



# ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

# PRONUNTIO

July 2016



## The Somme Remembered

Our Year 9 pupils made a special journey to the battlefields and trenches of Ypres and the Somme to see first hand where our Bury regiments fought 100 years ago. In the words of Molly Nixon 9W:

"The France and Belgium trip was great! It made me realise the loss and sacrifice of so many families. I learnt many different things about the German, British and other nations involved in WW1. Each place we visited was stunning and cared for dearly; it showed us all how much these brave soldiers should always be remembered for all the sacrifices they made."



## Welcome to our summer term edition of Pronuntio

As we come to the end of another academic year, Pronuntio really sums our year up! So much we have done together as a school community. The Witness to our faith in sharing and developing our talents is something we are all extremely proud of. I am delighted that our young people continue to grow in knowledge and in their faith making a positive contribution to our communities not just in and around Bury, but further afield in far flung corners of the world. Enjoy the read and have a very safe summer break! **Mr S.A. Smith**

## Political Inspiration

DRAMA students from St Gabriel's High School have been praised for an "inspiring" political performance by the leader of the Green Party.

The performance was a response from the Year 10 and 11 pupils over the Government's English Baccalaureate plans. The students felt so strongly about the impact they felt the EBacc could have on arts subjects, that they wanted to put together a play on it. The Government has said that by 2020, it wants at least 90% of pupils in England to be taking seven GCSEs in EBacc subjects - including English, Maths, two Science subjects, History or Geography and a language.

Head of Drama Marc Young invited Natalie Bennett to watch the show. He said: "The pupils felt so strongly about the issue so I thought why not get a high profile politician to come and watch and listen to what they are trying to say. The concern is that the arts subjects such as drama will be squeezed out. All of them firmly believe that creative subjects should remain and the younger generations should be given the same opportunities that they were".

Mrs Bennett hosted a question and answer session with the pupils. Following the afternoon, she tweeted that the school was "inspiring", adding; "the pupils are a credit to it." Mr Young said: "The pupils really enjoyed talking with Natalie and it's great that she has listened to their concerns. She also told them that she would act on their worries and try and get their concerns taken to parliament."



# Year of Mercy

On Thursday 28th April we received the 'Door of Mercy' which toured the Salford Diocese to mark the Year of Mercy. To celebrate this occasion we held a number of activities with the pupils:

- Assemblies leading up to the event led by Heads of Year.
- We received the Door of Mercy from Bury Catholic Prep which included a prayer service.
- During RE lessons some of the KS3 pupils completed an RE learning activity on the Year of Mercy Bus, where they considered how they could be merciful to other people that they meet in their local community.
- At dinner time there was Light Fever in the Resource Centre where the pupils had the opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. As the pupils and staff left Light fever they walked through the Year of Mercy Door.
- During the afternoon there was a Year of Mercy Reconciliation opportunity in the Resource Centre with Fr Chris and Fr Paul.
- On the Friday, pupils took the Door of Mercy to Holy Cross College which included a prayer service.



# St Joseph's Penny Mass

St Gabriel's pupils were invited, as part of their Lenten practice, to raise money for the St Joseph's Penny appeal to help the work of Caritas: the official charity for the diocese; a merger of well-established charities to bring forward the work of each. These include: The Catholic Children's Rescue Society, Catholic Welfare Societies, St Joseph's Mission to the Deaf, Catholic Family Care, Justice and Peace and Racial Justice.

Four pupils represented the School at a Mass at Salford Cathedral where Bishop John Arnold thanked them personally for their efforts during Lent to support this worthy cause.

# SMILE Group

SMILE Group has run throughout the summer term, with a group of our Year 7s. The group has worked on recognising and celebrating their personal qualities and strengths, and those of others. Each member of the group has demonstrated kindness and support for their peers as they have developed their own skills. It has been an absolute pleasure to spend time with them each week. They are a credit to themselves and their families.

Keep up the good work Keegan, Ethan, Tamara and Rhiannon!

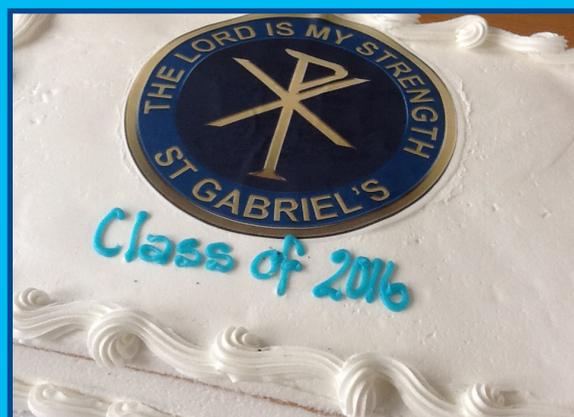


# Helping Bury Bloom

Green-fingered members of Year 7 and 8 have been working hard with Bury Council to transform a small garden area, near the centre of Bury. New skills were gained and the pupils all enjoyed working as part of a team, assisting the Grounds Maintenance team with digging, planting and adding bark to a small garden. This is part of a nationwide community gardening campaign led by the Royal Horticultural Society, 'Britain in Bloom', which transforms cities, towns and villages. Our pupils were one of many groups that participate each year where the focus is on community-action to transform spaces. Last year, Bury won a prestigious Gold Award in the 'Small City' category, and we wish them luck with their entry this year.

# Coming soon....

News from the Class of 2016 Celebration evening, and Prom in our September Pronuntio. Enjoy a well-deserved break and see you on results day!



# Duke of Edinburgh

42 Year 9 students have completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze final expedition in the past few weeks and now only need to complete their physical, volunteering and skills targets to achieve their awards. Most of them won't say it has been easy, but all of them can say they have been challenged: working in unfamiliar groups, learning new skills, developing confidence and improving their decision making. We hope to run the award for another brave and ambitious group next year. Well done!



## Year 7 PGL Trip

At 1.00 pm on Friday April 16th, three large coaches appeared at the school gates. Quickly, over 150 Year 7 pupils were herded onto these by Mrs Bate and the Year 7 pastoral team and within minutes we were off to Boreton Park in Shropshire for the annual activity weekend. This smooth running organisation became a regular factor throughout the weekend. Pupils enjoyed a variety of events: Canoeing, archery, the giant swing, the terrifying trapeze, the obstacle course, the blindfolded sensory course and the zip wire. Apart from one cut knee and a few anxious moments before jumping into the unknown, the activities were a great success. Your sons and daughters loved it.

They also sang songs around a camp fire, which was not particularly hot and listened to the PGL leaders telling some truly awful jokes. The Saturday night disco was loud with ridiculously modern music and held in a hall with little lighting apart from disco lights. Amazingly the children on the trip loved this too. Some of the staff seemed to have a good time whilst the more mature members stood sulking in a corner waiting for a good tune! The PGL food was, as always, great and plentiful and catered for all needs. The behaviour of the children was excellent. They were excited but always polite and respectful to the staff at PGL.

The trip emphasised to me that this present Year 7 are going to be a special year in the school; we can expect great things from them in the future. I would like to thank all of the staff who helped on the trip with a special mention for Mr Vincent who took over many of the organisational roles and being the go to teacher for the children, whenever they needed help and advice.



## Skiing à Les Menuires 2016

On the 26th of March 55 pupils and 5 staff set off for an early flight to Geneva from Manchester Airport. As there was a high security risk on at that time we expected to be slow getting into departures, but apart from one of our Year 10 boys not realising that a Go Pro camera was an electronic item ( and therefore resulting in a search of his hand luggage) we were through quickly.

We were off skiing to Les Menuires in France and we arrived at the resort about 6 hours later. During the stay, everyone skied for 24 hours in lessons. Massive improvements were made by everybody. In the evenings we quiz-ed, karaoke-ed, disco-ed and went on a ski bobsled attached to a rail, that flew down a mountain at well over 300mph (it felt like that!)

Mr Faulkner was a sensational support to the Year 10 boys singing their own interpretation of a modern classic Kung Fu Fighting.

The hotel and all the staff were brilliant and helped the pupils whenever help was needed. The pupils were excellent; we had no serious injuries and great behaviour throughout. As always, your sons and daughters proved to be a credit to you and to their school. Thank you from me to all of you who went. I would like to thank all of the staff who helped on the trip. So to Mrs Bate, Mr Faulkner, Mrs Frame and Ms Jones: a special Thank You.

Hopefully we will be going to the same hotel at Easter 2018, so start saving now if you are likely to want to come. **Mr Bate**



*"Skiing was one off the best experiences off my life; we had an amazing time time on the snow and off! We had a great set of teachers with us to make our time up in France even better. We had action packed days which included getting up at 7am in the morning to start the day off Skiing. Then in the evenings we had activities like a disco, speed mountain, quiz night and Karaoke. We made memories that we will never forget like Issy causing chaos at the top off a mountain and Mathew forgetting his skii coat! Thank you so much Mr Bate for allowing this trip to happen. We all thoroughly enjoyed it and would do it again without a second thought."* **Carys Wright Year 9**

# Cycling Times

This academic year there have been three organised bike rides. Four pupils and four members of staff braced themselves for an invigorating bike ride on December 3rd. This is the second year running that the gloves, hats and layers have been pulled on to complete the Pre-Christmas Pedal; a one day trip of nine and a half miles cycling in all.

The second outing was during the last week of April. Sixteen children, two parents and six staff took part in The Big Pedal. It is an annual national cycling event organised by Sustrans (a charity enabling people to choose healthier, cleaner and cheaper journeys.) We had weather ranging from cool to hail, sleet and snow with rain and the odd glimmer of blue skies sandwiched somewhere in between. It didn't dampen the cycling spirit!

The route for most of our events is locally known as 'The Lines'. It is part of the Kirklees Trail, which was formerly the Bury to Holcombe Brook branch railway line, developed by the Bury and Tottington Railway Company in 1878. It also forms part of the National cycle route 6 between Manchester and Preston. In 2011-12, Sustrans built a 65 metre-long bridge at a cost of £1.1 million high above the Kirklees Valley. This was on the site of the former Woolford railway viaduct that had previously been demolished. A collective 165 journeys were completed over the five day event. We also raised over four hundred and thirty pounds for Bury African Outreach.

And finally from June 20th to the 24th was Bike Week, another five day event but in warmer temperatures. Fourteen children, one parent and eight staff this time took part. We rounded off the school year cycling in early morning sunshine with birdsong, blue skies and wonderful summer views of the surrounding moors, woodlands and lodges.

On the 28th and 29th of June thirty seven Year 7 pupils will take part in Bikeability for confidence, skills and fun! Roll on Autumn Term for more events.



# Y8 Put Their Mercy In Action!

The Catholic Church is currently celebrating the 'Holy Year of Mercy', led by Pope Francis. This special year runs from 8 December 2015 to 20 November 2016 and offers the opportunity to reflect on how we might better radiate and reflect the love of God in our world and seek to draw others into experiencing that love and mercy.

In order to mark this very important year, the 'Mercy in Action' campaign was created to get our Y8 students to develop skills of empathy and compassion and put them to practice within the local community. Each student in the year group was given a 'Mercy in Action Star Card', which encouraged them to participate in four acts of mercy within their family lives, school, local parish and community. The students had to use their own initiative to come up with the four examples of Mercy in Action and take responsibility to provide photo/video evidence for each activity completed. The campaign was launched on 8th February and ran until 11th April. The overall aim of getting students involved in social action was to develop students understanding of the 'Year of Mercy', refine empathy and help students grow in responsibility, maturity and self-worth.

100 students in the year group completed the challenge and the level of commitment, compassion and maturity that these students demonstrated in putting their mercy into action within the local community was outstanding. There were some incredible examples of social action, including:

- Donating food to local food banks and homeless charities
- Helping out with local litter picking/clean up initiatives
- Teaching elderly relatives/neighbours how to use mobile phones/ipads/laptops
- Helping elderly neighbours/family members with household chores and gardening tasks
- Writing letters to local MPs to outline various ways that would make the local area more desirable (e.g. more bins, more/easier recycling facilities etc.)

As a reward for their fantastic hard work, the 100 students who completed the campaign went to Blackburn Ice Skating Rink on Friday 10th June and had a wonderful time, celebrating the success of putting their Mercy in Action.



## Music at the Heart of Bury 4th May

The Chamber Choir took part in this special concert hosted and organised by Holy Cross College to celebrate and promote the diverse musical talent across Bury. Many other schools took part in what was a wonderful evening of music making. Our Chamber Choir performed 3 songs and sang beautifully, receiving much praise and admiration from members of the audience. Thank you girls, once again, for your efforts and talents!

## Rotary Young Musician of the Year 12th May

Two of our talented musicians, Isabella Middleton (Year 11 voice) and Nicholas Rushworth (Year 10 saxophone) took part in this annual competition held at Bury Grammar School for Boys. Both performed their programmes with confidence and professionalism and were highly praised for their musicianship. Nicholas was runner-up in the instrumental section. Congratulations on two wonderful performances!

## A Night at the West End (Summer Concert) Tues 12th July

An enthusiastic audience were treated to a musical feast of various items celebrating and showcasing the musical talents from across the school. School ensembles and soloists performed a varied programme ranging from well-known musicals to more abstract pieces. An enjoyable evening was had by all; a suitable conclusion to what has been an eventful musical year! Thank you to all our wonderful, talented pupils!

## CISCO Little Big Awards 2016

7 Year 9 boys took part in the CISCO Little BIG Awards Regional final at The Museum Of Science and Industry on Friday 26th February. The awards set a challenge to come up with an idea that 'Connects the Unconnected' in today's society. The team of: Adam Lord, Nathan Michelson, Dan Brady, Scott Davidson, Connor Ramsahoye, Joe Hinchliffe and Max Bolus came up with a fantastic idea of connecting a glucometer sensor for a diabetic person to a raspberry pie which would then relay the blood sugar readings to an app for the person, parents, teachers or healthcare professionals to easily access. The team really did themselves credit, taking part in a 5 minute presentation to judges and the other participants, and setting up an exhibition stall to relay more information about their product. Unfortunately, the team didn't win but it was an excellent day and they should be proud of their achievements.



## Success At Masterchef

St Gabriel's once again took part in the Bury Junior Masterchef competition at Bury College in June. We had two teams of Year 9 girls: Freya Holland, Isabella Bruce, Imogen Costello and Lucy Liddle. Freya and Isabella's menu consisted of chicken stuffed with Bury black pudding, served with hasselback potatoes and honey glazed carrots. They followed this with chocolate fondant for dessert. Imogen and Lucy's chicken dish was stuffed with pesto and mozzarella, teamed with potatoes and asparagus parcels. For pudding they served mini pavlovas. 12 teams, mainly Year 10 GCSE students from various high school in Bury entered the competition, and we were delighted that Isabella and Freya won second place overall and the prize for the best dessert. Both teams did exceptionally well, producing food of restaurant quality and I am extremely proud of both teams.

## MFL Highlights

As we draw to the end of the year we have been celebrating our successes in the department and still continue to plan more activities for the end of term. The Year 7 Club continues to be well attended and we managed a Boules Championship on the John Banks field in the beautiful sunshine.

The Language Ambassadors continue to meet every Wednesday to plan for the club and other upcoming events.

50 Year 8s will visit MMU on Tuesday 14th June for the Routes into Languages Enrichment Day. They will be treated to a taster session in a new language, talks from the University Language Ambassadors and a tour of the campus.

5 Language Ambassadors are visiting Holy Cross College for an Enrichment Day on the 1st July aimed at budding linguists. This is an exciting opportunity to learn about the advantages of choosing a Language for A Level. Pupils from all over the borough will attend this event from all the high schools.

The planning for the Madrid Cultural Trip is well underway. 30 students will have an action packed 4 days of visits. This will include a visit to the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, the famous Bullring, Las Ventas, a Flamenco dance session and show, a visit to the Sunday flea market, El Rastro, and of course, opportunities to experience the shopping facilities in this impressive capital city.

The Language Ambassadors will be visiting Year 5 in three of our neighbouring primary schools for an afternoon of fun and games. As they move on into Year 10 they will continue in their role but we will be scouting for 10 more Ambassadors from the current Year 8s.

Watch out for the adverts!

## Primary Science Challenge

Congratulations to all the primary pupils who took part in the Primary Science Challenge and to winners Holly Mount.



## WW1 Trip

During the half-term break on the 1st June, 31 Year 9 pupils along with Mrs Mather, Mr Tems and Mr Fleming embarked on a journey across a slightly temperamental English Channel for a four day visit to France and Belgium. While on the continent, pupils had the opportunity to visit several WW1 battlefields and memorial sites, such as, the Bayernwald German trench system, Tyne Cot military cemetery, The Sunken Lane and the Newfoundland Memorial Park at Beaumont Hamel to name but a few.

**Jamie Walsh 9P commented "The feeling of standing, looking around where the soldiers once stood, the feeling is incredible."**

One particular highlight of the trip took place at the Menin Gate where the pupils of St Gabriel's took part in the Last Post Ceremony and laid a wreath to commemorate the sacrifice of those who gave their today for our tomorrow. Prior to the ceremony the pupils relished the opportunity to sample and purchase some well-crafted Belgian chocolates.

**"To visit an area where, in so many places, you are literally walking on ground where thousands of your country's men were killed certainly makes you appreciate what we have gained because of their sacrifice." Mr Tems**

On the final day, pupils took part in a small reflection at Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme which holds the names of over 72,000 men who have no known grave. Twenty of the names on the memorial belong to soldiers who came from our community, Bury. The pupils were a credit to the school, the community of Bury and the country.



## The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2016

Open to all Commonwealth citizens aged under 18, the Commonwealth essay competition offers young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to make their voices heard on a global platform, engage with issues important to them and to express their aspirations for the future. Year 8 students Orla Doody, Nicole Helling, Molly Bridgewood, Luke Trinnaman, Luke Treanor-Smith, Angelika Martiuk and Lillian Noble submitted work on the theme of 'An Inclusive Commonwealth' and could potentially win a trip to London to participate in a week-long cultural and educational festival. We wish good luck to all those who participated.



## Historical Fiction Competition

Year 8 student Lillian Noble submitted the imaginative short story, *Historical Fiction Competition*. Entrants were asked to write a short story set in a convincing historical time period and Lillian set herself the challenge of picking one she researched outside of lessons. We wish Lillian luck and hope this is the first of many creative enterprises she participates in.



The  
Historical Association  
The voice for history

## Performing Arts - the stuff that dreams are made of

Around 90 students were involved in devising a performance for the GCSE Drama and Performing Arts practical exam. Students were given the phrase "We Are Such Stuff as Dreams Are Made On", which is a line from Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. They discussed and explored how they could be 'made on' dreams and finally agreed that they would pursue the idea that dreams were their aspirations and that is what we, as individuals, aspire to, that make us who we are.

Some students thought deeper and suggested that depending on our gender or where we are born, it could impact on what we aspire to achieve. Students conducted research and found a study done in the US of girls who were only given Barbie dolls to play and compared their aspirations to girls who had a variety of non-gender-specific toys to play with. The study concluded that the girls who had opportunities to play with other toys had much more varied aspirations and ambitions for themselves.

This research formed the basis of the performance. The students wanted to convey the message that we should be free to aspire to what we truly believe in and not necessarily what society expects of us. The message then led them to start exploring the impact the EBacc could have on arts subjects; how government policy could prevent students from studying what they want to study. They felt so strongly about this issue that they requested to invite politicians to watch it. The performance took place in the school hall in front of the whole of Year 9. The examiner was full of praise for the students' work and passed comment about the professionalism and high standard of performance.



## Literacy in the Limelight

Pupils and staff at St. Gabriel's celebrated the 3rd 'Literacy in the Limelight' week this year, with a particular focus on Speaking and Listening. Staff encouraged pupils to develop their speaking and listening skills through a variety of different teaching and learning strategies. In form time, pupils debated the EU referendum and the library also hosted a variety of speaking and listening competitions for pupils.

As part of this initiative on Wednesday 22nd June we held a 'No Pen Day' during which all teaching and learning activities required no pen! This encouraged staff to use a variety of approaches including debating, role play, drama and modelling with playdough, all of which support our intention to become a dyslexia-friendly school.

We would like to thank all staff and pupils for their hard work and support of the 'Literacy in the Limelight' week and 'No Pen Day'.



## BREXIT

As part of the school's Literacy in the Limelight week, each form had the chance to stage their own EU debate during PSHE lessons, culminating in an EU referendum vote on Thursday, 23rd June. It was fantastic to see pupils engaging in current affairs and politics: researching the key talking points and showing an enthusiasm for an event that will have an impact on their lives.

Pupils considered evidence from both sides on issues such as sovereignty and laws, freedom of movement, and work and pay, before casting their vote.

With calculators at the ready, the votes were counted and it was revealed that 60% of our young voters wanted to REMAIN, with 40% voting to LEAVE - numbers that reflected how close the split was across the nation's electorate.



## Schools Direct

All of our trainees have now finished the training programmes and will soon be awarded their Post Graduate Certificates in Education. It has been a very demanding year but with some hard work, grit and determination, they have made it. All of our trainees have achieved good or outstanding gradings overall. Three quarters of our trainees have been appointed to posts starting in September in our alliance schools. We wish all of our trainees luck in their future teaching careers wherever they may take them.

We delivered our first training session for the trainees who will join us on our 2016-17 PGCE programme at the start of June. The session focused on an introduction to safeguarding and child protection, and behaviour management. The trainees will now be visiting their placement schools to get some more experience and to observe expert teachers in action.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to our partner schools St Monica's, Woodhey High School and The Elton High School who have worked with, and developed, our trainees this year. We look forward to working with them again in the future and to hopefully extending our partnership further. Thanks must also go to all of the professional and subject mentors who have taken so much of their time to support and guide our trainees on their placement, including our own mentors at St Gabriel's.

It has been a pleasure to work with such a great team of people and, as I leave St Gabriel's to move to pastures new, I know that I am leaving next year's trainees in very capable hands.

The application process for 2017-18 begins in October so if you are interested in teaching and think it might be the career for you or a member of your family, don't hesitate to give us a call or drop us an email and pop in for a visit. You can also find all the information you need on the school website.



## Sale Sharks Number Cruncherz – Friday 24th June

Sale Sharks are a Premiership rugby union team and on Friday 24th June they delivered their 'Number Cruncherz' Programme to some of our Year 7 and 8 pupils. The programme aimed to develop pupils' ability to use maths and apply it to budgeting and finance all through a rugby context. 80 pupils in Year 7 and 8 took part in a 2 hour rugby practical session, followed by 3 different maths based workshops. All pupils worked very hard on the day and we hope they got a lot out of it. They now have some follow-up work to help improve their maths skills further with the chance of winning tickets to a Sale Sharks Premiership game in September.



## Cricket

The under 13 cricket team (see photo) have made a very good start to the season and are progressing well in the Bury Cup and Manchester Catholic Cup competitions. After receiving a bye in the first round of the Bury Cup the boys took on Bury Grammar school in the ¼ finals and put in an excellent performance to win by 7 wickets. Special mention should go to Mustafa Afridi for an unbeaten 26 runs and also to Nathaniel Young who took 4 wickets. The team are also in the semi-finals of the Manchester Catholic Cup where we will meet St Bede's College. Hopefully another good performance will see us reach the finals. Well done to all the boys involved.



## STOP PRESS

The under-13 cricket team have indeed recently won the Manchester Catholic Cup. The boys beat St. Monica's in a hard fought semi-final by 12 runs. In the final, they defeated the host school St. Bede's by 30 runs with a very dominant performance. A great effort by all the squad, pictured with the trophy.



## Football

The Year 8 football team missed out in the latter stages of both cup competitions this year but enjoyed better success in the league. The team emerged as winners of the North Bury League beating Elton, Woodhey, Bury Church, Derby, Broadoak and Tottington to the title. Congratulations to the team and Captain Mustafa Afridi.

## Year 7 and 8 Rounders

Year 7 and 8 rounders teams have been training very hard. It has been great to see so many pupils enjoying the game and enthusiastic for rounders. Unfortunately, the weather has not been on our side and the sunshine game of rounders has been played in thunder and lightning! Both teams have been excellent representatives of St. Gabriel's as they have competed very well at the Catholic and Bury School's Rounders competition. Well done to all of the girls involved.