



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUNTIO



Dec 2016

St Gabriel's is an outstanding Catholic School

"True education enables us to love life and opens us to the fullness of life" (Pope Francis)

We are delighted to share the news of our success that we truly are an 'Outstanding Catholic School'.

On the 10th October 2016, the school was inspected in accordance with Section 48 of the Education Act 2005. Section 48 inspects Religious Education provision, collective worship and effectiveness as a faith school.

Here is a snapshot of what the Inspectors said:

"St Gabriel's is an outstanding Catholic School".

"The school's commitment to excellence has been driven forward by the vision and commitment of the head teacher, senior leadership team and the governors".

"The hard work and endeavour of the school in bringing about excellent academic outcomes is matched by an authentic commitment to developing the spiritual and prayer life of the pupils and staff".

"The school makes a particular effort to help those in need and reach out to those on the margins of society".

"Quality of teaching and learning in key stage 4 RE, leads to consistently outstanding outcomes at GCSE".

"The quality of relationships across the school, demonstrates a profound commitment to the dignity and well-being of every individual within the community".

Thank you to all the pupils, staff, governors and parish priests who work tirelessly to make St Gabriel's a leading, outstanding provider of Catholic Education in the diocese of Salford and to the continued support of our parents and carers.

A message from the Headteacher



Welcome to the Christmas edition of Pronuntio. I trust you will find the information and articles informative and interesting. As we approach Christmas, we are reminded of the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem for the birth of Jesus. In many ways, we also have made a journey this year. Indeed, at Christmas we merely 'stop off', pause, and use the time to reflect. We reflect on how our community is full of hope for the future, blessed for what we have, and sensing the joy that God will soon enter our world, through Jesus. May every happiness be with you all, at Christmas. **Mr S.A. Smith**



'Tis the season to be generous...

St Gabriel's fundraising doesn't stop there! This Advent season, not only has Mrs Roberts launched the "Gabs on a Mission-Key 103 Cash for Kids Appeal" but we are also busy collecting items for Christmas food hampers to distribute to the local families in our parishes. St Gabriel's staff have also raised over £90 for Cancer Research and have signed up to be Advent friends to a colleague to share a little cheer. Watch out for the staff wearing the snowflake badges; they could be leaving a surprise gift to make your day.



Coffee Morning

We were delighted to hand over our fundraising efforts for Bury African Outreach from our 55th Coffee Morning. Thanks to all the work of our volunteers and all the members of our community who contributed goods or enjoyed all the fun of the fair. We know the cheque for £2400 will make a massive difference to the lives of our Year 6 class at the Good Shepherd School, paying for their education and funding the new orphanage 'St Gabriel's House'. This year we were able to present Bury African Outreach with two amazing pieces of artwork from our Year 9 project work. In the project, pupils learned about the differences and similarities between the two schools and shared ideas about their identity, interests and their life in Bury. We hope that it helps make St Gabriel's House into a home and is a symbol, to all who live there, of our shared values and sense of family.

Overall winners: Stephanie Woodall, Bronte Neil-Jones, Meghan Cain and Ella-Louise Simmonds.

Runners up: Nicole Helling, Chloe Hall, Annie Stone and Sarah Fish.

Castlerigg 2016

This November, 47 of our year 10 pupils went on the week long retreat to Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District to discover more about their faith and meet new friends. The retreat was a wonderful experience for our pupils and they arrived back home both spiritually uplifted, and with a more deep rooted understanding of their Catholic faith. The pupils were keen to learn, engaged and, as always, they were a credit to the school; it will be a week that will live long in their memory. The Manor is situated at the heart of the Lake District and our pupils also got to enjoy some walks around Derwent Water to sample the beauties of nature and enjoy some quality time in the great outdoors. There was also time for a stroll around the delightful Cumbrian town of Keswick. The retreat was staffed by Mr Taylor, Miss Maymon, Mr Faulkner, Miss McLoughlin, Mr Stewart and Mrs Silvester, and our thanks go to these staff for making this retreat possible. The annual retreat goes a long way towards helping our pupils grow in faith and confidence; helping set them on a firm foundation for the future.



Holy Cross Writing Competition

The RE department is delighted that two of our Year 10 pupils, Thomas Locketti and Nathan Michelson were this year's 2nd and 3rd place winners of the 'Inspired by Faith' Holy Cross Writing competition, which a number of schools entered. Students were invited to reflect upon a photograph, song or news article that moved them in some way, and explain why. Thomas Locketti wrote a very mature, personal piece on the role of prayer in his life, in response to a photograph of a sunset he had seen, which reminded him of a happy family holiday. Nathan Michelson was inspired by his grandmother's miraculous medals. Nathan wrote a short but very moving reflection on the importance of these religious items in his family's lives. Well done to both our winners.

Holy Family Reflection

On Monday 10th October, we came together as a community to celebrate the Holy Family and embrace the resilient bond we have with one another. For lunchtime on this day, the Resource Centre was transformed by the Gift Team, MAD group and Chaplaincy team into a series of prayer stations. These stations enabled us to reflect on current life issues in a tranquil and thought-provoking atmosphere. Creativity, contribution and unity - the unique prayer stations held a variety of opportunities for our community.

We experienced relief from our worries by releasing them into a stone and writing them in the sand. Undoing knots, which resembled our anxieties, helped us to clear our souls. We combined Lego blocks to identify our families being a part of one Holy Family. There was the opportunity to write prayers that were interlocked into a chain across the Lord's Cross. Together we prayed for our families and friends and realised that we are joined together by Jesus' cross.

Lighting a candle, we reflected on our privileges and relaxed in God's Holy presence. The sailing of origami paper boats was symbolic in reflecting on our less fortunate brothers and sisters across the world, for example, the refugees who are searching for an improved life.

We discovered how our faith and prayer ignites hope within ourselves and each other.
Jan Murillo 8P



Year of Mercy

On Thursday 24th November, we celebrated the end of the Year of Mercy with an Advent liturgy in form times. The liturgy allowed a high amount of pupil participation. The Advent liturgy was a celebration of all the events, which we held over the year during the Year of Mercy. We reflected on how these actions of mercy do not stop just because the year has come to an end.

In this Year of Mercy we have used many different ways to show mercy to others and ourselves. For example, we had the Mercy Bus in school where RE classes learnt about how to put mercy into practice. During Advent and Lent we had the Sacrament of Reconciliation where we could say sorry for the things that we have done wrong. Throughout the year we have joined other young people in the Salford Diocese when we walked through the Salford Dioceses' Mercy Door to show our commitment to Mercy in Action. Pupil Chaplains attended Salford Cathedral where we celebrated Mass with Bishop John Arnold and other pupils from other Catholic schools. Year 8s showed creativity and resilience when they completed a Mercy in Action project and were rewarded with a trip.

During Lent we had Light Fever in the Resource Centre where we lit a candle for our loved ones and spent a few moments in prayer. On Holocaust Memorial Day we reflected on the sufferings of others, and how Irena Sendler, a Polish Catholic woman, showed mercy to the Jews in the Holocaust and saved many children from the Nazis. During Advent and Harvest time we raised lots of money for children in poverty, in the Key 103 Christmas Toy appeal, and money for St Gabriel's House for Bury African outreach. We truly have shown mercy to others this year!

Anti-Bullying

The Anti-Bullying Alliance coordinates Anti-Bullying Week each November. This year Anti-Bullying Week was from 14th – 18th November, and the theme was 'Power for Good'.

At St Gabriel's we teamed up this week with Interfaith Week, and we had a whole host of activities for the pupils and staff to get involved in. Every Year group had an assembly on anti-bullying and every PSHE lesson centred on how we treat others. Staff received training on how to deal with bullying effectively.

During the pupils' lessons that week each curricular subject area either focused on Anti Bullying or Interfaith issues. Here is a taste of just a few activities which the pupils experienced...

History: In History pupils studied a range of issues from how the Romans brought in Christianity, The Reformation to Racial Persecution and the Holocaust.

Geography: We looked at China's one child policy and incorporated the fact that people are in effect bullied into choices, which are highly controversial and harmful.

PE: We raised the issues during discussion with pupils, around team play and our inter-form competitions.

Performing Arts: We used starter activities to emphasise the importance of teamwork, mutual respect, tolerance and consideration for others. In preparation for a group work composition project on 'Film Music', we also led pupils to reflect upon the historical background and contexts of Spirituals. Pupils discussed the history of the Church in the USA and the lyrical content of Christian music for Worship.

RE: In all KS3 classes we completed an interfaith lesson where pupils did a treasure hunt exploring the different religions. Year 10 RE lessons concentrated on Judaism, whereas Year 11 looked at Christian and Muslim attitudes towards bullying.

Maths: We used Rangoli patterns in Maths and created a beautiful display.

D&T: We learnt how different countries and their religion affects food choice.

English: The English department used non-fiction articles related to bullying and discrimination with KS4 as part of their English Language exam practice.



You Choose You Learn Day

October the 18th was You Choose You Learn Day. This was an historic day in which the pupils took control to decide what the learning would entail on that specific day. The whole school was consulted about what the learning could be on this day. A huge range of ideas were suggested, such as survival skills, paying a mortgage, and sign language.

The School Council had the responsibility of reading each idea, and reduced the many suggested days of learning down to just five. Pupils across the school then voted for which of the five days of learning they felt they would benefit from the most.

Pupils voted overwhelmingly to learn about self-defence, first-aid, mental health, politics, and what makes a loving relationship.

"I really enjoyed learning about what a loving relationship was. It was a wonderful experience, which people enjoyed, yet learned from as well. I hope to get to do this again"



We had many visitors join us on this day to support and enrich this chosen learning. Master Parkinson, from the Family Martial Arts Centre, taught self-defence techniques in the Sports Hall; a theatre company performed a piece that demonstrated what made a good loving relationship; visitors from Bury Young Minds, Streetwise 2000, Bury Early Intervention Team, and other health professionals supported discussion promoting good mental well-being; and pupils were guided to 'have a go' at performing CPR on the school's First Aid dummies. Finally, form tutors facilitated a session aiming to raise political awareness, both locally and nationally.

"I really enjoyed doing self-defence and first aid. It was a great opportunity to do all the activities and learn new things"

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day and have a better understanding of those issues that they feel matter to them. The pupils were actively engaged in their learning and the process of having a voice within school. It gave students an opportunity to learn about those issues we do not always focus on in great detail in the classroom, but are important in everyday life.

"I enjoyed being able to have a say on what we learnt on that, and also having a change of classes. I liked learning self-defence because we actually did something that's not just sitting in a classroom, and I now know what to do in case of an emergency"



Youth Parliament Elections

Before the end of term, pupils will be voting on who will be the school's representative to stand for Youth Parliament. Charlie Middleton, Jack Young and Emily Keeley all wish to stand for Youth Parliament. However, the pupils across the school will vote for who they feel will be most suited to stand in the upcoming election in February.

The candidates have each filmed a short message stating why pupils should vote for them. Voting will take place during form period and the candidate with the most votes will be standing to be the Member of Youth Parliament for Bury.

Bury Council Take Over Day

Six KS3 pupils had the opportunity to spend the day at Bury Town Hall finding out how the council is run, and how financial decisions for Bury are made. They also got to meet the mayor, the leader of the council, and debate with pupils from other schools in the main council chamber.



Smartphones at the ready... to improve grades

The launch of Show my Homework, our new on line way of managing independent learning, has been well received by students, staff and parents. In a recent survey, 97% of learners are regularly using Show my Homework to complete more independent learning, and manage their workload. Students like how fast and easy it is to use, and having the checklists and reminders on their phones. They are pleased that staff can provide much more detailed instructions and resources to help them and have also noticed that they are doing more work at home as a result!

Feedback from parents has been extremely positive, especially with the clarity of communication about home learning. Many parents in Year 11 expressed gratitude that they were better able to support their sons/daughters' learning at home which can make such a difference to exam performance and GCSE grades. Next term we aim to share more feedback and grades with students and parents to help progress. As one KS3 student noted in their survey feedback, "it's the best thing since sliced bread!"

To complement Show My Homework and improve our students' independent learning skills, the school has invested in GCSEPod.

At the heart of it are videos called "Pods". Each one is a highly concentrated, 3-5 minute burst of audio-visual learning and specialist subject knowledge for nearly all curriculum areas. It's written by expert subject teachers then rigorously quality assured. Narrated by professional voiceover artists and with visuals produced by an award-winning design team, every Pod is mapped to GCSE specifications. They have proved very helpful to many of our year 11s in preparation for their mocks, and to date over 5000 Pods have been used. For more information go to <https://www.gcsepod.com/parents/>. Anyone in school can set up an account, simply go to <https://members.gcsepod.com/login> and follow the instructions.





Remembrance 2016

In the week leading up to the 11th November, the school took time to reflect on the sacrifices made by those in the armed forces, whether it was in a historic conflict such as World War One, or a more recent conflict such as Afghanistan. In a series of assemblies led by the Pupil Chaplains, pupils took time to consider why we wear the poppy, and the impact the funds we raise have on servicemen and women. It was also a time to remember loved ones who may or may not have been in the armed forces who are no longer with us. A Book of Remembrance was placed in the foyer for pupils, staff and visitors to sign and leave a message for loved ones.

"The entire assembly was particularly memorable, it gave the whole school time to reflect"
Jan Murillo, Pupil Chaplain YR 9

Cenotaph Visit

A group of students represented the school at Bury's Remembrance service, which took place at the Cenotaph, adjacent to the Fusiliers' Museum. Pupils laid a wreath on behalf of the school to show our respect for those servicemen and women who sacrificed their today for our tomorrow.

James Baker Year 11 said: 'It was a very moving atmosphere during the Remembrance service outside the Fusiliers' Museum'

Who's gotta lotta bottle? Year 7 and Year 8 pupils, that's who!

We challenged pupils to a gesture, a gesture so simple it might seem insignificant. But the task took time, consideration and determination. What was the challenge? To bring in as many washed plastic bottle tops as they could.

Councils cannot recycle plastic bottle tops and they can end up in landfill or in the gullet of birds and other wildlife. According to UN statistics, there are 46,000 pieces of plastic litter per sq ml of sea. St Gabriel's pupils brought in a staggering 17,450 of them!

Despite councils being unable to recycle them, Lush, the high street cosmetics retailer, have a machine which transforms the tops into containers in which to sell their products. That is where we delivered our top collection to. The public are welcome to hand them in at any of their stores.

Here at St Gabriel's we'll continue to make a difference as custodians of the planet. As Pope Francis said, "Safeguard creation, because if we destroy creation, creation will destroy us."

Well done Year 7 and Year 8. Keep on bringing in those tops!



Enterprise Challenge News

Four Year 10 Business Studies pupils - Ewan Spensley, Fintan Beirne, Erica Ribeiro and Ella Booth took part in The Bury Enterprise Challenge Game at St. Monica's High School on Thursday 17th November. They had a wonderful time showing off their enterprising skills, business acumen, and making lots of money!



Wheels On Fire

On 8th and 9th December a number of Year 7 and Year 8 pupils took part in a cycle ride along 'The Lines' from Holcombe Brook Precinct. After last year's foray into the deep and crisp and even, they felt that this Christmas wouldn't be the same without it.



So the determined and brave braced themselves and pedalled out in the darkness towards Bury with only their bike lights illuminating the way. Twenty minutes later, dawn awakening and Bridge Street before them the journey had flown by. Be part of the next journey!



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

As an outstanding school, at St Gabriel's we know what it takes to be an outstanding teacher. In partnership with Manchester Metropolitan University, we are the lead school for training teachers as part of the St Monica's Catholic Teaching School Alliance and School Direct. We chose to deliver the School Direct route into teaching as we believe it is the best way to train the outstanding teachers of the future. Training high quality graduates to become outstanding teachers will strengthen our ability to deliver world class teaching and learning to all of our pupils.

If you think you might like to pursue a career in teaching, whether in a primary or secondary setting, we have the expertise within our alliance to provide outstanding training in all of our partnership schools. The PGCE course begins in September 2017, and we are currently looking for well qualified applicants to train in secondary and primary education. After two rounds of interviews our places are filling up fast and you are urged to apply soon if you are thinking of training to teach with St Gabriel's. Places still available include: Maths, MFL (French), Chemistry, Physics, Biology, English, History, Geography, Religious Studies and Primary. If you are a graduate and wish to explore your options in teacher training further contact the school or visit the school website for more details.



MFL Action

As we reach Christmas we have a lot of successes to look back on and still a few to fulfil.

The Language Ambassadors have grown in numbers and continue to be a positive group in the department. They meet every Monday for Year 7 Club and Wednesday for planning. The Year 7 Club has been running from September and is solely organised and run by the MFL Ambassadors. On Monday we will be having a singalong to Feliz Navidad inspired by our primary school friends on St Gabriel's MFL Twitter feed. We have two guitar playing Ambassadors and will be recording our version!

There are also 5 more Year 9 recruits to the team. These responded to the Year 10 advert in assembly and then after shortlisting attended a 'speed-dating' style interview. They are definitely a positive addition to our team.

All the Language Ambassadors will be teaching Year 7 this week and Year 5 in the New Year. They have done all the planning and materials themselves. Miss Williams is busy organising the Spelling Bee heats. There is a lot of excitement and competitiveness in Year 7 over this successful annual event.

Not long until our MFL trip to Madrid. I will be announcing the trip meeting in the New Year and all pupils will receive a trip booklet. We will be visiting the football stadium, the bullring, a flamenco show and dance lesson, the Prado museum and of course there will be a lot of shopping opportunities! We will find out a week before the trip if we will be watching Real Madrid play.



History News!

We were delighted with 2 pieces of good news at the start of the year. Lillian Noble was one of three winners out of the whole country in the Historical Association's 'Write your own Historical fiction competition' for her short story 'Murder in Skara Brae'. Lillian was also one of several students to be acknowledged for their participation in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, writing on the topic of 'An Inclusive Commonwealth'. Molly Bridgewood, Luke Trinnaman, Angelika Martiuk, Orla Doody, Nicole Helling and Luke Treanor-Smith were the other participants. We will offer students the opportunity to participate in both competitions again this year as well as the St. Gabriel's History Essay Writing Competition.



Science Challenge

We have had an amazing day with all six of our feeder primary schools. It was nice to see again some young faces from when we were at those primary schools.

Once we had been assigned our school groups, we were pleasantly surprised at their science knowledge and skills. Quickly, the day was over after the year fives completed and planned two experiments: Disco Raisins and Fizz Bombs. The esteemed judges, Jack and Felix, came to the conclusion that Guardian Angels should be the winners. Overall, we have enjoyed the experience and wish for the best for those excellent year fives!

Thanks to Lucy Horton, Mustafa Afridi, Anas Nawaz, Amy Stainton, Aimee Rothwell, Felix Knowles, Shannon Seaborn, Jack Hesford and Luke Murphy.



Year 8 Geography trip to Malham

On the 19th of September, an intrepid group of 40 Year 8 Geographers visited Malham Cove in North Yorkshire, to study the Limestone landscape.

We completed a circular walk from the town of Malham to the Cove. On the way we observed 'fairy houses' and 'coin trees', before studying the formation of Janet's Foss waterfall. We hiked to the top of Malham Cove to study and sketch the limestone features and to see how the limestone pavement was formed before having lunch, admiring the spectacular scenery from the top.

Our final stop involved descending the rock staircase to look at the spectacular cliffs of the cove and the re-emergence of the stream.



My experience of being in an all boy group

On the 5th September 2016, I was shocked and confused when I wearily walked into room 30 to see 18 other pupils; we were all boys. I was perplexed. Once we got in, Miss Mealey explained that the group was an experiment so we could be pushed to our limits and work on some different projects.

One of our first topics, writing to present a viewpoint, included a discussion of women's rights. This was a clever idea as Miss Mealey could see our sensible but possibly different views than would be expected in a mixed class. We considered it unfair that in the past women were expected to stay at home to look after children and do the housework and we explored how gender inequality still exists in today's society.

Another topic I enjoyed was when we had debates and discussions as a class. On issues such as: the NHS, Brexit, and social media. I especially enjoyed this as it allowed us to express our viewpoints and feelings towards issues that affect all of us, and Miss Mealey awarded prizes for strong and well-delivered arguments.

We are now studying media and this involves acquiring new and exciting skills, for example, we have looked at camera angles and how they emphasise certain characters' feelings. On Monday 5th December, we received name badges and lanyards from the BBC for the BBC School Report News Day where we will be working to produce videos and articles about topics we choose and news we discover. We have seen a number of videos from different schools who have taken part in previous years and our classroom is a hub of enthusiasm and anticipation.

Overall, I feel as though my opinion of English has been changed as we have seen how it can be applied to the wider world. **Malachy Brady**



Bury In Bloom Awards Ceremony

This year our pupils were entered into the borough wide Bury in Bloom poster competition. We are delighted that out of over 120 entries, Hannah Young, Year 8, and Sarah Fish, Year 9, were selected as winning entries. Both girls produced eye catching designs that successfully represented the theme of 'Greening Grey Britain'. You may have seen their posters displayed in and around Bury over the summer when judging took place. The girls attended an awards ceremony at Bury Town Hall to receive their certificates, presented by the Mayor, Councillor Mike Connolly, and to celebrate the many talents of the competitors. Sarah's entry was also announced as the overall winner of the poster competition. Well done girls!



Creative Art Enrichment Days

Year 11 took part in a range of inspiring activities as part of their Creative Art Enrichment days, which began with a visit to The Manchester Museum. The pupils explored the vivarium where they took inspirational photographs of the live reptiles and insects followed by analytical drawings of their intricate structures.

Pupils then ventured off to The Whitworth Art Gallery where they viewed the contemporary exhibition of Andy Warhol and the historical engravings of Grimaldi. Pupils then worked with professional artist and printmaker, Alan Birch, to develop their own etchings inspired by the current exhibitions.

Day two involved further investigation of printmaking techniques including poly-print and lino-cut processes. Pupils illustrated Japanese Haiku poems with expressive butterfly prints. The work produced over the two days will form part of their GCSE portfolio, examples of which will be on display at our next Art Exhibition.



London 2016

On 3rd December a group of forty excited Year 10 pupils embarked on an exciting overnight trip to London, accompanied by: Mr Crossley, Miss Livesley, Mrs Loster, Miss Mealey and Mrs Sensale. The first stop on their literary tour of London was, of course, Shakespeare's Globe Theatre. Here pupils were given a guided tour of the Globe, learning about its history and structure. They arrived in perfect time to watch a group of drama students performing scenes on the stage; it was a fascinating experience to see the theatre brought to life.

Saturday evening involved witches, magic and forty pupils defying gravity as they discovered the real truth behind the witches of Oz. The evening began with a drive through the beautiful Christmas lights of London and a delicious Pizza Hut buffet. The performance of Wicked was breathtaking; it even stirred a few tears in the spellbound eyes of Year 10.

After a much-needed night's sleep, pupils headed down to Mayfair for a Shakespeare workshop at Danceworks Studios. From warming up with Jack and Rose's iconic Titanic pose to a range of interpretations of Macbeth and Lady Macbeth, pupils really got into the activities and will hopefully apply the knowledge of the scenes they covered when they study Shakespeare's Macbeth next term.

The final stop on the tour brought the group to Privet Drive. The Warner Brothers Studio Tour was the much anticipated event for many pupils (and staff) as they piled off the coach and roamed the Great Hall, boarded the Hogwarts Express, and many even fit in a game of Quidditch. After plenty of photos, butter beer and with a whole host of souvenirs, a very sleepy group headed back to St Gabriel's after a fun-filled weekend.



Performing Arts

Most(ly) Haunted- LIVE

On 24th and 25th November, pupils from Year 10 and 11 took to the stage to perform Most Haunted – LIVE. The show was based on the tradition that the uttering of the name 'Macbeth' in a theatre is said to haunt it. Therefore the production was set under the stage during a show of Macbeth, where a group of 5 paranormal experts tried to conjure up some paranormal activity.

The role of the pupils included: paranormal experts, orb catchers, presenters, curse experts, and an array of characters from Macbeth. The characters were played by Year 11 pupils whilst the Year 10s formed the backgrounds for the scenes.

A fantastic, dynamic and creative orchestra provided live music at the back of the stage. The orchestra cleverly matched the music to the tone of the activity on the stage. This gave the show a unique atmosphere on both nights.

Jack Young



'Most(ly) Haunted Presents The Curse of the Scottish Play'

Knowing that merely uttering the name of 'Macbeth' within a theatre conjures up unearthly apparitions causing bad luck and strange, inexplicable events, a team of paranormal investigators, The Most(ly) Haunted Team, deliberately staged a production of 'Macbeth' at St Gabriel' RC High School. All in an attempt to capture paranormal activity on film - however, the curse of Macbeth soon became too much for the team to handle.

The production, 'The Curse of Macbeth', performed on 24th and 25th November, was entirely written and devised by our GCSE Drama and Performing Arts students, enhanced by the compositions of GCSE Music students. Over 500 people watched the performance and to prevent them from being 'cursed', they had to participate in performing a 'ritual'.

'The Curse of Macbeth' was a farcical comedy in which the Most(ly) Haunted team investigated high and low for traces of paranormal activity. They explored the stage and even beneath it, as the audience watched the trials and tribulations of the characters unfold on screen. Meanwhile, an interesting yet amusing interpretation of Shakespeare's play 'Macbeth' graced the stage, as well as an exclusive 'behind the scenes' interview with the actors/actresses playing Banquo and Lady Macbeth. Combine all this with guest star, Freddie Mercury, and we had the recipe for a captivating, humdinger of a show.

Music Evening

On the 12th October, St Gabriel's students from across Years 7-11 displayed their musical talents in an informal concert in front of a friendly audience consisting of family and friends. This was a great opportunity for students to perform music they have recently been preparing. All students performed with confidence and musicality. Congratulations!

Choral Workshop

On the 3rd November, selected students represented Bury in a choral workshop held at Hallé St Michael's in Manchester. The workshop was delivered by Lyn Marsh who worked with students on interpretation and performance techniques. All students enjoyed this event and enjoyed singing with other students from across Greater Manchester – a fantastic opportunity!

Mass at Salford Cathedral

The Chamber Choir were invited to take part in this very special mass to mark the end of the Year of Mercy, led by the Bishop of Salford. The choir sang various hymns and led the singing beautifully – well done and thank you!

Hidden Gem Performance

The Choir took part in a lunch time Christmas Concert at this beautiful church in the centre of Manchester. The students sang a variety of Christmas Carols and songs, entertaining an audience of lunch time shoppers and workers. The students received some very complimentary comments – well done.

43rd Christmas Carol Service

On Tuesday 20th December all choirs and orchestra consisting of students, parents and staff took part in our annual Carol Service, held in the school hall. A feast of readings, carols and songs were enjoyed by our community audience, followed by mulled wine (alcohol free) and mince pies. Merry Christmas everyone!

Giselle Ballet workshop

Performing Arts pupils took part in a dance workshop led by the English National Ballet at the Derby High School on the 21st September. Pupils prepared choreographies based upon Amran Khan's recent production of 'Giselle' at Manchester's Palace Theatre. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and the opportunity to collaborate with Dance and Performing Arts pupils from other local schools.



Bury Schools Cross Country

Congratulations to the girls from Year 7-10 who represented the School Cross-Country Team at Heaton Park when they competed in the Bury Schools Competition on Tuesday 15th November. It was a fantastic effort by all; well done!

Izzy Howarth, Ellie Makin, Charlotte Turner, Grace Holgate, Maria Currie, Orladh Dunne, Hannah Halford, Sophie Royds, Imogen Watson, Alanna Radcliffe, Ruby Stanley, Amelia Ingham, Niamh Slater, Ruby Shield, Freya Dover, Isabella Bruce, Rebekah Whittle Smith



Visit by an Olympic Athlete

On Thursday 22nd September, St. Gabriel's were visited by an Olympic Athlete. Kelly Massey won a bronze medal as part of the GB relay squad in Rio Olympics 2016. As part of our on-going satellite programme with Bury Street Shakers, she was invited to join us in PE lessons, and even attended an after-school dance and cheerleading session. It was fantastic to have an Olympic athlete in school and many of the pupils got to see her Olympic memorabilia and ask her questions. She had a simple message to share with pupils, which was to never give up; with hard work and determination, despite any barriers you may face along the way you can overcome them and achieve your dreams!

U15 Girls Cricket 2nd Place

U15 Girls cricket tournament took place on Tuesday 6th December at Broad Oak Sports College. The following girls were involved: Uzma Afridi, Lucy Rose, Grace Makin, Hannah O'Shea, Lily Thompstone, Rosie Rafferty, Sophie Royds, Carys Wright, Millie Morley, Danica Jones and Tionne Jones. The girls produced an outstanding performance both batting and fielding, which resulted in 2nd Place. Well done to all.

KS4 Badminton

Congratulations to the following Year 10 and 11 pupils who represented St. Gabriel's PE department at the KS4 Badminton tournament:

Girls: Teegan Rose, Kara Bridges, Carys Wright and Kayleigh Millerchip

Boys: Luca Ellis, Josh Schofield, Max Dixon.

Both teams had to play a mixture of singles and doubles matches.

All played fantastically. Well done.

Year 7 Netball

Congratulations to the following girls who were selected at trials for the Year 7 Netball team:

Holly England, Jennifer Murphy, Grace Holgate, Karys Davidson, Vanessa Winkler, Jiana Marcos, Mia Dickerson, Ella Thompstone, Caitlin Wilson, Molly Farmiloe, Charli Wosser, Josie Radcliffe, Isabella Howarth, Orladh Dunne and Grace Lowe.

All girls have been training hard this term in preparation for fixtures that start after half term. Good luck!



PARENTPAY

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from school, we are asking all parents to use our e-payment method to pay for all payments to school, such as trips, revision guides etc. (NOT including school dinner money). This can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay, or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo.

Bury Schools Cross Country Championships

In November the boys took part in the inter schools cross country competition at Heaton Park. A special mention should go to Oliver Donnelly who finished in 5th place in his race, which represented the best individual performance by a St. Gabriel's pupil on the day.

