The ITV School Election Debate was filmed in our main hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. It will form part of a programme to be broadcast on ITV in the run up to the general election, showing how schools are engaging students in politics and the British value of democracy. Fred Dinenage and Sangeeta Bhabra were our hosts and they were very genuine when they said this was the best

school they had filmed so far, the students were knowledgeable, respectful of others views, confident and able to debate. A great piece of feedback from a man who has over fifty years experience of news and current affairs.

In the BBC School Report, the college welcomed Mark Hoban MP who was quizzed by **Eoin Shaw** on matters relating to the relationship between Politics and Religion. The college appeared a number of times on the BBC live feed during the day and has been commended for the quality of its reporting.

As Easter approaches and we look forward to spending time together as a family, reflecting on the message, story and significance to us, may I take the opportunity to wish everyone a happy and restful Easter.

**Graham Wilson**  
Headteacher

**First v Final Entry GCSE Tracking**

The DfE recently released its annual league table of GCSE results. In this data release, Saint George Catholic College achieved 45% of its students with 5 A\*-C including Maths and English. This data was based upon the students first attempt at their GCSE in all subjects.

However, in the summer of 2014 the students of the college achieved 62% 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. The data was based upon the student's best attempt at their GCSE in all subjects.

The reason I write to clarify this situation is that the *first* entry does not fully represent the achievement of our students, who sometimes, for whatever reason, may need two attempts at a qualification before achieving success.

For many years it mattered little when in your five years at the college you sat your examinations. What mattered was whether this was achieved in the end as your best entry. Many of us throughout our lives will have benefitted from a second or third attempt at a test. I cannot remember the last time at an interview or job selection process

that the number of attempts at a qualification was raised as an issue.

During this same period the Government changed the qualifications that count in the 5 A\*-C including English and Maths measure, so 2014 cannot be accurately compared with any other year because it would not be a direct comparison. However, just to give a small insight into how things have changed, if the 2014 results had been measured in the same way as 2013 then the college figure would have been over 70%.

I know that the results the college achieves are very important and in 2014 we are very proud to say that in many ways it was our best year as a college ever. Sadly this is not reflected in the published data. However, all but one of our students went on to full time education or training which is an achievement that we are very proud of.

I firmly believe that in spite of the published data, the college is stronger academically than it has ever been and all our recent inspections and validations would support this. St George is continuing to use best entry as a policy and this has been agreed by the Governing Body for 2014/15.

**DIARY DATES**

**April**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Back to School
- 28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> Cathedral Visit (Year 7)

**May**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Bank Holiday
- 7<sup>th</sup> Sports Presentation Evening
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Year 11 Celebration Mass
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Early Closure 12.20<sup>pm</sup>
- 23<sup>rd</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> - Summer Half Term

**June**

- 25<sup>th</sup> Year 11 Celebration Day
- 26<sup>th</sup> Sports Day
- 29<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July Work Experience

**July**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year 6 Induction Day
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Inset Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> It's a Knockout event
- 5<sup>th</sup> Watersports Trip departs
- 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> Year 7 Camp
- 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> French Trip
- 13<sup>th</sup> Summer Arts Evening 6<sup>pm</sup>
- 13<sup>th</sup> Watersport Trip returns
- 14<sup>th</sup> Mentoring Day
- 15<sup>th</sup> Reward Trips
- 16<sup>th</sup> End of Term Masses
- 17<sup>th</sup> Early Closure 12.20<sup>pm</sup>  
(last day of term -non uniform)

**August**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Results Day

*More details on our website diary page*

**Lent Prayer**

God of all,  
Bring us from despair to hope  
From doubt to faith  
From anger to delight  
From resentment to acceptance  
From sadness to joy  
From bitterness to forgiveness  
From being trapped to freedom  
From Lent to Easter  
From the darkness of sin to the joyful presence of the Risen Lord  
Amen



### St George Students Reflect on Faith and Science

In February we were privileged to welcome Rev Dr Andrew Pinsent to the college. Fr Andrew is Head of Research at the University of Oxford Centre for Science and Religion, having a background in particle physics and later theological studies.

As a world renowned speaker on issues of faith and science, we were very lucky indeed to have him visit us and give a talk to Year 10 and 11 on 'God, philosophy and science'. The talk was very well received by the students, and followed up with some well-prepared questions showing real insight and interest.

A small group of students were further treated to a follow up seminar with Fr Andrew, in which he explored in more detail some of the philosophical questions he had already raised.

Fr Andrew left us with glowing praise of the college and the students, saying he had rarely enjoyed a school visit as much or had such perceptive and challenging questions put to him. All students involved were a real credit to the school and hopefully took something meaningful away from the experience.



### Marathon Runner

Miss Cecil will be running the London Marathon on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April in aid of CAFOD. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far. The fundraising total has topped £1,300 with the target of £2,500 in sight. To donate, go to [www.justgiving.com/CEC-2015](http://www.justgiving.com/CEC-2015)

### World Book Day

Vampires, minions, Harry Potter and Alice in Wonderland were among the individuals spotted around school on World Book Day. Years 7 and 8 – and staff – were encouraged to dress up as famous book characters for the literacy extravaganza, which this year had a gothic theme. Working in tutor groups, students were given the chilling challenge of creating their own spooky story to be performed as a short play. A winning production from each tutor group was then shortlisted for the grand final, which saw a terrifyingly triumphant turn by the 7Kolbe team (**Julia Orawiec, Ayalah Goulding, Ellie Terrell, Taysham Bannister, Caitlin Schossig**). All students in Years 7 and 8 were given a copy of a Marcus Sedgwick story, *Killing the Dead*.

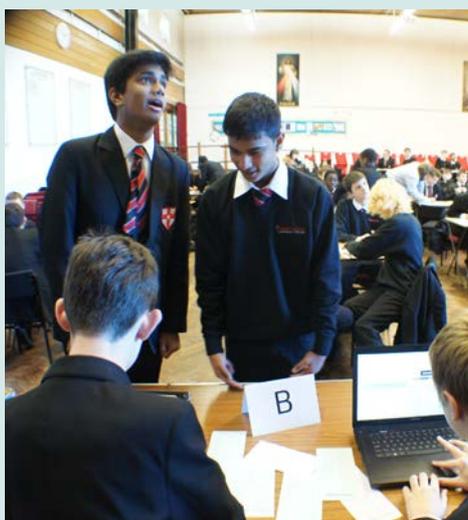


### Behind the Headlines

Some of our Year 9 students have been making the news – by reporting about stories that matter to them for BBC News School Report.

World Book Day; the influence of religious leaders on politicians; the legacy of the cricket world cup, and plans for a new cruise ship Titanic 2 were among the issues that interested our roving reporters. Sally Allinson, a member of the BBC South Today editorial team, joined the boys on News Day to offer her advice and support.

Find their reports on our website: [http://www.st-george.southampton.sch.uk/school/pages/student\\_area/bbc%20school%20report.html](http://www.st-george.southampton.sch.uk/school/pages/student_area/bbc%20school%20report.html)



### Election School Debate on ITV

Our hall became an ITV studio in March as Fred Dinenage and Sangeeta Bhabra hosted a debate on student voting. Sitting either side of Mr Dinenage, our panelists, **Eoin Shaw, India Miles, Steevo Abraham and Elizabeth Elliott** took questions from students in the audience for and against the voting age to be lowered to 16, as well as other issues about voting and politics.

Reporter Andrew Pate commented that our students showed a considerable level of maturity and knowledge of politics and democracy and it was by far the best debate he has filmed.

A clip from the hour long debate is scheduled to be broadcast in the near future in a special five minute feature on ITV's News Meridian programme.

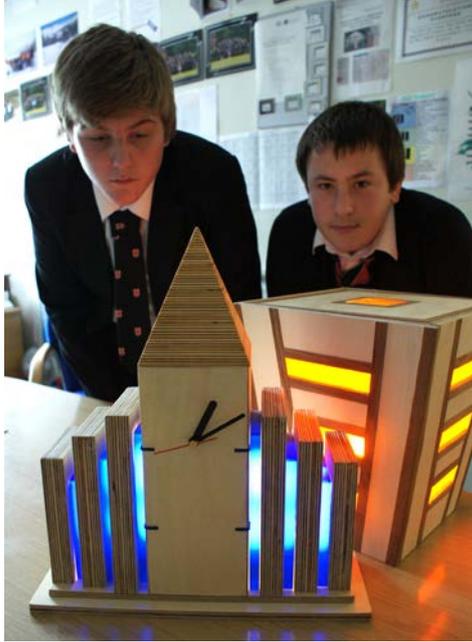


### Stock Exchange

Year 10 became stock-brokers for a day and experienced the tension and excitement of the stock exchange this term in our Investment Challenge event.

Our students learnt about how business is financed and speculated on stock, turning St George's main hall into a trading floor. Teams competed against each other to see who could make the most profit.

The students really got into the spirit of the event which was, as always, a stimulating and educational experience.



### Great Work from Technology Students

Our GCSE Technology students appear all set to see a rise in GCSE results this year having successfully produced some of the best product design projects for many years.

With a brief to produce self assembly items based on either Art Deco or the Memphis Design Movement, the class has come up with some outstanding designs and quality of workmanship including some ingenious small storage units and lamp designs such as those by **Jack Goulding** (left) and **Ben Yeates** (right).

### Art Students Visit Tate

G&T Art students were selected for a visit to Tate Britain in February. At the gallery they looked at work by a number of different artists including some of the paintings they are currently being inspired by in their art lessons.

They viewed and discussed work by Turner, Henry Moore and Monet alongside deeper conversations about how contemporary artists use materials and express themselves. It was a brilliant day that has created lots of ideas that we hope the students will use in their own work.



### Year 8 Are In Business

In February, all of our Year 8 students took part in our business and enterprise event, called "Mind Your Own Business!" Students were put into teams and given a (random) picture, which would be the inspiration for their new business.



Ideas included shoes that could walk on water, a wholesaler for sweets and a range of alien bath products.

After some fantastic presentations to our panel of business experts, the overall winners came from 8 **Teresa, India Miles, Nikola Luczak, Ben Lovett, Jack Judge and Hussain Younis** with their phone app that could be used as a personal library (think of Spotify for books) and that can be shared with other users.

The business experts were so impressed they almost invested!



### Students Get the Blues

Students have been getting some excellent musical inspiration this term.

Percussionist Joby Burgess performed to Year 8 and GCSE students and gave a rhythm workshop where he talked about his career as a professional musician.

### RE Students Study Climate Change

In February, 7A1 had a visit from CAFOD in their RE lesson and were asked to trial a game about climate change.

Student **Joseph Hammond** said "It was a brilliant experience to see what life is like for families who struggle and are very poor. It gave us an insight into how hard they have to work to make ends meet and the impact the weather has on their families".



### Mary Rose Visit

The mystery of the past was explored by 41 Gifted and Talented History students on a visit to Portsmouth's Mary Rose Museum in February. As part of the visit they took part in a CSI style lesson at the museum.

Year 8 student **Lia D'Abbraccio** writes: "After investigating how the Mary Rose sank, we visited the museum where we saw what was left of the ship. We enjoyed the day and the visit really brought history to life".

### Challenging Maths for Year 10

Congratulations to Year 10 students, **Matthew Mc Dermott, Daniel Greene, Leo Stoy and Tom Lovett**, who won the main round in Maths Feast, a challenge at Barton Peveril College in March.

Later in the term, *Tauntons College Blues Workshop* gave a superb demonstration of blues music and had the whole Year 8 class joining in, playing and singing the blues.

In March our students enjoyed a visit to *Edward Scissorhands The Ballet at The Mayflower..*

Congratulations to:  
**Luke Doble** (Year 11), Tenor Horn Grade 7 with merit  
**Thomas Siou** (Year 9), French Horn Grade 4  
**Eoin Shaw** (Year 9) Saxophone Grade 3 with merit  
**Billy Pook** (Year 9) Cornet Grade 3  
**Hannah Triggs** (Year 8) Clarinet Grade 2 with merit  
**Michael Thomson** (Year 8) came 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Grade 5 Classical Guitar solo class

Year 8 will be the next year group to trial brand new resources, while studying a unit on Catholic social teaching that Mrs Lee-Cann has been working on with CAFOD since last summer.

Students have been invited to enter the 2015 Catholic Young Writer of the Year Award 2015, a national competition won by our very own **Leo Stoy** in 2014. Students are also entering the *Schools Bible Project 2015*, where the top prize is afternoon tea in the House of Lords!



### A trio of Gothic Tales

Coinciding nicely with World Book Day, the college's drive on literacy and current English schemes of work, the *Redheart Theatre* brought their own special brand of Gothic chills to Saint George this term.

Drawing from texts by Dickens, Poe and Wells the theatre dimmed the lights but illuminated the minds of Year 8 who took the costumes and drama of World Book Day to another level with many inspired by this trio of ghoulish, gripping tales from some of our finest Victorian authors.

### All In a Good Cause!

Mr Chikiwa and Mrs Orchard put themselves in the firing line as vengeful pupils armed with pies and 50p, launched their attacks! It was all in a good cause though and the pupils raised money for CAFOD.



## SPORT

### Year 7 Girls Football

Unbeaten in the Southampton School Games 7-a-side football league so far led by **Molly Kenna** who is our top goal scorer.

### Year 8 Girls Football

Unbeaten in the Southampton School Games 7-a-side football league so far led by **Mia Gardner** who is our top goal scorer.

### Year 7/8 Girls Football

An outstanding performance

from the girls football team. Achieving draws and wins in the league and are through to the final of the Hampshire Cup after defeating Romsey School 3-2 in the semi-final.

### Year 8 Football

Winners of the Southampton City 5-a-side championship. Congratulations to **Dynel Simeu** on signing a two year academy form with Chelsea. Also to **Sam** and **Alex Tonks** for their participation with Portsmouth FC.

### Year 9 Football

The lads are currently first in the league and reached their first cup final ever.

### Year 10 Football

Still on course to win their 4<sup>th</sup> league title in a row if they can win their final two league games. They've also reached the City cup final for the fourth year in a row.

### Year 7 Girls Netball

Outstanding performance from the girls so far, aiming for top of the league position by the end of the season. Team captain **Julia Orawiec** has them working hard and playing superb netball.

### U15 Boys

Hampshire finalists, who now go on to represent Hampshire in the regional finals!

### U14 Basketball Team

The under 14's have had a successful season, they came fourth in the regional league and made the play-offs. They then went on to lose the play-off final to Mountbatten.

### U15 Basketball Team

The under 15's have reached the Hampshire Cup Final, it will take place at St Mary's Sport Centre on the final day of term. Well done to the team.

### Cricket Nets - A Great New Sports Facility

We are delighted to announce a new £14,000 investment in our facilities, with the help of Sport England, Trojans CC and the Southampton Schools Sports Association.

The 'four bay' indoor cricket nets will prove a valuable asset, enabling us to hone our cricketing skills throughout the year!



### Cross Country

Congratulations to **Yasmin Knight** 3<sup>rd</sup>, **Dynel Simeu** 16<sup>th</sup>, **Jack Bignell** 19<sup>th</sup> and **Luke Bennett** 21<sup>st</sup> in their placings in the Hampshire schools cross-country event. Well done also to **Dynel Simeu** and **Yasmin Knight** for qualifying to represent Hampshire in the south-east counties.

### Individual Honours:

**Euan Ball** London Irish Development Squad  
**Michael Robertson** Rugby League- South-East Representative Squad  
**Dynel Simeu** selected for London Irish Development Squad  
**Ash Chirima** London Irish Development Squad  
**Daisy Waldock** represented Great Britain in the Commonwealth Youth Games, making the semi-finals  
**Mia Gardner** Hampshire football representative and Portsmouth Ladies  
**Elizabeth Elliot** excelling in national trampolining championships  
**Yasmin Knight** Hampshire Cross Country team  
**Ysabella Foster** continues to excel in national diving competitions  
**Savanna Pearce** regularly competing in national ice-skating competitions  
**Dynel Simeu, Sam Tonks, Alex Tonks and Daniel Bonavia:** Southampton Schoolboys  
**Alex Tonks** Portsmouth FC  
**Luke Bennett and Konrad Szymaniak** Southampton Schoolboys  
**Konrad Szymaniak** Hampshire Schools football  
**Marcel Szymaniak** Southampton Schoolboys  
**Krystian Majecki** National Boxing star.

This term, we welcomed the Gideon Society who gave their little red New Testaments and Psalms to all the Year 7 students. Our visitors were impressed with our students' singing as well as the respect and attention they paid during their talk.

As part of our privilege of having the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel, the Bishop has stipulated that we should have regular times of Eucharistic Adoration. On Monday 8th February (the feast of St Josephine Bakhita) we spent the whole day in prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for all victims of human trafficking. Throughout the day the, the Chaplain was joined by students, staff and members of the Immaculate Conception parish for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. It was a very special time and I was proud of the 90 students who came throughout the day. We have continued this practice with a short time of adoration at lunchtime on the other feast days – St Katharine Drexel on 3<sup>rd</sup> March and Oscar Romero on 24<sup>th</sup> March.

We were visited again by the Jumbulance in February and Year 7 were very excited to be shown around this special bus that takes people with extra needs and difficulties to Lourdes. The students are currently raising the £700 necessary to fund a pilgrim or a volunteer to go this summer.

In February we met up with our CAFOD friends again at West Quay shopping centre to highlight their Climate Change Campaign and made the pages of the Daily Echo.



You can keep up to date with our activities via our Twitter feed, @stgchaplain and Facebook page St George Chaplaincy