



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUNTIO

Dec 2014



St Gabriel's hosts two Bishops and a Cardinal: Inspiring Talks at a High Level

St Gabriel's was greatly honoured to host two very special events, organised by Father Paul and the Salford Diocese Department of Evangelisation.

On Tuesday 16th September, Bishop Hopes of the East Anglia diocese delivered a most interesting insight into the life, ministry and vision of St John Paul II. On Wednesday 15th October, Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor delivered an excellent talk, on a similar theme, but this time on St John XXIII. He also provided a packed audience with some anecdotes on how the conclave works when electing a new Pope. It was a most rewarding and enthralling talk with much humour and empathy. Both speakers were also the guests of our own Bishop Terence, and were delighted to be in the presence of such wonderful spiritual leaders in our school.

The next Department of Evangelisation talk will take place in the school hall on Tuesday 27th January as part of the Holocaust Memorial Day. We have a survivor of one of the concentration camps coming to tell us about her experiences during the Second World War. The talk starts at 7.30 p.m. with registration forms available from the Parish Office at Guardian Angels. 0161 764 1630



Advent is a time for reflection and preparation. We prepare for the birth of Jesus. In school, during Advent, we too prepare for His coming. In mass and our services, in our charitable works, in our learning, we prepare to welcome Him. In many ways, our school is always working in preparation; Year 11 have just finished their last trial exam period before the real thing in the summer; our performers in sport and the arts continue to prepare for their events; and we all continue to strive to be the best we can be. Through how we conduct ourselves, as active citizens in society, as a Catholic family, we prepare and we are ready for His coming. "I have come that you shall have life, and live it to the full". (John 10.10)

May I wish every one of you a happy and holy Christmas.

Mr S.A. Smith

Thank you to all our community who worked so hard at the 2014 Coffee morning in October to raise £2,140 for Bury African Outreach. More news about what our money is going to fund in the Easter issue of Pronuntio.



Enterprising Winners

Four Year 10 Business Studies pupils - Isabelle Holgate, Olivia Hartley, Tom Taylor and Jack Murray took part in The Bury Enterprise Challenge Game at St. Monicas High School on Wednesday 19th November and won! They showed both enterprising and business acumen. Congratulations to them all!



Celebrating Interfaith Week 2015



Inter faith week at St Gabriel's was introduced by assemblies focusing on the six major world religions and some of their key teachings about the importance of 'compassion to all.' These were delivered by pupils who are witnesses to their faith. The pupils learnt about a variety of world religions in their lessons during the week with the aim to promote community cohesion. Many different curriculum areas got involved in the event and there were a variety of activities from Bangra dancing to poetry for world peace. In addition to this at lunchtime on Thursday 20th November we offered the pupils the chance to spend some time in prayer and reflection in a 'Prayer for World Peace' event. 140 pupils attended this voluntary event and many wrote very moving prayers and placed it on a prayer for peace cloth. Pupils said that the event made them consider what they read in the news and be able to reflect on the different religious leaders calls for world peace. Lunchtime on Friday 21st November we held a social event at which pupils sampled food from other cultures and examined religious artefacts from world religions. It was a wonderful social event. Pupils were really keen to try new foods and examine objects from other cultures. There was a fantastic buzz in the hall with people mixing from the different year groups. It really did bring the school together as a community.

The impact of these events will be seen in the pupils knowledge of other world religions and the importance of community cohesion in Bury. It allowed pupils to celebrate their own different cultures and identities. The benefits of this will be seen in their own self esteem and awareness of other pupils' backgrounds.



Year 10 Castlerigg Retreat

Live it. Love it. 'Rigg it!

On Monday 24th November, 50 Year 10 pupils accompanied by Mrs Pepperday, Miss Maymon, Mr Taylor, Mr Killion and Mr Bacon made the journey up the M6 to Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. We were met by the friendly team of Patricia, Tilly, Amy and Misha and after settling in and running through the formalities the week got off to a good start.

The week was packed with activities from ice breakers and team building exercises to creative tasks such as producing the story of the Prodigal Son in a certain dramatic style. Never before has the Prodigal Son been performed as a pantomime or as The Jeremy Kyle Show! There were also more reflective activities such as prayer, clay, and music workshops. There was an opportunity to take in the lovely views of the Lake District with a walk every afternoon. The group enjoyed walks through Great Wood and around Lake Derwentwater and up to the top of Castlehead to see what Wainwright said is the best view of Borrowdale – he was right! The week seemed to fly by as there was so much to do and be involved in. It gave everyone the chance to reflect on their own lives and learn how to spend some time with God as well as getting to know other people in Year 10 (and the teachers) better.

At the end of the week the Castlerigg team commented on how amazing our pupils had been and that they always look forward to St Gabriel's visiting. There were plenty of sad faces as we left Keswick but hopefully there are plenty of memories of a wonderful week. Thanks to all those who made the week a success – pupils and teachers alike!



The Catholic Young Writer Award 2014

For the last two years in the Summer Term Year 9 RE pupils have taken part in The Catholic Young Writer Award which is organised by The Catholic Writers' Guild of England and Wales. This year pupils had to respond to the question; 'Why do Christians worship God on Sunday?'

Pupils were asked to respond to the question, showing evidence of having studied relevant Scripture passages, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and the encyclical letter of John Paul Dies Domini ("The Day of the Lord"). They had to state why it is central for Catholics to be at Mass on a Sunday as well as refer to Church Fathers, saints or modern day Christian writers.

Unfortunately, we didn't produce the main prize winner this year but in September we were notified that eight of our pupils (now Year 10) had produced a response to the question that gained them a runners up prize. Each of our eight runners up were given a copy of the YouCat (a young person's version of the Catechism of the Catholic Church) as a commemorative prize.

Our eight runners up were; Chloe Hamer, Rosalyn Martland, Max Graham, Caitlin Finney, Ben Rawsthorne, Michael Partington, Chloe Marshall and Megan Yates. Well done!

STOP PRESS

We are delighted that Ellie Holly 11L is the winner of the first prize in the Holy Cross College Theology and Philosophy essay competition. The title was "Do we need religion to create a moral society?"

Ellie produced an essay which was mature, well researched and engaged with a variety of religious approaches. She won a £30 Amazon voucher.

Well done Ellie.

We are very proud of you!



Remembrance

Remembrance Day is a time to pause.

To remember.

To think about how wars affect people.

No British soldier who fought in World War One is alive now.

We only have their stories. But we remember them, as we remember the men and women who fought in World War Two. Furthermore, we also remember those still at war today, wherever they may be.

While Remembrance Day brings sadness, it also brings hope for the future. Hope of a better world: the world for which so many of those soldiers believed they were fighting.

This year to commemorate Remembrance Day, pupils took part in a whole school initiative of reflection and remembrance. During PSHE, pupils learnt about the importance of remembering and then commemorated casualties of war as well as family members and loved ones in this beautiful display.

On 11th November, five of our pupils along with Mrs Currin and Mr Fleming represented St Gabriel's community at the Remembrance Day service at the Fusiliers museum in Bury. Macy Monaghan (Yr7) was invited to lay a wreath during the official service. All of the pupils had either a family connection to the armed forces or are cadets themselves.

Lauren Adams, Lewis Batty, Kieran Fothergill, Macy Monaghan, Georgina McEntyre.



Greetings from Brazil

During the World Cup, in the summer, some of our current Year 11s wrote to British missionaries and close friends of Mrs Harvey's who live and work in Recife, Brazil. Tony and Laura Lewry raise their own finances to work with, rehouse and rehabilitate street boys in this impoverished, but beautiful area of our world. The Hope House is a home for street boys between the ages of 10 and 14. The goal is to reintegrate these boys back into their families and society, when it is possible. Here are some testimonials from some of the boys The Hope House has helped:

"If I had carried on with my previous life I wouldn't be alive today, wouldn't have dreams and have met God. Looking back I feel happy and honored, I had the opportunity that many want and enjoyed it." Arlan Silva - Former boy from the House

The Lewrys were so moved by the letters that they actually visited us in September with their baby Teresa. Mrs Harvey would like to thank the MAD group alongside others for their help in running a cake sale that raised £65 for the work of the Lewrys. They will be spending the money on school supplies for the ex-street boys and have written the following letter to say thank you for the hard work and prayers of our creative and generous pupils.

Dear Pupils of St Gabriel's,

Thank you so much for inviting us to come and talk about our work with street boys in Brazil at your assemblies. Thank you also for having a cake sale to raise money to help the Hope House and also for your prayers. Teresa especially loved coming into school and meeting you all.

Sending Christmas greetings all the way from hot and sticky Brazil!

Tony, Laura and Teresa



Takeover Day 2014

Anna-Louise Howarth and Tamseel Ali

Friday 21st of November marked the national day in which young people had the opportunity to take the control of particular organisations. Students from St. Gabriel's participated in meetings with three different establishments in Bury: the court, the council and Children's Services. Each service sat down with the young people and discussed the matters that affected them.

The day began with an interactive session with decision makers who work throughout Bury Borough. It was decided that education, health care and the children's services were the most important priorities for the council to enable young people to have a better future.

The young people spoke to the representatives from each department; this included the Leader of the Council Mike Connolly and Mark Carriline the Executive Director of Children's Services and Culture. The feedback was very positive and the young people felt their ideas were accepted and taken on board.

"Court" in the Act!

In the afternoon, the young people present were able to experience a mock trial and act in the role of defence lawyers, prosecution lawyers, judges and so forth. It was a brilliant chance to meet with people from other schools and gain knowledge within the field.

One particular court case involved the young people acting out a scenario which involved deciding where two siblings should live after difficult family circumstances. It was a beneficial experience for the young people involved to which they felt that they could relate.

The other court case was about deciding who was at fault in a car crash. The defendant and prosecutor both had interesting points of view, but it was ultimately up to the jury to decide. It was a brand new experience for everyone involved, but people behaved maturely and all students were good representatives of their schools.

Overall, the day was a success as many participants enjoyed the chance to speak to people of authority directly. By getting involved, people are able to change the things which may be concerning them.

Heather Walton (Youth Participation Worker) said "Take over day is all about putting young people in power and finding out what they would do if they were in charge. We're lucky in Bury because the senior decision makers really want to know what young people think."

Wheelie good times

In the last week of the summer term fifteen Year Seven pupils took advantage of free cycle training provided by the Local Authority's Bikeability scheme.

The idea is to encourage children to consider other ways of travelling to school, ways which have less of a negative impact on the environment and more of a positive influence on their health and well-being and education.

In the glorious summer sunshine the youngsters learned new skills for life. These skills give them the confidence to take to the road; enabling them to make informed decisions about where to safely position themselves in relation to other road users.

One problem we did face was that although many children wanted to take advantage of this opportunity, not all of them had bikes. Fortunately, a plea for unwanted bikes from a local parish resulted in a number of donations which meant all children who wanted to take part could do so.

An enjoyable two days was had by all. All participants received well-deserved certificates and other goodies.



English Mentors

The new year brought with it a fresh batch of English Mentors each of whom had been nominated by their English teacher due to their enthusiasm for, and involvement in, English as a subject. After attending an initial training session in September the mentors were ready to take their positions of responsibility and so far have been involved in helping to run lunchtime events, as well as supervising a duty where they help younger pupils with any queries English related. Up to now, we have been massively impressed with the commitment of the mentors and are confident that they will continue to have a positive impact on those pupils who attend the weekly session which takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes in room 31.



Journalist visit

A selection of lucky Year 10 and 11 pupils spent an afternoon with Richard Moriarty, a past pupil who enjoys a successful career as a journalist. The intention of the presentation - and Q & A session - was to introduce the idea of journalism as a career and judging by the reaction of the pupils, it would seem that Richard succeeded in creating interest in this area. Pupils were riveted by Richard's tales of how he got into the career and how he has been able to unearth some of his best 'scoops'. We were obviously intrigued as valid questions were raised ranging from, 'If you could work for any paper in the world, which would you choose?' to the more probing 'Do you find Page 3 derogatory to women and is there a place for it in our society?'; both of which he responded to convincingly, in an illuminating manner. It was a really useful experience for all.' The English department are looking forward to the next session with Richard Moriarty as he has promised to return to school to host a smaller workshop with those pupils who now have a genuine interest in the world of Journalism.



Poetry By Heart school competition

The Poetry By Heart competition is a pioneering national competition designed to encourage pupils aged 14-18, at school and college in England to learn and to recite poems by heart. Here at St. Gabriel's, we thoroughly support the ethos of the competition which aims to foster an appreciation and enjoyment of poetry on a personal level. With that in mind, we launched our school heat of the competition before half-term and were encouraged with the response from Year 11 pupils who volunteered to take part, even armed with the knowledge that they would have to learn and recite two whole poems; one pre-1914 and one post-1914.

On the day, the battle between our finalists Ciboney Perkins and Charlotte Taylor was hard fought and the judges (Mr Nelson, Mr Crossley, Mrs Maguire and Mr Young) were hugely impressed with the performances of both girls. Ciboney wowed the panel with her word perfect rendition of Barrett Browning's 'Sonnets from the Portugese XXIV' and Jackie Kay's 'Dusting the Phone', both of which were performed with a real sense of understanding of each poem's themes and meanings.

However, after some serious deliberation due to the high standard of each performance, Charlotte was crowned the winner due to her stunning recitals of Emily Brontë's 'Remembrance' and Elizabeth Daryush's 'Still-Life'. The judges felt that Charlotte had completely internalised each poem and therefore the impact of her readings was magnificent; she genuinely moved all who watched and should be congratulated for her commitment to learning such challenging poems in a relatively short space of time.

Well done and thank you to both Ciboney and Charlotte. We can't wait to see Charlotte's performance in the regional heat which takes place in February.

A final, special mention should go to Mr Nelson who bravely opened the competition with a lovely recital of one of his favourite poems; there wasn't a dry eye in the house!

Bookwormz

In English, Year 7 and 8 pupils were invited to enter the Bookwormz book review competition in association with the Prestwich Book Festival. Bookwormz is an annual competition open to 10-13 year olds across Bury. The competition asks entrants to write a review (between 100-400 words long) of a favourite book.

There were lots of entries to this popular competition and one of our pupils, Lauren Murphy in Year 8, was awarded a certificate of commendation for her review on 'Diary of a Wimpy Vampire' by Tim Collins. Lauren has been invited to a lavish awards ceremony to collect her certificate. Congratulations Lauren!

National Poetry Day 2014

On Thursday 2nd October the English department was overwhelmed by the huge turnout for the National Poetry Day lunchtime event. The newly-appointed Year 11 English Mentors were on hand to help younger pupils to access a range of poetic activities including reconstructing existing texts, creating original pieces from collapsed poems and working independently to create some beautiful poetry based on this year's theme, 'Remember'.

There was a fantastic celebratory atmosphere throughout the event and many pupils volunteered to perform their poetry to rapturous applause and genuine appreciation. We only wish that we had longer to enjoy the work of the talented pupils who attended.

The winners of the poetry competition were hotly debated due to the lovely range of responses but eventually Curtis Hansom was awarded with first prize and Junior Brodigan, Sinead Holdsworth and Karen Yau shared the runners-up prizes; well done to all pupils who took part! Thanks to all who came along - especially to the English Mentors who added enormously to the fun factor of the event - we look forward to next year's celebration; let's make it bigger and better!



London Review

On a sleepy, Autumn Saturday morning, forty, extremely excited pupils and four extremely tired members of the English department set off for a weekend visit to the City of London. The tone of the trip was set immediately on the coach journey: hours of Harry Potter coupled with the Nativity to remind everyone Christmas was approaching.

On arrival, we headed straight to Shakespeare's magnificent Globe Theatre for a tour and the first of Mrs. Banton's gift shop blitzes. After quickly checking in at the hotel, an all-you-can-eat buffet at Pizza Hut was definitely on the menu, before the glitz and glamour of London's West End to see a performance of *Wicked*, which was definitely wicked. The sheer size and magnitude of the performance was breath-taking; an experience that even the most hardened of souls could appreciate, evident in the smattering of tears from the Year 10 boys at the emotional climax. It's a good job Mrs. Loster brought her hanky.

The next day started like any normal Sunday – with a Shakespeare workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios. Unfortunately, Louie Spence wasn't there to show us his moves; however, Rachel Taylor did demonstrate her gift of the gab (understandably) and speed of thought (seriously), winning a wordplay challenge, followed by a whole-group recital of a Shakespearean monologue. Hopefully, the pupils will be able to implement some of the ideas in the forthcoming controlled assessment!

Finally, our time in London was brought to an end with a visit to The World of Harry Potter Studio Tour. From the Great Hall to Privet Drive to Diagon Alley, the pupils took plenty of photos and even found time for a cheeky Butter Beer. Suffice to say, it was enthralling and illuminating.

The coach ride home gave everyone the chance to put their feet up – literally, in some cases – and take a well-earned rest following such a jam-packed weekend. The staff had a wonderful time and it was a pleasure to take so many enthusiastic young people.

Londonus Magicarius!

By Katie Stansfield and Ciboney Perkins

Mice and Men

1930's America was re-created in the hall of St Gabriel's this month, when of *Mice and Men* Came to town. The whole of Year 11 sat entranced by the event and enjoyed the interpretation offered by the actors. An opportunity to ask questions at the end was also part of the experience as many pupils aimed to enhance their knowledge of the novella.

Let's put this to good use in May when we write about the trials and tribulations of George and Lennie in our exams.



Macmillan Morning

The Great British Bake Off had serious competition on 26th October as staff from St Gabriel's were treated to an amazing assortment of scrumptious cupcakes, macaroons and gateaux. Money raised from selling all the baking was supplemented, by puzzles and raffles, making an amazing total of £210.55 for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Performing Arts NEWS

Jack Sindall wins place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain

Congratulations to Jack Sindall, French Horn player and Year 11 student who, after an intensive audition process, has been awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. Beating strong opposition from across the country, Jack will be given the opportunity to perform in many high profile concert venues. Well done and good luck!

Lunchtime Recital

Held on Thursday 16th October in the Drama Studio, an informal lunchtime recital was held to promote the orchestral life of the school. Many lower school students performed a variety of pieces in front of a friendly audience. It was particularly wonderful to see and hear the talent of so many Year 7 students who had only been in High School for a month before performing! Congratulations to all who took part; you performed beautifully!

Christmas Events

During December the chamber choir sang at Killelea Home and Grundy Day Care Centre, entertaining many of the older citizens in our community. They all sang beautifully and received many positive comments from the audience.

The annual Carol Service will take place on Tuesday 16th December. For the first time in 40 years this annual event will be held in the school hall. This popular service is themed 'Advent from Around the World' and will feature songs from the Ukraine, France, Africa and Spain. There will be over 100 singers and instrumentalists taking part and the staff choir will also be making an appearance. It promises to be an exciting event and we hope it brings festive cheer to all!

Performing Art Production

On the 19th and 20th of November the Year 10 & 11 GCSE Performing Arts and Drama students staged their devised production. With a cast of 100 students, the performance took place over the course of an evening in a typical northern pub during the 80s. The audience were immersed within the production as the action took place all around them; the audience were also able to buy drinks and snacks from the bar during the performance and take part in the pub quiz.

Throughout the evening, the audience saw different characters meeting, bickering and falling in love before the miserable DJ started the disco and all the characters flocked to the dance floor to show off their 80s dance moves. The evening ended with all the characters joining together to sing Hey Jude before 'last orders' was announced and the pub closed for the evening. The performance raised enough money to buy new stage lighting equipment.



Year 11 Creative Art Enrichment Days



Wire Modelling Workshop

Twisting, shaping, bending, cutting, spiralling and crimping.

An interesting first day to the Creative Enrichment Days involved a lot of wire, mesh and sore fingers! Year 11 got thoroughly involved in the wire modelling workshop to create wire frame structures inspired by the spiralling lines of Art Nouveau and the linear wire work of the contemporary artist Elizabeth Berrien. Whether it was a butterfly or dragonfly a fish or flower, the pupils endeavoured to create 3D form.

Bury Art Gallery

At the gallery pupils participated in a paper sculpture workshop directly inspired by an exhibition of Hsiao-Chi Tsai & Kimiya Yoshikawa's work entitled "Scintilla from our Sun". The sculptures are organic, flower like forms taken directly from nature and the scintilla (sunbeams). Pupils were mature and focussed in drawing from the wide range of traditional and contemporary artwork on display. Down in the sculpture centre an exhibition celebrating the Asia Triennial 2014 involving the work of 6 artists (3 British, David Blandy, A K Dolven and Richard Wilson, and 3 Chinese) challenged their perspective through conceptual art.

"Our trip to the art gallery has inspired me to push my artistic skills to the next level and has provided me with an open mind towards art; I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The contemporary sculptures were a new type of art that I have never seen before and I can now use some of the ideas in my own artwork." Florence Wells

"The art work was exquisite, different, beautiful and weird but I enjoyed it!" Megan Lee

"The wire modelling was new and different to what we've done before. Although our hands were aching it was fun!"

The pupils now look forward to applying their new found skills in their own artwork. Thank you to everyone involved.



Chaplaincy News

Over the last term, pupils in Year 7 have been invited to experience chaplaincy workshops for the first time. Our theme has been 'Building a Strong Relationship with God'. The series of workshops culminated in a whole class prayer experience in the library where pupils had extended conversations with God through a variety of hands-on prayer activities. We sent God thank-you cards, allowed our sins to dissolve in water and placed worry stones in his mighty hands. We then joined together in silent meditation to allow God to speak to us, to hear that we were loved, forgiven and appreciated. The pupils' experiences of Chaplaincy workshops led them to make comments such as these:

- *"It has made me know who I am inside, made me feel loved, cared for, that I matter to the world."*
- *"I've been given faith from the Chaplaincy and I now know that God loves us and it gives me confidence."*

This year, our Year 11 Peer Mentors have for the first time been encouraging their Year 7 form classes in contemplative prayer. Every Thursday morning, pupils are invited to spend their form time in silent meditation. The idea behind Christian meditation is to access the essence of the Divine within each of us, to rest in God's presence and to hear the things he has to say to us. Pupils, Peer Mentors and Form Teachers have all embraced this new facet to their prayer lives. It is hoped that in a few years, the whole school will have been gradually introduced to this uplifting and contemplative form of prayer.

St Gabriel's to become Leading Provider of School Direct Initial Teacher Training in Bury



St Gabriel's, in partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, is to become the lead school for training teachers as part of the St. Monica's Catholic Teaching School Alliance and School Direct. This is a very exciting time for the school as we will be the only school in Bury to offer the School Direct PGCE Primary and Secondary programmes. Training high quality graduates to become outstanding teachers will strengthen our ability to deliver world class teaching and learning to all of our pupils as we become a hub school for teacher training in the Bury local authority. The PGCE course begins in September, 2015 and we are currently looking for well qualified applicants to train in secondary and primary education. Thanks to the strong partnerships we have developed across the local authority and with our two teaching school partners we are also able to offer placements in the Special Educational Needs and Sixth Form sectors. If you are a graduate and wish to explore your options in teacher training do not hesitate to contact the school or visit the school website for more details.

Netball News

Year 7 and 8 netball squads are currently training hard and have competed in some tough games. Their hard work in training has recently paid off with 2 excellent wins over Prestwich and Castlebrook:

Year 7 10 - Prestwich 0

Year 7 4 - Castlebrook 3

Year 8 17- Prestwich 0

Year 8 7- Castlebrook 0

The Year 9 netball team are currently performing extremely well in the Bury Schools League. Recent matches resulted in a 25-0 win against Prestwich and 13-0 win over Parrenthorn. It is tremendous to see that both games were scoreless for the opposition. Keep up the good work.

Year 10 and 11 Catholic Netball.

The Year 10 and 11 Catholic Netball tournament was held at Cardinal Langley on the 15th October 2014. Pupils from both years played superbly throughout the afternoon. The tournament was against other Catholic schools in Manchester. There was some tough competition, but the girls managed to keep possession, whilst also making interceptions and successful turnovers. Overall, the Year 11's performed well in the group stage and the Year 10's came second in their year group. Well done.

National Schools.

The U16 netball team, captained by Keri O'Loughlin, performed admirably at the National Schools tournament held at Wright Robinson Sports College in November. Despite some of the girls being a year younger, their determination and skill level were excellent. All players should be very proud of their achievement.

Leading the Dance

Year 7 and 8 dancers continue to train every Thursday, coached by Bury Street Shakers and our Young Dance Leaders. They have produced some fantastic performances! The girls recently represented St. Gabriel's and Bury Street Shakers by performing at Castle Leisure Centre during the half-time interval of a Division 2 Basketball match between Lancashire Spinners and Brixton Topcats. Well done to all involved and keep up the good work!



Dance Workshop

Pupils in Year 10 were fortunate enough to gain an insight into higher education. Year 12/13 Dance students from Holy Cross College came to St. Gabriel's school to deliver a dance workshop during our pupils' core PE lesson. It was great to see all pupils actively involved and enjoying being led by the Holy Cross students. Following the workshop, Holy Cross gave an excellent performance, which they had been developing since the beginning of the autumn term.



Meet an Olympian

Year 9 pupils were provided with an opportunity to meet Jo Jackson, an Olympic Swimmer and Olympic bronze medallist. She met pupils from the area during her visit to Bury. The event was held at Broadoak Sports College, where pupils listened to an inspiring talk by the athlete, before having the opportunity to ask questions. There then followed a swim session as part of the "I Will If You Will" campaign, in which Jo Jackson participated.

Year 7/8 football

Selected footballers from Years 7 and 8 represented St. Gabriel's school sport in a Bury Schools football tournament, organised by Bury FC. In spite of the tournament being postponed on two occasions, due to adverse weather conditions, pupils performed to a good standard, demonstrating sound football skills, positive team work and a high level of determination throughout each game. Well done to all who played and keep up the hard work.

Year 7 Cricket session

A group of Year 7 girls took part in a coaching session delivered by England women's cricketer Kate Cross. The girls really enjoyed the session and hopefully have been inspired to continue their cricket journey by getting extra coaching sessions which take place at Tottigham High School.



5-A-Side Success

The Year 7 football team won the Bury Schools 5-a-side(North) competition in thrilling fashion. After losing the first game the boys knew that they had to win all their remaining games to stand a chance of progressing. They proceeded to beat Derby 4-0, Bury Church 2-0 and Elton 1-0. This left them tied with Elton on points. Goal difference and goals scored were also identical so a 'golden goal' play off took place. Ryan Lockett scored the winning goal to send St. Gabriel's through as winners. Congratulations to all the team on a fantastic performance. The squad of Will Brown, Joe Turrell, Ryan Lockett, Mustafar Afridi, Cian Bullen, Ben Langley and Liam Dixon will go on to play the winners of the South section. Good luck.



Year 7 Indoor Athletics

Well done to the following pupils who represented school in the Year 7 indoor athletics competition at Broadoak. The boys and girls team combined finished 4th overall. Congratulations to:

Girls	Boys
Imogen Watson	Liam Dixon
Cristina Garcia	Kieron Lydon
Katie Findlow	Hareece Mohammed
Rosie Rafferty	Paolo Alberto
Isobel Routh	William Brown
Niamh Slater	Ryan Lockett
Anna Sharratt	Joe Collins
	Oliver Donnelly



Cross Country

The Bury Schools' cross country competition took place in early November, and as always there were some excellent performances by St. Gabriel's pupils. Pride of place should go to the Under 14 Boys' team who won their competition to become Bury Champions. Team members were Kelvin Cockcroft, Curtis Johnstone, Joe Whelan, Joseph Klusiatas, Adam Mannion, Sean Corcoran, Harrison Bodle-Smart, Callum Farrington, Maxime Freyre, Max Ramsahoye, Jordan Horrocks and Daniel Brady.

Other creditable performances came from the senior boys' team who finished second overall. Special mention should go to Patrick Watson(3rd) and Callum Andrews (8th). The year 7 team finished in 3rd place with Oliver Donnelly coming 7th.

English Schools Cross country cup:

The St. Gabriel's Year 9 and 10 team qualified for the North West finals of the team competition which was a great achievement. The lead runner was Patrick Watson ably supported by Kelvin Cockcroft, Zach Chidgey, Tanaka Bvakacha, Matthew O'Reilly and Curtis Johnstone.



Sophie Whittaker

Year 11 Sophie Whittaker gained national honours in athletics when she competed for the English athletics team earlier in the year. Sophie has gone on to continued success this term achieving 1st place in the Bury Schools cross-country competition and becoming the Red Rose Cross Country League champion at U17 level. To achieve this title she had to compete in several competitions throughout the season in Leigh, Chorley and Bolton and she won all 3 making her the overall champion. 2014 has been a fantastic year for Sophie and she has been an excellent representative for our school and her talent continues to inspire our younger athletes. We wish her continued success in forthcoming races!

