

SAINT GEORGE CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

Easter 2014

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter. Once more this letter is packed with news about the many and varied events our students experience at St George. Indeed it is our commitment to the extra-curricular events at the college which really enriches the educational experience open to our students. They complement the excellent teaching and learning that happens daily in our lessons and creates our "Special Catholic Ethos". This ethos is constantly remarked upon by our visitors who are always impressed with what they feel as they spend time in our college community.

During this period of Lent we have been reflecting on the three pillars of Lent, prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many of our students have attended special Lenten events arranged by the Chaplaincy Team and gained a great deal from their reflections.

As we build towards the end of term and our Easter Masses, the college is preparing for its Section 48 visit on 1st April carried out by the Director of Portsmouth Diocese schools, Rosemary Olivier. Assessment will be over a number of headings including the quality of RE provision, the school community, the moral and spiritual development of the students and the leadership and management of the college. Hopefully this will reflect our improvements since our last inspection in 2012.

As another busy term draws to a conclusion we wish all our Year 10 and Year 11 students studying for their GCSE exams every success. We particularly thank the staff who will be working over the Easter and May half term breaks for giving up their time in the last push for success to build upon the many achievements already celebrated in this newsletter.

I would like to conclude by wishing everybody in our community a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing you all again ready for the Summer Term on Tuesday 22nd April 2014.

Graham R Wilson

**Graham Wilson
Headteacher**



Bringing Greek Theatre to life

Dynel Simeu, Ashley Chima
Rowing Champions

Bishop Philip Egan visits St George

Hannah Trigg/Jamie-Louise Bihet
Cultural Awareness Week

Gurdev Singh demonstrates
Indian percussion

Diary Dates

April

Tues 22nd Summer term begins
Fri 25th Inset Day

May

Thurs 1st Year 7 Parents' Evening
Thurs 8th Sports Presentation Evening
Sat 10th Family Fun Day 1PM - 4PM
Fri 23rd Early Closure/Year 11 mass

June

Thurs 26th Year 11 Celebration Day
Fri 27th Sports Day

July

Wed 2nd Year 6 Induction Day/Evening
Fri 4th It's A Knockout
Tues 8th Summer Arts Evening
Wed 9th Year 5 Open Day
Thurs 10th Inset Day, Year 5 Open Day/
Admissions Information Evening
Mon 14th - Thurs 17th Year 7 Camp
Mon 21st Mentoring Day
Wed 23rd Last Day of Term

Please see our website diary page for updates and more details

Easter Prayer

God our Father, the contradiction of the cross

Proclaims your infinite wisdom.

Help us to see that the glory of your Son

Is revealed in the suffering he freely accepted.

Give us faith to claim as our only glory

The cross of Jesus

Who lives with you and the Holy Spirit

One God for ever

Amen.



World Book Day

On Monday 10th March we celebrated World Book Day. Many pupils and staff dressed as their favourite book characters to celebrate the day in style. Students in Year 7 and 8 were given a free book and undertook a range of activities such as reading, review writing and even entering the *National Bookmark Challenge* potentially worth £500 to a lucky winner. Over £200 in cash was raised for the charity *Books for Bamenda* and pupils were given the opportunity to reflect on the importance of books and reading.

Their book reviews have been used to create a book tree which is currently on display in the humanities corridor which is a testament to all the hard work your sons and daughters are currently putting into their reading.



All Weather Pitch

Our superb new all weather sports pitch is now fully operational. The state of the art facility is a major boost to sport at St George and is also available for hire. Please see our website for more information on hiring this and other college facilities.

Message from the Chaplain

At the beginning of Lent we celebrated with mass and the distribution of ashes. Fr Anthony Azuwike preached a powerful homily on the challenges of Lent. The choir was in good voice and many people commented on what a prayerful and reverent occasion it was.

As part of our commitment to prayer during Lent, we have begun silent meditation on Monday lunchtimes, to which all are welcome. Our first session was a very positive experience so we look forward



to it developing.

We now have a Twitter feed and you can now follow us [@stgchaplain](https://twitter.com/stgchaplain) 

With every blessing for Lent and the celebration of Easter

Ruth Cunio

Cultural Awareness Week

A week of events were organised to celebrate *Mother Language Day* in February. Every morning we held a special assembly for each year group in which some students spoke their mother tongue(s) illustrating the precious cultural diversity at St George.

At break and lunchtimes we enjoyed the many events around the college including a Polish cake sale, a jazz dancing class



and a Japanese film in the hall. On Wednesday **Hannah Trigg** and **Jamie-Louise Bihet** in Year 7, volunteered to be dressed in saris when Justin's mum, Mrs Johnson, kindly came in to school to demonstrate how they should be worn. They were perfect models! At lunchtime we were given a fantastic performance of Indian drumming by **Gurdas Taak** (Year 7) and **Gurdev Singh** (Year 10).

The highlight of Thursday was the Mexican *Day of the Dead* face-painting in the canteen at lunchtime. Mrs Sumner and Miss Webber were ably assisted by **Connor Dolke** and **Afzal Sumro**. Also at break there was a video showing the San Fermín *Running of the Bulls* festival.

Some epic paper planes, as well as a few paper hearts and flowers for Valentine's Day were produced at Friday's origami session and an impressive African Drum workshop ended the week in style.

Canteen staff served cuisine from various countries around the world, to add to the cultural diversity of the week. Staff also incorporated multiculturalism into their lessons.



Greek Theatre

Year 8 English students have been studying Greek theatre and famous figures from the era, as well as reading plays and stories by Greek playwrights.

As part of their work each group produced a script based on a myth they had created in the Greek style. They then performed their play in front of an audience of their peers.

All of the scripts created were



engaging for the viewers and some were fantastic! There was a mixture of comedy and tragedy, with a few gorgons thrown in for good measure.

Charities

We were delighted to present a cheque for £914 to the *Across Trust* recently following our Advent fundraising. Our efforts will pay for trips to Lourdes for a disabled person or helper. Some of our Year 11 students have expressed an interest in volunteering with the *Jumbulance* in the summer so we look forward to hearing more about it.

We received a lovely letter from the Trust: "It was such a pleasure to bring the Jumbulance to school last November and to see

the students' interest and enthusiasm for it. Your students are a credit to the school and I am sure you are very proud of them" (we are!)

This term we have raised £200 for CAFOD on Shrove Tuesday – thank you so much to the group of mums who came in and made pancakes for hungry students.

Our Lenten charity is *Books for Bamenda*. At the request of Bishop Philip every school in the Diocese is raising money to send to our sister Diocese in Cameroon.



Bishop Egan Vists St George

We began the spring term with our visitation from Bishop Philip Egan for which we had been preparing a great deal and about which much excitement was generated. Bishop Egan spent three hours with us and took part in a welcome liturgy with representatives from all year groups as well as staff and governors. After a tour of the college he ended his visit by praying the Rosary with a group of students and staff in the chapel. It was a lovely day and Bishop Egan made a point of speaking to as many students as possible; I'm sure we will remember it for a long time.



Parish Ambassadors

During his visit, Bishop Egan commissioned twelve Parish Ambassadors who will act a links between St George and the local parishes. I hope you know who your own parish ambassador is or they will not have been doing their jobs properly!

Business in a Bag

Year 9 learnt about how to create a business enterprise in February. Divided into teams, they were given a photo of a product or service to promote.

Their task was to decide on a company name and logo, identify their target market and create a marketing strategy and business plan. Finally they had to pitch their idea, 'Dragons Den' style!

It was a hectic, noisy morning and the students came up with some really innovative ideas. Well done to all concerned.



UKMT Maths Challenge

Five boys from Year 9 took on the intermediate maths challenge this year. Well done to **Daniel Greene, Matthew McDermott** and **Leo Stoy** who all achieved a silver, as well as **Niall Butterworth-Kenny** and **Thomas Lovett**, who achieved a bronze. Further congratulations to Daniel, who got through to the next round of the competition!



Photo: Making a model car engine in STEM club (Maths & Science)

Leo Stoy and **Matthew McDermott**, in Year 9, have been selected to attend the Hampshire Royal Institution Mathematics Master Class in March, hosted by Southampton University.

St George celebrates Women's World Day of Prayer for the first time!

The first Friday in March is marked each year by a celebration of women of faith around the world – The Women's World Day of Prayer. We were quite confident that this occasion had never been celebrated here at St George so some colleagues plus our fabulous Year 7 girls met together for a short time of prayer and reflection followed by some refreshments. We took the theme of "Streams in the Desert" and heard the

story of Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well as our focus. We thought about and celebrated those women in our lives that refresh and inspire us and reflected how women in the 21st century still visit "the well" to gain support and encouragement from their friends. We asked the prayers of Our Lady, St Josephine Bakhita and Blessed Mother Teresa to help us on our way. We would like to make this an annual celebration from now on with our current Year 7 girls already planning to lead the event next year.



Cafod Visit

Joseph Cousins, Eoin Shaw and Jack Ryan were among 30 students chosen to represent St George on a visit to Cafod HQ. They saw the range of work that goes on there and visited the St George Cathedral and the giant Romero Cross. The boys were chosen for their fundraising contributions in the recent Harvest for Talent scheme.

Stock Market Fever

Year 10 experienced and enjoyed the excitement of the stock exchange at this year's Investment Challenge. Organised by the *Southampton Business Partnership*, the students bought and sold stocks and shares, competing against each other to see who could make the most money from a day of trading on the stock market.



Sports News

We are delighted that our new 3G all-weather pitch is now up and running. The new fields adjacent to the school will incorporate a 400m track and relevant field events. If all things go to plan this should all be in-use after the Easter break.

Individual Honours

Christ Ngoulou – Hampshire U16 rugby representative

Archie Waldock – number 1 in Great Britain for his weight category 45KG in Taekwondo. Represented Great Britain in the World Championships and Junior Olympics

Charlie Coombs - Hampshire U16 football squad

Kelvin Lichowe - currently on trial with Southampton FC

Abdul Jallow - Hampshire U14 football squad

Daisy Waldock – individual gold medalist in Taekwondo

Mia Gardner – Hampshire football representative

Lewis Curtis - selected for the U14 Hampshire Schools rugby Team: No 8.

Tom Coleman - representing Hampshire in the regional Cross-Country Championships

Theo Barnes continues to excel in national diving competitions

Jack Bignell, Sam Tonks, Alex Tonks, India Miles, Caitlin Walford, Luke Bennett, Tom Coleman and Greg Coleman

represent Southampton schools in the Hampshire Cross-Country Championships

Dynel Simeu, Ashley Chrima, Krystian Majecki and Akash Banga

representing Hampshire in the national rowing finals

Rugby

Rugby at Saint George has gone from strength to strength. At the time of writing, the Year 7 have secured the cup, league and were runners up in the Hampshire Tournament, the best a St George team has achieved in the last 10 years! Year 8 are battling out the league and have one more fixture to play, and also have the Hampshire Tournament lined up. Year 9 have finished 4th in the Hampshire tournament, and won the league. We are now beating schools such as Kings Winchester, Oaklands and Perrins on a regular basis, well done to all involved!

Football

Year 7 are unbeaten in the Southampton schools football league. Year 8 remain second in the league, since the league resumed last week with the boys beating Hamble Sports College 6-0. Year 9 are unbeaten in the league and have reached the final of the Hampshire Cup. They are also in the semi-finals of the Southampton City Cup.

Badminton

The U12 girls team competed in the U14 age group this year and have more than held their own, winning half of their games. The U14 team won the Southampton schools Badminton league and finished 4th in the Hampshire Championships. The U16 team are winners of the Southampton Schools Badminton league and finished 8th in the Hampshire Championships.

Year 7 Girls Indoor Cricket

The girls were one of three teams competing in the Southampton Schools Cup and produced some excellent performances. Key players were **Angel Moyce, Chelsea Baison** and **Mia Gardener**.

Year 7 Girls Netball

The girls have come on leaps and bounds since the start of the season, with some outstanding performances from **Gabriella Diaper** and **Caitlin Walford** in particular. The team needs to stick together and continue to attend training in order to improve their game

Basketball

U14 finished top of the league, and recorded no loses. U16 Year 11's finished their final year in 3rd place in league one; they also reached the semi finals of the play offs.

Table Tennis

U13 Boys won the Partnership Cup which saw them progress to the Hampshire Finals finishing in 7th place. U14 Girls won the Partnership Cup which saw them progress to the Hampshire Finals, eventually finishing in 4th place. U16 have had a solid start to the year with a 50% win/loss record.

Cross Country

League fixtures have commenced with strong performances in all age groups. Year 7 boys **Jack Bignell, Alex Tonks** and **Sam Tonks** have all produced top 10 performances for their age group. **Caitlin Walford** and **India Miles** continue to impress in the girls competition, finishing in the top 10 each time. **Luke Bennett** has led the Year 8 team, with encouraging performances from **Will Reynolds** and **Ben Orchard**. Once again **Tom** and **Greg Coleman** have set the standard for the Year 9 team, having always finished in the top 3 of their age group. Congratulations to **Jack Bignell, Sam Tonks, Alex Tonks, India Miles, Caitlin Walford, Luke Bennett, Tom Coleman and Greg Coleman** for representing Southampton in the Hampshire Cross-Country Championships at Alton Rugby Club this year.

Watersports, Summer 2015

Our Watersports trip takes place in La Fosca, just north of Barcelona; with the added incentive of a Water-Park visit during their week-long trip. Letters are out and replies are due in by the end of the Spring term.

Skiing 2014

Nineteen pupils have had the fantastic opportunity to learn to ski in the French Alps. They are staying in the resort of Risoul for six days of skiing, 7 nights of fun packed evening entertainments with a slalom ski competition at the end of the week. All the pupils are having a fantastic time, and we look forward to next year's trip. There are currently 15 pupils signed up and we still have places.

Kit

The PE Department would welcome any spare/old kit, so feel free to send it into school for the attention of the PE staff.

Next Term

Summer sports are back with a bang, with clubs in: Cricket, Tennis, Athletics (track and field) and Rounders. There will also be Trampolining and Basketball clubs running in the summer term

PE on Twitter

Our latest news, results and updates: @STgeorgePE

