



# The CRIER

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE SOUTHWARK DIOCESE

## NEW PRINCIPAL LEADS OFSTED SUCCESS FOR LEWISHAM'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**S**T MATTHEW ACADEMY HAS JUST UNDERGONE ITS LATEST OFSTED INSPECTION AND IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULT...



'This is now a good school with a new principal who provides inspired leadership,' said the Ofsted report.

The inspectors saw that achievement has improved year on year, and progress is good for all groups across the school. They were also hugely impressed by the wide range of inspirational experiences the academy's pupils benefit from. 'These experiences promote good achievement. As a result, pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding,' they said.

Inspectors found children at the academy 'delightful' and recognised a massive improvement in behaviour. Leaders and managers, including governors, have taken decisive action to improve the quality of teaching, with some that is outstanding.

"Ofsted's report is more confirmation that St Matthew Academy is on its way to becoming one of Lewisham's top schools - it already has the highest level of GCSE passes in Lewisham - with 90% of students receiving five or more GCSEs," says Academy principal Michael Barry. "It's also a great pat on the back for all the teachers who work hard every day to ensure that our students can progress well and meet the high expectations we have of our students and they have of themselves."

**HERE ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THEY SAID:**

- Teaching is good ...some is outstanding
- Progress is good across the school in reading, writing and mathematics
- Teachers have good subject knowledge and challenge pupils at a fast pace
- Pupils' spiritual, moral and cultural development is outstanding
- Specialist teaching enriches learning
- Bullying is rare and dealt with effectively

**SAINTS & SCHOLARS**



The pupils and staff of St Michael's Primary School in Chatham celebrated the patron saints of Ireland and England last term and in the process raised a substantial amount of money for several good causes. On St Patrick's Day children dressed in green and raised money for Delemza house and CAFOD. The Irish staff of the school set up activities including Gaelic football, Ceilidh dancing and Irish arts and crafts for the children to enjoy.

On St Georges day it was the turn of the English staff to organise a fun filled (and surprisingly sun-drenched) day.

Children took part in a day of traditional English activities including a summer fair. The school also ran a competition to design a famous English landmark and bake a St George's inspired cake. The winners received a family ticket on 'The London Duck Tour' and a family pass to 'The Harry Potter Adventure'. The Deputy Mayor of Medway council attended as a special guest and judged the competition. Moneys raised on St George's day was donated to Kent Air Ambulance and CRY (Cardiac Rest in the Youth).

Overall a total of £800 was raised for the four charities.

## STAMPING OUT ILLITERACY

STAFF AND PUPILS OF ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN BATTERSEA, EAGERLY WELCOMED BORIS JOHNSON FOR A 'SPOT OF READING' RECENTLY

The Mayor of London arrived on his bike and joined students in the school library where he read from Kenneth Grahame's *The Wind in the Willows* using one of the Nook eReaders that were recently donated to the school.

St Mary's is a flagship school for the Evening Standard 'Get London Reading Campaign' which has been supported by the Mayor's Fund. This Summer, Trafalgar Square will be transformed into a giant Get Reading Festival. The free outdoor event will feature famous authors and celebrities reading on a big stage backed by an enormous interactive screen, with thousands of children following along. The Get Reading festival will allow children and their families to experience the magic of being transported by story in an iconic setting.



Whilst visiting St Mary's Primary School the Mayor of London said: "I would like to see a London where kids are no longer illiterate at age 11. The target must be to stamp out illiteracy of 11-year-olds."

Does your school have news to share? To feature in the Autumn edition of *The Crier* email your articles and photos to [editor@educationcommission.org.uk](mailto:editor@educationcommission.org.uk) by Friday 25th October 2013.

# BONUS PASTOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE - AN EVEN BRIGHTER FUTURE WITH BRAND NEW BUILDINGS!

**ON FRIDAY 3RD MAY, BONUS PASTOR CATHOLIC COLLEGE IN DOWNHAM UNVEILED TWO NEW STATE OF THE ART SCHOOL BUILDINGS.**

After four years of planning, adjustment and building work, the school now boasts an exceptional learning environment for students. The £22 million new school facilities include: a BBC reporting studio, amphitheatre, music studio, two immersive ICT suits, a Sports for England Sports hall, external dining areas, drama studio, four large halls, external gyms and a biometric system for food purchases.

The buildings have been designed around the needs of the school with a floor allocated to each House. The new vertical tutor groups further encourage the community spirit of the school by regularly bringing together students from all year groups. Teachers and students also collaborated in the design of a large stained glass window for the new school Chapel.

The Grand Opening began with a Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Peter Smith. During the homily His Grace encouraged the school community to continue in their support for one another, "Look out for others and the Lord will certainly look after you". Bonus Pastor students lead the congregation in singing hymns throughout the Mass.

Students also lead groups of visitors on an interactive tour of the school buildings and gave their opinion of the new facilities, "It's a much brighter environment

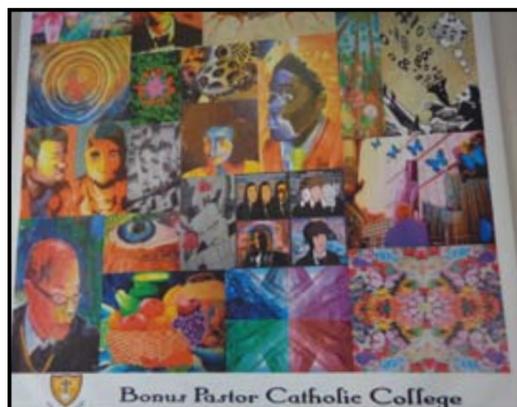
and I love the colours – they make me feel energised and encourage learning" said Enya Corrigan, Deputy Head Girl. "It's epic!" enthused Charlotte Norman from year 10.

On completion of the school tour, guests assembled for an award ceremony and presentation, during which the Mayor of Lewisham praised the hard work and determination of the school community, "Great things will happen here in the future."

Recognition was given to all the organisations and individuals involved in the project and there was an atmosphere of great celebration and gratitude. Ruth Holden, Headteacher of Bonus Pastor Catholic College thanked contributors, "Everybody who has been part of the process has gone above and beyond".

Finally, Ruth Holden was praised for her passion and devotion to the school by Pat Barber, Chair of Governors, "I couldn't be more proud of the head of our family, Ruth Holden"

The Grand Opening was a great success and showcased not only the fabulous new facilities but also highlighted the school's values of partnership, inclusion and community.

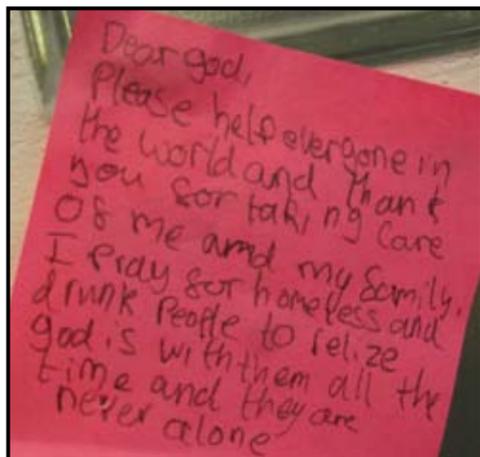


## PRAYER SPACE

During their special R.E. Week, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Kingston created a PRAYER SPACE in their school.

This was based on the Prayer Spaces in Schools model, the idea of establishing creative spaces in school for children to experience prayer in lots of different ways and forms.

The room was a place of welcome and peace for everyone who passed through it that week, with really positive feedback from pupils and staff. The children were encouraged to focus on five different themes: "Thank You", "Sorry", "The World", "Big Questions" and "Asking". If you give children the opportunity and space to communicate with God in a number of different ways, the results can be amazing!



## ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WINNERS!

On Tuesday 7th May, students from St Peter & St Paul Primary School in Orpington attended the Annual Environmental Awards Ceremony, held by the Chislehurst Society at Babington House School.



All classes from the school produced art and craft entries for the competition. Miss Loucaidou (year 4 class teacher) co-ordinated the pieces with the help of other teachers, staff, parents and children.

The judging panel were very impressed by the entries from St Peter & St Paul Primary School and gave the students an array of certificates and awards. Significant recognition was awarded to year 3 students Elyse Cosgrove, Hieronim Lecybyl and Jessica Kelly.

The fantastic entries included a Textiles Season Tree Collage by the infants, an Andy Goldsworthy Book (year 1), a Friendship Photographic Sapling (years 3 & 4), Clearing Sculpture (year 5) and a Creative Writing book about the flora and fauna of Chislehurst by year 6 students.

Maya Sihra, aged 8 said, "I was amazed to see the standard of all the work from other schools, but I was most proud of my school!" Miss Loucaidou agreed, "It has been really hard work but it has paid off, as our students enjoy entering competitions alongside other schools."

## The Chaplains Corner

The most rewarding part of being a Lay Chaplain is when someone tells you that you have made a difference for them personally. For me, it is our Residential Retreat Program that delivers the most wonderful comments.

*"I really felt closer to God."  
"I learned to pray in a way that worked for me."  
"I was going to give up on 6th Form, but having had the time out on retreat to think about the direction of my life, I m going to give it a go!"*

At La Retraite Catholic School in Lambeth, we offer every year group the opportunity of a Residential Retreat. Years 7, 8, & 9 attend our Diocesan Youth centre St Vincent's, in Whitstable and years 10, 11, & 12/13 travel to the De la Salle centre at Kintbury.

I personally find that the two serve those age ranges best, but know too that my daughter loved St Vincent's when she went with her school in years 10 and 11. I am often asked by those pupils who have not been before what a Retreat is all about and to be honest I find it difficult to explain. I steer them away from the idea that they will be on their knees in silent prayer for the whole time, a misconception surprisingly not that uncommon. Explaining the laughter the deep conversations and the imaginative expressions of faith is not so easy. One thing I always say is that there are often tears, most commonly at the end when they have to leave accompanied by begging requests to bring them back. What works so well is the fact that the retreats are run by other young people, who my students find easy to relate to and who are always so professional and enthusiastic. No mean feat when you have been running back to back school groups!

For the individual students there are often great benefits; whether it is time out to rethink what matters to them in their life, finding that it is ok and kind of cool to pray (especially in Rap), beginning to come to terms with a bereavement or meeting other young people who share your worries and concerns and your faith. Sometimes the benefits are surprising. This year I took one group where most of the students happened to come from one form group which had had some issues. On our return, staff commented on the change amongst them. Some time ago I took a group of students which included a young lady who was often teased and felt left out, on our return to school she had a whole group of new friends and became almost unrecognisable! There is also a great benefit for the staff, as with any other trip the students get to see you in a new light but on Retreat you share in something special which cannot fail but be carried back to school.

For me that is what makes the effort of risk assessments and weekends away from my family worthwhile, the fact that the retreat is not about those few days but about the changes it carries back into school afterwards. The Kintbury smiles in the corridors that never stop and the Whitstable hellos that keep on coming.

Whilst costs rise and money in schools becomes tighter, as a chaplain, I feel the need to fight for our retreats not to be considered optional extras but essentials, they are times that will change our young people's lives forever, days that will be remembered far into the future and experiences of faith that will keep our Church alive.

**SARAH DRIVER - LAY CHAPLAIN AT LA RETRAITE CATHOLIC GIRLS SCHOOL**

## BANKING ON GLORY



The children (pictured with Mrs McGuigan) are displaying some of their own coins that they designed.

From 3rd – 7th June 2013, St Thomas More Catholic Primary School in Bexleyheath celebrated National Money Week. This is a Government-run initiative to educate children on real-life money situations and the importance of using money carefully.

Every year group from Reception to Year 6 took part and the results were outstanding! Children in KS1 designed their own coins, became little "Lord Sugars" in their shops and budgeted for a family meal. In KS2, parents with banking backgrounds came in to help the children budget various holidays, and let them pretend to shop with fake credit cards! They then had to work out how to pay back all the money of course!

Mrs McGuigan, Deputy Head Teacher and organiser of Money Week said "Rather than holding the normal "Maths Week" this year, we decided to draw upon the wealth and breadth of knowledge from our pupil's families. The children really enjoyed the practical side of using money as well as budgeting for the future. We most definitely have one or two accountants in our classrooms!"

Ben (Year 2) said, "I really enjoyed Money Week and I can't wait until we get to do it again next year".

## YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS



On Monday 17th June, sixth form students of St Mary's Catholic High School in Croydon competed to win a grant of £3,000 for a chosen charity.

This final was arranged by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, an active Citizenship competition for secondary school students, through which they learn to tackle social problems, engage with their community and develop the skills needed for effective giving.

The students worked in groups to research and discuss the social needs of their local community and identify the local social service charity, which they believe is best placed to make a positive contribution. After building a positive relationship with representatives of the charity, each group developed a presentation to deliver at the final event.

The final was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Croydon, who sat alongside a judging panel at the front of the hall. Behind them, the room was filled with supportive students and staff of the school. Four groups delivered presentations, each promoting the work of one of the following charities: *The Arc*

*Caterham, The New Addington Good Samaritans, JAGS Foundation and Croydon Voluntary Association for the Blind* (also known as *Croydon Visual*). The presentations used a range of interesting techniques to engage the audience including the use of volunteers, props and emotive facts.

After a period of discussion, the panel came to a unanimous decision, announcing *Croydon Visual* as the winning charity. Yvonne Epale, panel member and Officer at the Education Commission explained the decision, "The group representing *Croydon Visual* gave an outstanding presentation. Using audience volunteers in a practical activity, they highlighted just how difficult everyday tasks can be for partially sighted people. What impressed me most was the maturity and generosity of the group, who made their own personal donation to the charity."

The Deputy Mayor of Croydon presented the group with a giant cheque for £3,000 from the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative, which they in turn presented the manager of *Croydon Visual*. The Deputy Mayor addressed all the groups who took part in the competition, "I would like to congratulate you all on a superb achievement!"



# 'I SERVE'

To celebrate Easter, St Michael's Catholic College in Bermondsey hosted the Sion Mission Team and the theme of the week was our responsibility to serve one another.

The logo and title played with the latest technological gadgetry – 'I serve' – to remind pupils and staff of the modernity, as well as the continuity, of the gospel instruction to love one another.

Every opportunity was grasped to learn about other people's faith journey, to pray or meditate together and to explore one's own need for spiritual refreshment.

A student writing about the experience for St Michael's in-house newsletter wrote, *The Sion Mission is a religious group whose aim is to bring young people closer to God through a series of religious activities and prayer. The introductory assembly started off with the Sion Mission team members introducing themselves, saying what they liked, and explaining the importance of God in their lives. One of the team members said something that definitely stood out to me, "God will always be there for us, and if we sin, we have the opportunity to be forgiven". Following the relaxed and spiritual atmosphere, the Sion Mission team performed a sign-language prayer to calm music, to show that actions speak louder than words. We then went into prayer so that we might receive the grace of God into our lives and spread the word of God.*

*was discussed) and Prayer4U. I chose to attend the sign-language workshop, because I knew that I would get something out of it. Something interesting I learnt was that we can pray in many different ways. We can pray by thinking spiritually, meditating and praying in sign language. At the Youth-Alpha launch party that took place after school later in the week, the Sion Mission team talked about the importance of Christianity and how Jesus said "I am the way and the truth and the life", which shows that he was truly the Son of God. We also attended a church service, led by the Sion Mission team at The Most Holy Trinity Church, Dockhead, and attended Mass in the school hall itself on the last day (in separate year groups). The experience was really uplifting, peaceful and relaxed.*

Kathleen Phillips of Year 8 continued in her article, *Each day of the week an assembly was held after morning registration, and every year group was able to participate. In addition to the assemblies, the Sion Mission team offered a series of activities throughout the week. These included 'Light-Fever' (an opportunity to experience the presence of Jesus while lighting a candle in the chapel), learning a sign-language prayer, Precious (a girls' only workshop where the topic of beauty*

*In summary, Kathleen concluded, I enjoyed the mission week because it gave me a chance to get closer to God.*

She was not alone; all the feedback we got from the week of activities was positive, and the key messages about our love of God, our neighbour, and ourselves as God's creation, permeated the College for weeks afterwards. It is now our task to bed this learning down and ensure that it bears further fruit in the months and years to come.

## A NEW GENERATION OF GREEN AMBASSADORS



The Green Ambassador website (part of the World Wildlife Foundation) ran a Young Reporter competition whereby pupils had to produce a report on green initiatives within their school.

Year 6 pupils from St John's Catholic Primary School in Rotherhithe, entered the competition and their entries, which consisted of written articles and video news reports, were chosen as the national winners! The prize was a mini ipad for the Green Team and a special prize for 2 pupils, whose video report was highly commended.

In addition, the school was named the 'School of the Term' in recognition of all the photographs and work that they uploaded to the Green Ambassador website. They were awarded a prize of £100 in honour of this. These prizes were awarded at a special assembly by a representative of the World Wildlife Foundation and Polly Panda.

The school is very proud of the pupils who are on the green team and continually look for new initiatives for the children in the school to take part in. The Green Ambassador website is a great platform on which to share this information.

For more information about Green Ambassadors, visit the WWF website: [www.wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk)

## SUPPORTING THE LOCAL PARISH

Pupils from St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School in Mitcham, who attend Mass at St Michael's Parish in Pollards Hill, were so inspired by the plight to raise funds for their church restoration fund, that they organised a cake sale in school and raised over £60.



Three girls in year 6, used their own initiative to think of ways in which they could help. Mr Feasey, Headteacher at St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, was so touched by their desire to help others, that he decided that, as a school, we could do more to help.

St Michael's has always been a great supporter of the school and has greatly contributed to making it the successful and thriving Catholic community it is today. When pupil numbers went down to only 82 children, St Michael's continued to encourage parents to send their children to St Thomas of Canterbury. Now we have over 600 pupils!



Mr Feasey saw this as the perfect opportunity to repay the favour and say thank you. He enrolled in the Manchester Marathon and asked the children to collect money to sponsor him. The children from the parish helped to distribute the collection boxes and have taken an active role in promoting his sponsorship. Last Friday the children gathered together to count the money.

On Sunday 28th April, Mr Feasey successfully ran 26 miles and raised over £2000 for St Michael's Church Restoration Fund.

## ONE WORLD



Pictured is Eva Schloss, UN Ambassador for Peace, Holocaust Survivor, author and step sister of Anne Frank. Eva visits St Anthony's Primary School in Dulwich each year as part of our One World experience which also includes a sponsored 'Walk for Africa' to raise

funds for our Zambian orphanage; our target this year is to beat the £7,000 raised last year! As part of One World, Year 5 children visit France for four days and Year 6 spend a week in Holland including a visit to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam.



## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

On Monday 24th June at 4pm in St Michaels church Chatham, Bishop John Hine presented good citizenship awards to youngsters from all schools across the Chatham Deanery.

The young people were nominated by their peers and schools for their commitment to helping others and their contribution to the school community.

The Catholic Schools Citizenship Awards were inaugurated in 2002 by Professor Lord Alton of Liverpool, a former pupil of the Brentwood Diocese and Director of The Foundation for Citizenship at Liverpool John Moore University. The awards have developed across the Diocese of Brentwood and we are proud to have launched the first awards for the Diocese of Southwark.

We look forward to seeing this celebration as an annual event, developing across the Southwark Catholic schools and led by the Chatham Deanery. The awards are part of a nationwide scheme designed to encourage children to think about being good citizens. Each year more and more schools have become involved in the venture.

**CATHERINE BURNETT - HEADTEACHER OF ST JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN CHATHAM**

## ST PHILOMENA'S STUDENT WINS 1ST PLACE SCIENCE AWARD



Theresita Joseph, head girl and sixth form student from St Philomena's Catholic High School in Carshalton, Surrey, has won first place in the national Science Challenge 2013.

Sponsored by the Imperial College London, these annual awards were launched in 2012 to search for writing talent among science students from the Imperial College, London and UK secondary schools.

The four judges, who are all alumni in their chosen field, set four questions, one for each specific category. One of the organisers, undergraduate Paul Beaumont from the Department of Mathematics, said: "This science essay competition values the importance of communicating science to the public - a skill that is crucial in a modern world, where scientists must appease the public for support, financially and ethically."

As a competition finalist, Theresita was invited to attend the Grand Final Award Ceremony hosted by one of the judges, Professor Lord Robert Winston, at the House of Lords in March. Theresita's essay entitled "Why are so many students being put off studying science at school?" not only won first place in her category but was also voted the overall winner for the schools competition. Theresita said that she felt incredibly blessed to win such a prestigious award and to have succeeded in such a tough competition and was looking forward to enjoying her prize, a trip to CERN in Switzerland and £500 cash.

Miss Noone, Headteacher at St Philomena's School, expressed how delighted she was at Theresita's achievement "It is such a phenomenal award and a testament to the hard work and natural talent that Theresita possesses. It was also incredibly insightful to read from a student perspective why science may not be a chosen subject of study and what we, as school leaders, can do to address this issue especially among girls."



## A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH!

The proud Year 5 children of St Joseph's Primary in Southwark once again proved that they are a force to be reckoned with both in the classroom and on the field. Having trained through wind, rain and snow on the all-weather pitch they prepared themselves for the Southwark 4th Annual Rugby Tournament, held on the 30th April. Expectations were high from within their own school and further afield. The school had a reputation for harnessing the talent of true champions, having won the tournament once and been runners-up in tight and disputed finals twice.

The weather was exceptional and the children displayed rugby of the highest standard whilst always being courteous and gracious to the other teams. They played 7. They won 7. It was a tight final with Charles Dickens of Borough who were worthy opponents. Another trophy has been added to the cabinet - 4 Years, 4 trophies!

Headteacher Chris Wilcocks stated, "The achievement of these children is remarkable and shows what determination and team work can produce. I look forward to the school continuing this run of form into a fifth year."

## CRIME BUSTERS!



The children in Year 6 of St Augustine's Catholic Primary School in Hythe have just solved the crime of the century!!!

In this crime, the school's site manager (Mr Johnson) was struck with a green vase behind his head. This was not the only sinister crime committed; the perpetrator also stole the school's money. It was up to year six to bring the criminal to justice.

Firstly, year 6 searched the crime scene (school) for clues. They found the broken vase with blood stains along with finger prints, footprints, a handbag belonging to their head teacher and many more clues.

Once, they had collected the clues, they examined them to find many finger prints and hair samples that made it easy for them to work out who it was that had committed this horrible crime.

Next, they started to gather up the evidence from each suspect, which meant taking hair and fingerprint samples. Some suspects refused to give some of their D.N.A. After this, they checked for any similarities between the samples from the suspects and the evidence found. They also matched the footprint, the lipstick and a handwriting sample with one particular suspect. From this, the amazing crime solvers concluded that their head teacher (Mrs Parnell) had committed the crime.

On the day of the trial, year 6 gathered in court (their classroom) to see if Mrs Parnell was guilty or not guilty. Every suspect was called to the stand and some very interesting evidence and rule breaking was discovered! In the end, Mrs Parnell was faced with so much evidence against her that she decided to plead guilty of violence and theft.

The judge (Megan 6!) sentenced her to four years in jail! WELL DONE YR 6!

**Please note, this is a fictitious crime; Mr Johnson was not injured in the writing of this story and Mrs Parnell is not serving time!**

# LITTLE PEACE

One day a little girl called Georgina learned of a competition to name the children's section of a new newspaper.

The newspaper is called *CathCom Reach* and they needed to think of an original name for the section devoted to the younger reader.

After some deliberations it was decided by the editorial staff that the children of the Dioceses should have the opportunity to think of their own title! And so the search began...

Georgina is in Year 2 at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Beckenham and when she heard of the competition from her Mum she decided to design a name and logo. She practised her design carefully until she was happy with the final draft and when she realised what it reminded her of, she was able to give it a name. Her logo was the shape of a small part of a jig-saw and Georgina said, "I am happy with my logo and I want to call it 'Little Peace' because it was the shape of a little piece of jig-saw."

Georgina sent her design to the newspaper and after a while she heard from Mr Layton (editor of *CathCom Reach*) that she had won the competition. At the Good Shepherd Liturgy at Aylesford Georgina was presented with her prize, some beautiful books, by Mr Layton in front of Archbishop Peter Smith and hundreds of children. Georgina whispered, "Thank you, this is one of my best days ever."



Back at school our Headteacher, Mrs Vassallo, told everyone about the great day at Aylesford and Georgina in the *Friday Flyer*. When asked by her teachers how she felt about her design being chosen, Georgina very humbly replied, "I was quite pleased that my Little Peace won."

Mr Layton said, "We had so many wonderful ideas to name our children's paper from children all over the country, however, the idea of Little Peace with a jigsaw piece was both clever and full of meaning. We have already had letters from children asking to include their articles in "Little Peace", so it is clear that people have taken to the name already. It was a delight to meet Georgina and make the award at Aylesford."

Everyone at St. Mary's and the whole Glynn family are very proud of Georgina.

## UNDER 11s CHAMPIONS!



Congratulations to the football team at Corpus Christi school in New Malden, Surrey – who became Premier League Schools Tournament Under 11 Champions again at Anfield on 9th May 2013.

Corpus Christi, representing Fulham, were back to defend the title they won last year. Winning all four matches in their group they had scored 18 goals and conceded none.

In the semi final they faced the school who had won the title two years ago, who also had a 100% record in the group stage. Corpus Christi blew them away with a 3-0 win to advance to the final.

In the final, the team were stunned within five seconds of the kick-off as the opposition scored a goal! They recovered and began to dominate but it was not until the last five minutes that the boys turned it around - scoring 2 goals in quick succession to win the trophy.

"Once the second goal went in I knew we had won," said Jordan, the team captain. "It feels better than last year, especially with the new trophy, which looks cool. We had more experience. I was just excited."

Mr M, the team coach, said "This year was harder because of the expectation after winning last year, especially having brought up so many supporters today. The early goal was a shock to the system, especially in a 10-minute game. But we got one and thankfully the second followed. This has put the school on the map and gets more people involved in football, which is what it is all about."

The rest of the week consisted of a visit to the Archaeological Museum of Naples, a hike up Mount Vesuvius, and tours of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

As a final stop – en route to the airport – we visited the Villa Oplontis. Oplontis is popularly believed to be the villa built by the Emperor Nero as a wedding present for his second wife, Poppea, and it proved a final, fascinating stop before we boarded our flight and returned to a – less sunny – London!

# OUTSTANDING IN EVERY CATEGORY



Staff and students at St Elphege's SRC Infant School in Wallington are celebrating after achieving outstanding in their recent Ofsted inspection. This rating is the highest possible grade from Ofsted.

Ofsted breaks down its inspections into five categories – overall effectiveness, achievement of pupils, quality of teaching, behaviour and safety of pupils and leadership and management – the school was ranked as outstanding in each category.

Headteacher Frances Hawkes said: "Everyone is delighted with this report which is a tribute to the hard work of staff, children, governors and parents. We ensure that the curriculum meets the needs of our children and we pride ourselves on being a very welcoming community in which children can thrive."

The voluntary-aided school in Mollison Drive, Wallington, has 236 boys and girls between the ages of three and seven years of age.

Ofsted picked out the following for particular praise:

- Lessons are very carefully planned and delivered to challenge pupils of all ability.
- The caring and supporting ethos of the school ensures that pupils know they are well valued and safe at school.
- Social, moral, spiritual and cultural opportunities are a great strength of the school. The school's very strong Catholic ethos creates a strong feeling of community. It also helps pupils understand right from wrong and has a very positive impact on their behaviour. The school provides many opportunities, including the involvement of parents, for pupils to increase their cultural and spiritual understanding.
- High quality support is in place to help children with English as an additional language, disabilities or special educational needs..... As a result, they achieve very well.

Cllr Dave Callaghan, Chair of Sutton's Children, Family and Education Committee, said, "I would like to congratulate governors, staff, parents and, of course, the children, for the hard work they have put in and the excellent results they've achieved."



## GREASE IS THE WORD...

Or is it determination? Commitment? Perseverance? Passion? Team-work? At St Catherine's Catholic School in Bexleyheath, the cast for the musical *Grease* definitely demonstrated these attributes throughout the long process of putting on a whole school musical. It is the fifth whole school musical at St Catherine's and over the last five years the students and staff are learning and improving as each year passes.

The turnout for the auditions was immense and had to be run over three days. The students were 100% committed from the start and were professional throughout. The show was completely run and controlled by the students of St Catherine's, from the actors on stage, through to the lighting and sound operation. It pretty much sold out every night and the students should be really proud of what they have achieved.

## CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF FAITH

The school and parish of St Augustine's in Lewisham had a wonderful day at Aylesford Priory on Friday 19 April.

This was an opportunity to meet together as a community to celebrate the Year of Faith and to reaffirm our dedication to the Catholic Faith. The Mass was celebrated by Vicar General, Mgr Matthew Dickens, Father Mark and Deacon Jeffrey, with the children and parishioners taking part through the readings, prayer and singing.

We were fortunate with the weather and all met together to share our lunch on the green. The children had a marvelous time enjoying the space by playing football, skipping and "making friends with the ducks". All too soon it was time to pack up but not before our amazing drummers gave a rousing performance before a delighted audience.

## ST RICHARDS BECOMES FIRST FAIRTRADE SCHOOL IN THE AREA

St Richard's Catholic School in Dover have been awarded Fairtrade Status. Pupils at St Richard's have been working hard over the past twelve months to promote Fairtrade throughout the school and its wider community.

Their hard work has paid off this week when St Richard's received national recognition from the Fairtrade Foundation. Headteacher Jill Chapman said, "We are extremely proud to be the first school in the Dover District Area to become a Fairtrade School. Staff and pupils have worked hard to achieve this."

Pupils are planning a tag day when they will wear Fairtrade colours and eat Fairtrade treats to celebrate! St Richards has held numerous events throughout the year to promote the vast array of Fairtrade products available – including the launch of the very popular Friday Fairtrade Tuck Shop, and to highlight the importance of the Foundation's work, every class has learnt about the countries and lives of the farmers supported by Fairtrade.



The distinctive Fairtrade Mark identifies products that farmers in the developing world have been paid a fair price for - helping them to support their families and invest in a better future.

Pupils have learnt how they can improve the lives of others and make a difference to the world we live in. Pupils, working with the support of Mrs Angela Martin, science teacher, said they were delighted to become a Fairtrade School as it shows they care about people other than themselves and want to help the world become a better place.

# EAST MEETS WEST



Richard Challoner School in New Malden was proud to host an information morning recently for a group of Korean teachers visiting England.

Other subjects of interest discussed were the school's recent award as a 'Top 100' school in the country, the Grade 1/Outstanding award given recently by the Diocese, and the school's rigorous standards of behaviour.

Around thirty teachers who are working towards Headship positions came to study the UK state school system. They were particularly interested in how schools are funded by the Government or Local Authority, what parents have to contribute and lines of accountability. Headteacher, Tom Cahill, took them on a tour around the school and they were very interested in the benefits of the school's newest facilities, including an impressive Learning Resource Centre and a Mezzanine Lounge in which they enjoyed English refreshments.

The Korean delegates were very appreciative of the opportunity see the school workings and made a contribution to the school. Delegates had been particularly looking forward to visiting Richard Challoner given that New Malden has the highest concentration of Koreans outside of Korea.

## URGING THE PRIME MINISTER TO TACKLE GLOBAL HUNGER



Four children and two staff from St Fidelis Catholic Primary School in Erith presented David Cameron with specially crafted plates at 10 Downing Street, calling on him to tackle the global hunger crisis, ahead of the G8 summit.

David Walliams (Comedian and *Britain's Got Talent* judge) joined the children in support of the 'Enough Food for Everyone IF' campaign to show the Prime Minister that global hunger is responsible for almost half of all child deaths each year. The event received national news coverage with a feature on *ITV News at Ten*.

St Fidelis student Joseph Donnelly, aged 11 said: "If we tell enough people about the campaign and get their support we may be able to stop people in the world dying from hunger. There is enough food in the world for everyone. Although we do lots in school to help others, we need the Prime Minister to convince other countries to help us make the big changes needed."

Headteacher Mark Hannon added, "I am so proud of the children and staff in our school for really taking this initiative forward and trying to make a difference in the world. It was a great honour for a few of them to be able to attend Downing Street this week to discuss their concerns and ideas. St Fidelis' are holders of the Unicef Rights Respecting Schools Award – which helps us focus on the needs of children all over the world – not just in our immediate area; something that allows us to live out our school values of compassion, challenge and excellence."

## CLASSICS TRIP TO ITALY



Since 2009, the students at Bishop Thomas Grant School have had the opportunity to study Latin and Greek. Under the outstanding leadership of Dr Sini Spencer we have developed a thriving Classics Department. It is expected that at least 40 students each year will study Latin to GCSE with a smaller number continuing to study it at A Level. We hope that some of our students may wish to go on and study Classics at University.

As part of our Classics provision at the School, we now have an annual Classics trip. The details of our recent 2013 trip are provided below in the words of one of our students:

*With great anticipation, we started our trip to Rome on a beautiful sunny afternoon with a visit to The Venerable English College – which was founded over 650 years ago. It was here that Bishop Thomas Grant, after whom our school is named, died and he was visited on his death-bed by Blessed Pope Pius IX during the First Vatican Council. Following this initial visit, in the afternoon we walked around the city and visited, amongst other sites, the Pantheon and the beautiful Trevi Fountain with its Baroque sculptures, standing more than 26m high!*

*The second day, again blessed with wonderful Mediterranean weather, was one of the highlights of the whole trip. We began at the Vatican where we were very fortunate to have a guided tour by one of the Sisters of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Divine Revelation. We followed an evocative itinerary of Art and Faith in three phases: "Sculpted Faith" in the Museo Pio Cristiano, "Painted Faith" in the famous Sistine Chapel (with the amazing ceiling painting of Michelangelo's 'Last Judgement'), and "Professed Faith" in Saint Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon we visited the Colosseum which is probably the most impressive building of the Roman Empire. Originally known as the Flavian Amphitheatre, it was the largest building of its era. The monumental structure has fallen into ruin, but even today it is an imposing and beautiful sight. After almost 7 hours of sightseeing, some decided to go back to the hotel but more than half of the group wanted more! So we continued on to the Forum and the Palatine Hill, the latter being one of the most ancient parts of the city on the central of the "Seven hills" of Rome.*

## ST BERNADETTE'S CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL OPENS IT'S DOORS FOR PARENTS LEARNING ENGLISH

**SOME OF THE PARENTS AT ST BERNADETTE CATHOLIC JUNIOR SCHOOL IN CLAPHAM, HAVE RECENTLY GONE BACK TO THE CLASSROOM AND BECOME STUDENTS THEMSELVES...**

Since January, the school has been working with EfA London to provide English classes for parents who speak other languages. EfA London is an organisation that provides ESOL classes with the aim of empowering communities across London. Recognising the needs of different cultures, St Bernadette School offers the opportunity for all parents to improve their linguistic skills and they have been able to improve their speaking, reading and writing as well as build their confidence. Beatriz Ango, a student on the course said, "these classes are very helpful for me because I'm more comfortable speaking with people and now I try to make conversation."

The weekly classes are held at a convenient time for parents and do not interfere with their obligations or work schedules. Each class is different and the parents have explored a variety of topics including, giving presentations about their lives, making appointments, speaking to teachers at parent's evening, taking action in the local community and discussions on racism and discrimination.

The teacher, Roseena Hussain, said "The enthusiasm and energy the students bring to the classroom makes for an engaging learning environment and being able to witness their growth in confidence has been inspiring."

The course was initially 12 weeks long and it was so successful that it has continued. Llanina Gaviláñez said "My thanks go to St Bernadette School for this opportunity." The



parents have made excellent progress and actually co-authored this article in one of the classes. At the end of the year their hard work will be celebrated with a graduation ceremony.

The English class is an example of how schools can engage with parents and help build links between different communities. Sebastien Chapleau, Senior Leader at St Bernadette School, and who coordinates the classes said "This initiative is a perfect way for the school to celebrate its amazing diversity, but also remember what the Scriptures teach us when we read 'I was a stranger, and you made me welcome.' (Matthew 25:35)"

For more information about EfA London, contact Sebastien Chapleau at: [schapleau@stbernadette.co.uk](mailto:schapleau@stbernadette.co.uk) or visit the EfA London website at: [www.efalondon.org](http://www.efalondon.org)



### AN INVITATION TO SADLER'S WELLS!

Lucky year 10 pupils at Notre Dame LRC School in Southwark spent last half term working with Rosie Chesson from the dance company 'Step Into Dance' to create a street dance piece. The piece, entitled 'House Party', was performed at a borough event at Evelyn Grace Academy along with eleven other schools from the area.

'House party' was a combination of short dances which showcase different styles of street dance from locking and popping to wacking.

Last week we found out that our pupils are among the best dance pieces selected from all the borough events and the girls have been given the great opportunity to now perform at Sadler's Wells Theatre on July 14th as part of 'Step Live'.

We congratulate our dancers and would like to say "Break a leg!"

## MAKE CAKES, NOT WAR!



Year 9 pupils from La Retraite Catholic Girls' School in Clapham Park, raised £134.17 for Aegis, a 'Stop Genocide' organization which educates and informs people about how to fight discrimination. The girls worked hard planning and running a very successful bake sale. Find out more at: [www.aegisstudents.org](http://www.aegisstudents.org)

### EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS



A group of staff and students from all three Christ the King Sixth Form College sites were recently commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist by Bishop Patrick Lynch at the college's Lewisham site.

They are: Mrs Patricia Kilgallon, Mrs Teresa O'Donnell, Miss Camilla McLaughlin, Mr Laurence Jasper, Miss Anna Sparkes, Miss Dami Ogunshola, Miss Sandra Dyke, Miss Honey Kilaso-Adelaja.



## VIRGO FIDELIS PRESENT SISTER ACT THE MUSICAL

### AN UPDATE FROM THE 'MOTHER SUPERIOR':

*Sister Act* is the first production of a musical for the school in many years, so we are all very excited!

The cast of *Sister Act* have been working really hard since auditions way back in September. Over 80 pupils auditioned or offered to help and many of these received roles in the production. Some are helping behind the scenes with responsibility for props and costumes. Others are designing the programme and will be selling tickets. The staff have also been giving tremendous support in a range of areas.

There are 24 'Sisters' in the cast and 14 main characters. The performances are scheduled to take place next month in Fidelis Church. Last month there was a photo shoot and it was fun to see 24 pupils running around in their habits!

I play the role of Mother Superior and I have almost learnt my lines. The Mother Superior is a selfless, humble character with

an edge to her. She disapproves of Christy joining the convent as she is a nightclub singer and not the sort to be wearing a habit! The two of them have a tempestuous relationship, as both are very strong characters.

Performing in the church will give us a lot of space - especially at the end of the play when the 'Sisters' are running around and being chased by the baddies! The 'Sisters' have been rehearsing their singing once a week and they are sounding good. They also have to sing badly at times which is fun!

The production is directed by two members of staff - Miss Hume, Director of Music, and Miss Sneary, Acting Head of English, and together they have helped pupils to overcome their stage fright and generally become more confident on stage.

I have enjoyed the rehearsals for this production and look forward to the end result!

## A PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES



On Easter Sunday, thirty one Year 12 pupils set off on the annual HCPT pilgrimage to Lourdes. This is a wonderful way for the girls to reflect on, and deepen, their own faith. They also to help in the family groups who take children and young people with particular needs or disabilities to Lourdes for a pilgrimage and a holiday. The group leaders were grateful for the extra help and commented on the maturity and enthusiasm of the Coloma girls as they helped in their group, or who entertained the children with games, singing and face-painting. A number of girls spent the day at Hosanna House face painting, or providing help and refreshments for the many visitors to the house that day.

On Wednesday evening the Coloma group organised and led a time of reflection during a service that was attended by over 300 hundred young helpers. It was very gratifying to see so many young helpers come together to reflect on what their faith means to them during this Year of Faith. The service brought together the HCPT theme for this year 'We are all God's hands', and the Lourdes theme of the five ways in which Lourdes helps pilgrims to go through the Door of Faith. There were many very positive comments received about this especially from Philip Sparke, the HCPT Chief Executive, and Caroline Bennett, the Pilgrimage Director, who described the service as "Very moving, one of the highlights of the week," and as "a wonderful opportunity for reflection, an oasis in a very busy week."

The highlight of the week was the Trust Mass, held in the underground basilica; this stark, grey building burst into life with the rainbow of colour of the group sweatshirts and the rousing singing during the Mass. The girls also participated in group or regional Masses, read prayers and reflections during the Torchlight procession on Tuesday night, sang in choirs and some went into the Baths.

Although a very wet week, the rain did not dampen the enthusiasm or energy of the girls. Many described their experiences as "life-changing", and "the best week of their lives". Quite a number have been invited back by the family groups they helped to be helpers on future pilgrimages. Grateful thanks go to Mrs Horsman who organised the pilgrimage, and to Mrs Geoghegan and Mrs Collins who also accompanied the girls.

### RECORD 6TH CHAMPIONSHIP WIN FOR ST ELPHEGE'S ATHLETES

On Monday 10th June, the athletics team in years 3-6 from St Elphege's School, Wallington, recorded its sixth consecutive championship win in the annual borough athletics event held at Sutton's David Weir Sports Stadium.

The team of 35 athletes, aged 8-11, competed against fourteen other local schools from the Carshalton, Beddington and Wallington catchment areas and narrowly defeated their strongest rivals, Holy Trinity School, by a margin of 89 points to 87. In a thrilling competition, the championship was settled on the outcome of the final race of the afternoon, the year 6 boys relay, which St Elphege's won by a handsome margin.

The trophies were presented by Jenny Archer, Sports Coach of the Year 2012, and coach to local hero David Weir.



## SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

Ursuline High School in Wimbledon, recently took part in the *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge*. This is the world's largest youth speaking event which is run by *The Speakers Trust* and funded by the *Jack Petchey Foundation* who have worked with over 1000 schools and voluntary organisations in the UK.

The programme aims to help people of all ages and abilities to have the skills, confidence and desire to speak in public. Being an effective and confident communicator is an essential skill for success which benefits students as they progress through

Students are coached by *Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge* trainers and learn the skills and techniques for public speaking, practising these during the interactive workshops. They go on to compete in the Speak Out Challenge competition within school and the top two speakers are selected to represent the school at the Regional Finals.

This year Ursuline's Nasyah Bandoth, fought off very fierce competition from other schools to gain third place at the Regional Finals event which were held at Ursuline High School, Wimbledon this year.



### A COMMUNION OF SAINTS

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Bromley recently held an R.E. and Art week. The week focused on the communion of saints and each teacher chose a saint for their class to focus on. Each class took time to research their saint and through their writing and art work they demonstrated all that they had learnt about their saint by the end of the week. By the end of the week, the school had some lovely classroom displays, stained glass windows and a collection of prayers to provide an additional focus for the school's newly created prayer area.

Throughout the week the house captains took turns to lead the morning assembly and gave short talks on each of our 4 house saints, St John Fisher, St Edmund Campion, St Thomas More and St Margaret Clitherow. The week ended with a mass celebrated by Fr Tom McHugh, our parish priest, as an extra celebration for all the children that have made their First Holy Communion. The children looked lovely in their outfits and many of the parents were able to attend and join in the reception that followed.

## THE FAITH COMES TO THANET

On Thursday 23rd May and Friday 24th May Years 2, 3 and 4 of St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School in Ramsgate put on a performance of *The Faith Comes To Thanet*. The show was organised by Father Marcus Holden (the school's parish priest) as part of the Celebration Week for local Saint Augustine. The audience consisted of parents, members of the local parish and visitors to Ramsgate.



The children of St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School told the story of the Romans taking Anglo Saxons to Rome as slaves and of Pope Gregory The Great in 595AD seeing these blonde headed slaves and saying that these "are not angles, but angels!" The Pope then sent Saint Augustine (a Benedictine Monk) to England. Landing on The Isle of Thanet, he met King Ethelbert, who was a pagan and Queen Bertha, who was already a Christian. St. Augustine was allowed to set up a church in Canterbury and eventually baptised King Ethelbert and began bringing his missionary work to England.

The play was also filmed in three parts; Year 2 acted out the scene of the Pope seeing the slaves, Year 3 played the missionary monks on their journey from Italy to Thanet and Year 4 showed the monks in Thanet meeting King Ethelbert and Queen Bertha, then teaching the locals to read and write.

The children received help from Chatham House Grammar School in making DVDs of the play and they have been asked to send a copy to Pope Francis, The Queen and our Archbishop Peter Smith.

Father Marcus thanked the staff and children, "On behalf of the parish I would like to thank you all for an amazing production of *The Faith Comes To Thanet*. The parishioners are still talking about it and it was one of the highlights for me during St Augustine's Week."

Everyone in the school helped: Mr Dave Fry (the school caretaker) with painting the marvellous backdrops; Mr Bishop (Year 3 teacher) with the hymns and music; the parents with costumes and helping the children to remember their lines and Mrs Butchard-Thursten (Deputy Headteacher) with writing and directing. David Turner, Chair of the Governors, said he was delighted in the way the school supported the local parish initiatives about the Catholic Year of Faith. John Letts (Headteacher) said "I am immensely proud of the children and the way they enjoyed the drama of their religious education lessons and entertaining the general public. The children are very, very excited about the DVD and keep coming to me with a new list of people to send it to".

## GOD HAS FAITH IN ME ANNUAL GOOD SHEPHERD LITURGY

On Wednesday, 22nd May I had the privilege of once more attending the annual Good Shepherd liturgy celebration at Aylesford. This celebration was attended by primary children from across the diocese, during which they presented their Lenten collections to Archbishop Peter Smith for the *Cabrini Children's Society*.

The rain held off as children sang 'I the Lord of snow and rain' and 'Rise & shine' during a procession with their colourful school banners and collections. There were moments of quiet reflection and a sense of peace pervaded as children were invited to reflect upon the presence of the Spirit within them.

This was a truly joyful occasion reflecting the rich diversity of talents within our schools for singing, dancing, reading and music.  
**CHRISTINE EDWARDS - PRIMARY SCHOOLS ADVISER**



**MIA AND KELE-ROSE, YEAR 6 STUDENTS AT ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IN GREENWICH SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE EVENT...**

Year 3 and some members of year 6 recently went to Aylesford to celebrate 125 Years of Cabrini-The Catholic Children's Society. Archbishop Peter Smith introduced the service with a prayer about how important it is to be a good friend and have friends. He then invited St Mary's Catholic primary school to sing a song called 'I Believe'.

After a few more performances it was finally our turn. We sang 'You Raise Me Up' and a few members of year 3 danced while everyone else sang. After that we then sang 'Make me a Channel of your Peace' with the other schools. It was a wonderful experience to get to know other children from other schools.

We had lunch next to the pond and afterwards played in a field nearby, the boys were playing football while the girls were giving each other piggy backs. We had a brilliant time! Unfortunately the weather was not as nice as last year but we had such fun being together as a community.

## YOUNG ENTERPRISE, START SOMETHING

A group of Year 10 students from St Catherine's Catholic School in Bexleyheath, recently took part in the Young Enterprise competition. The students have been preparing for several months, ensuring that they apply their business and enterprise skills to the project. "SmoothStart" have planned meticulously, writing a detailed director's report about the company which would provide a healthy snacks service.

The final competition day involved a trip to London Docklands to the prestigious BP Tower. They had to present their idea to judges and run a stall that provided information on their product. This is the first year that St Catherine's has had a Young Enterprise team studying Business Studies at GCSE. The subject knowledge and enterprise skills have helped them approach the project with a greater array of entrepreneurial techniques and it has offered the perfect opportunity to put theory into practice. The team received the award for Best Stand and Judge Interview on the day. This meant that not only was their product display the most effective, but their answers to questions posed by industry professionals were the most eloquent and business-like.

## LA RETRAITE'S RISING FASHION STAR



On Monday 3rd June, in front of a packed crowd at Graduate Fashion Week, Nicola Jones from George announced the winner of the Global Traveller Competition for the Fashion Futures 2013 Programme.

The programme which is sponsored by George at Asda in partnership with FAD (Fashion Awareness Direct) set a very special customising challenge for FAD teens. Looking to the rich and diverse cultures of the world, the 'Global Traveller' competition asked Fashion Futures students to design and create a customised garment to be displayed on the George sponsorship stand at Graduate Fashion Week.

The delighted FAD winner was Tihara, aged 16, from La Retraite School in Lambeth and she was presented with an engraved glass star award and George vouchers for her Hawaii inspired outfit. She was one of the three finalists to have the honour of seeing their work displayed at the event.

In addition, all three of the FAD finalists were given two tickets to attend the 'Best of Graduate Fashion Week' show on the final day, where they got to see the top 25 graduate collections from the week on the catwalk.

Tihara has also been invited by her business mentors, Business LaunchPad to the House of Lords for a special celebratory lunch.

## ONCE AN URSULINE GIRL... ALWAYS AN URSULINE GIRL



On Wednesday 8th May, St Ursula's Convent School in Greenwich held a special prize giving for Year 11 followed by some short presentations to mark their passing through at the school.

It was a very emotional prize giving with some fantastic musical performances from the girls. The achievement celebration was then followed by mass in Our Ladye Star of the Sea.

It was wonderful to have Bishop Pat Lynch officiate our service along with Father Chris Connor from St Saviours, who is also on the governing body. During the service Bishop Pat reminded the girls that they are modern day disciples and how important it is for them to continue to live out and spread Christ's message.

### At the end of the service the girls received three momentums:

- An Ursuline Badge to remind them that "Once an Ursuline Girl, always an Ursuline Girl".

- A prayer and blessing card from our Ursuline Sisters to remind them that St Angela, our foundress, was instrumental in educating young women throughout the world and that the girls continue to live her vision.

- A book mark with our Ursuline Pledge to remind them about how we should live out our lives in the spirit of St Angela.

There were many tears shed from students and staff. I hope the girls will treasure their time here at the school and I hope they leave with fond memories.

**BY CIARA WARNOCK - HEADTEACHER**

## CHAMPIONS DAY

St Columba's Catholic Boys' School in Bexleyheath has been involved in the PGL Manchester United Soccer Schools (MUSS) weekends since their inception a couple of years ago. To date, we have attended a staff taster course and taken three groups of students to PGL Liddington to participate in the weekend.

The main attractions for our school are the excellent coaching delivered by the MUSS coaches and the communication and leadership skills which are promoted by the PGL adventure activities. The affordable cost of the trip is vital for us in order to make the trip accessible for all our students.

Following our last trip in March this year, we were delighted to hear that our school had been selected to attend 'Champions Day' at Old Trafford. Our boys were recognised by the MUSS coaches as displaying excellent attitude, effort and behaviour, so 12 lucky students accompanied by two lucky members of staff had the opportunity to visit Old Trafford for the day.

On arrival the boys were shown to the suite overlooking the pitch at Old Trafford. They quickly noticed that 'St Columba's Catholic Boys' School' was being projected around the stadium on the advertising boards. The boys were then given a full MUSS kit to keep, before heading down to the changing rooms. When the time came, the teams lined up in the tunnel and entered the pitch to the sound of the Champions League anthem. Our boys, paired with another school, played a match, with the official stadium announcer giving the goal scorers' names on the tannoy system.



After the match, the boys got the chance to meet and talk to ex-Manchester United and England captain Brian Robson, who answered their questions and had photos taken with all who wanted them.

After lunch we visited the training ground at Carrington where the boys participated in a training session in the indoor school used by the Manchester United Academy. Two of our students won awards for their performance in the training session and the match earlier. The day concluded with a return to Old Trafford for a behind-the-scenes tour which the boys found really interesting.

After a fun-filled, action-packed day, the boys were left with memories of an unforgettable, once-in-a-lifetime experience. To be able to go back home to their friends and tell them about their match on the pitch at Old Trafford is really the stuff dreams are made of. As the member of staff responsible for arranging the MUSS weekends, it was a very proud moment for me and a great testament to our students who have attended over the past two years.

Finally, a massive thank you from St Columba's to MUSS and PGL for their part in giving our boys such a fantastic opportunity. Bring on the next trip!

**MR ROB DONNELLY  
ST COLUMBA'S CATHOLIC BOYS' SCHOOL**



## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

April 5th 2013 is a date in the Bonus Pastor calendar to remember. Twenty seven pilgrims - students, parents and teachers made their way to the Holy Land.

For this pilgrimage, the College adopted two charities. The school is now twinned with the Latin Patriarchate School in Beit Sahour near Bethlehem - a Catholic school catering for both Christians and Muslims. The group received a very warm welcome from the Headteacher, staff and students, and were embraced into an extremely welcoming atmosphere.

Senior students delivered an informative presentation on the school and their life in Palestine, in perfect English. It was clear from this and after visiting different classes, that the English language was high on their agenda. Students from the age of 4 were eagerly learning to speak English.

Whilst the school building was very nice and their chapel big and beautiful, it was obvious that they lacked resources in all classes and subjects. You can therefore imagine how joyful and thankful they were to receive the books, basic equipment and sweets that the group from Bonus Pastor brought for them.

The second charity was the orphanage in Bethlehem run by the Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul. A place where abandoned babies are looked after and mothers who had been rejected by their families are given shelter. The stories told there were heart rending, and in many cases almost unbelievable. The pilgrims spent time playing with the children who were mesmerised by the bubbles that the group had brought along. The orphanage is located in a beautifully kept building, however many children wore blank expressions and reached out to grasp any morsel of love that came their way. This orphanage will be the recipient of the school's International Charity work next Lent. The next visit is scheduled for 2015. It was an inspiring visit and one that will never be forgotten.

## 始まってください

On 18th June, the Gifted and Talented department of St Ursula's Convent School in Greenwich, took 10 girls from years 7 and 8 (all Gifted linguists) to a Japanese Taster Day at SOAS, part of the University of London.

On arrival, they met the three other schools that were taking part, and had a Anime and Manga workshop, which culminated in everyone drawing their own Pokemon characters!

After lunch (which wasn't sushi but a very Western diet of sandwiches and delicious, homemade cakes) they split into two groups. Our group had a Japanese language taster, and learned how to introduce themselves...

始まってください。 - ha ji meh ma shi te - begin (you must say this before introducing yourself for the first time)

私の名前はprindivilleです。 - prindiville des - my name is Mrs Prindiville

あなたの名前であるもの。 - do zo yo ro shi ku - what is your name?

The final activity was a storytelling workshop. The day was extremely enjoyable and the girls came away with new language skills and an enthusiasm to study Japanese!

## RAMSGATE SKATEPARK PROJECT



The School Council and the children of St Ethelbert's Catholic Primary School in Ramsgate held an own clothes day to raise money to support Ramsgate Skatepark Project.

The children are aware of the lack of facilities for children aged 7 to 16 years old. The pupils want to support a petition to the Borough council.

The space has already been approved, and there is already money allocated for this. Ramsgate Skatepark Project are raising funds for a second phase build, as what the council are able to provide will not be a comprehensive park suitable for all ages and abilities. With the additional funds that the school has raised they hope to enhance the facilities proposed by TDC, and that the skatepark will have room for the users to improve and build upon their skills.

Headteacher John Letts, presented a cheque of nearly £100 to Harry, Claudia and Annabel, on behalf of all the pupils. Harry also bought in cakes to sell to all the staff to help raise extra money!

The school governors feel that it is important that the children are supported in their views and needs. The children at St Ethelbert's certainly made their voice heard.

**BY JOHN LETTS - HEADTEACHER OF ST  
ETHELBERT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## A PHENOMENAL FUNDRAISING ACHIEVEMENT



At Philomena's Catholic High School for Girls (Carshalton, Surrey), we believe in living our faith through prayer and action. This has never been more relevant than with our amazing fund raising efforts in this academic year, by reaching a phenomenal charity fund raising total of just over £18,000 to date.

Through the efforts, hard work and prayers of the students, staff, parents (led by the Parents Association) we have managed to raise funds for all the charities that St Philomena's support but this year, one charity in particular stands out as being particularly close to our hearts.

In February this year, one of our Sixth Form students, Chloe Drury, tragically died of cancer, at just 18 years old. Chloe was diagnosed with Ewing Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, when she was 15 years old and she fought this devastating illness so very bravely for three years. Chloe was an absolute inspiration to all of those who were privileged to know her. Out of tragedy comes hope and all her friends at St Philomena's, staff and students alike, set about to try and help by raising funds for the Royal Marsden Hospital

A charity balloon release was arranged where the Sixth Formers gathered to release balloons in Chloe's memory with prayers led by the school's Chaplain, Deacon Errol. We also did a charity walk around Carshalton Park where staff and students dressed in pink. With the JustGiving fund raising page, we have managed to raise nearly £7,000 for the Royal Marsden Hospital over a three month period. We are still actively fund raising for all our causes and it doesn't stop just because it is near the end of term.

Miss Noone, Headteacher of St Philomena's said, "We are very proud of our fund raising efforts. It is down to a vast amount of hard work from the staff and students and I can only thank everyone for their continued support".

## DOUBLE OUTSTANDING FOR LA RETRAITE GIRLS' SCHOOL

La Retraite RC Girls' school in Clapham Park, were delighted to be graded 'Outstanding' in every category by OFSTED at the end of April.

To gain the highest grades, particularly in OFSTED inspections. To receive 'Outstanding' grades in every category is only achieved by around 8% of secondary schools nationally.

The School has had a very busy spring term as only a few weeks earlier they had their Diocesan inspection which was also graded 'Outstanding.' It had been nearly six years since the last OFSTED and Diocesan Inspections. During this time it has become increasingly difficult

Earlier this year the School was congratulated by David Laws MP, Minister of State for Schools, for being in the top 100 schools in the country and closing the achievement gap for pupils who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

## THE POETRY GAMES

Year 11 student, Celia Morris from St Ursula's Convent School in Greenwich recently entered Young Writers' POETRY GAMES competition.

A copy of the anthology entitled: THE POETRY GAMES - FUTURE POETS will be kept at the British Library and further libraries across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, providing a lasting record of her achievement.

Her entry has now been chosen for publication in a special anthology.

She also has an opportunity to be picked as one of 12 finalists who will then go on to a Grand Finale - The Poetry Games Online Vote Off, of which the winner will be crowned The Poetry Games Champion and receive a significant monetary prize and iPad.

There were thousands of entrants from all over UK and overseas. Her work was selected on the basis of perception, imagination, expression and creative use of language. It is a great achievement to be proud of.



## ROUGH SLEEP CHALLENGE RAISES £5,000



For the second year running, over one hundred Year 8 students from Richard Challoner School in New Malden, as well as twenty staff members, braved the elements and experienced a 'Rough Sleep' within a secure area of the school grounds.

The Rough Sleep event was organised to raise much needed funds for local charity, Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness, as well as Depaul UK. The event formed part of the PSE learning to raise awareness about the serious problem of homelessness, locally and nationally.

Students were tasked with raising sponsorship, as well as fundraising in their respective churches, and to date have raised a staggering £5,000 which will be donated equally to the charities.

One student, Michael Duffy, demonstrated exceptional determination by raising an astonishing £1,200 in his Parish Church, St Matthias in Worcester Park. As well as appealing to parishioners from the pulpit at four Masses, Michael raised funds through sponsored challenges, family contributions and odd jobs. Commenting on his achievement, Michael said: "This was my first time of fundraising and it does make me feel proud. My friends keep cheering me!"

Students enjoyed various linked activities that were organised for the evening, including the creation of a 'Cardboard City', engineered from large cardboard boxes they had sourced themselves.

The event proved interesting and thought-provoking for all concerned, but it was a particular success for students

who usually find working alongside their peers, and in an unfamiliar environment, very challenging.

Tom Cahill, Headteacher at Richard Challoner School, commented: "This really was a humbling experience for all of us. We are delighted that the students succeeded in raising this incredible amount, which is testament to the students' determination and empathy with the homeless".

Depaul UK helps vulnerable young people by protecting them, preventing homelessness by rebuilding family relationships, and by providing education, volunteering and training.

Kingston Churches Action on Homelessness aims to relieve the distress of homeless and potentially homeless people by the provision of services and resources.

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