



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUTIO

March 2013



Welcome to our Spring edition of 'Pronutio'

(to pronounce, acclaim, proclaim.)

This term, we have continued to move forward and secure the best possible opportunities for our Year 11 pupils to prepare for their summer examinations. However, it isn't just about high academic standards; our work is also about the wholeness of the person and preparation for learning for life with our Catholic faith shaping who we are and what we do: Catholic not just in name, but in practice too. Throughout this edition of 'Pronutio', you will be able to share in our successes, selfless deeds and enjoyment of our school, as we continue to build up our community.

As I write, we are raising money for Caritas Salford (many of you will know it as 'St Joseph's Penny'). In this Year of Faith, it is vital that our school community recognises the responsibility we have to others less fortunate, not just abroad, but more locally, too. Our Easter liturgies have all had the common theme of sacrifice and suffering. We have had brilliant liturgies and reflection that can pull together 'what we actually do' with 'who we are' in this "Year of Faith".

All of us at St Gabriel's hope you enjoy the Easter holiday. Thank you to everybody for their hard work and support this term.

SA Smith
Headteacher



Opening the door of Faith

To commemorate the 2013 Year of Faith, launched by Pope Benedict, St Gabriel's students will all receive a special lapel badge as a reminder that 'the door of faith is always open'. The design has the Latin words 'Porta Fidei' and will be part of our Easter Liturgies where pupils will reflect on Christ's death on the Cross and Resurrection. Our challenge is to wear the badges as a display of our faith and share the message of welcome to all.

New Revision Website for year 11s

Launched in February and already having hundreds of visits, the new Year 11 revision website is proving popular with students preparing for their examinations. Accessible from the yellow banner on the St. Gabriel's home page, the website contains an ever growing number of quality materials that can help students in their studies at home or in school. Used alongside other methods of revision, it is sure to help make learning deeper and grades higher.



Making a Difference at Christmas

December saw the pupils of St. Gabriel's undertake their yearly task of collecting food to create hampers to be distributed to needy families within our local parishes. As always, we were overwhelmed with the support shown for this worthwhile cause. It is important to remember at Christmas that many people are alone, have no homes or, simply cannot afford the luxury of Christmas. It also reminds the pupils that Christmas is about love for God and others, not just about what we can 'get out of it' for ourselves. Many beautifully wrapped boxes appeared in Room 9 stuffed with tins, cakes, chocolate, tea, coffee, crisps, mince pies, sweets, Christmas puddings and plenty of other Christmas goodies. The 'Making A Difference' Group helped sort the hampers and prepare them for collection. 9S transported the hampers down to the foyer to be collected as well as helping load them into the car ready for delivery. A total of 68 bumper hampers were created; a fantastic achievement. Thanks to all the pupils involved, for their generosity and support for families in our community.



School Transport

It is disappointing that Bury Council have voted to remove discretionary bus passes from pupils travelling to their nearest faith school. I was there, at the Town Hall to support the status quo with other Catholic headteachers and parents, but to no avail. What is important now is what we do about it.

School buses will continue to operate as they do now from outside St Gabriel's School in the future. This will not change. There are only changes to the discretionary bus passes for some pupils.

However, the governing body will be holding a number of meetings to determine how best they can support parents with children currently with us and our future parents with children in primary schools. Immediately after Easter, governors will meet and then I will communicate the outcome of their deliberations to you.

It was really heartening to read the messages of support and the comments on the public consultation. 80% of people who took part in the consultation wanted the council to retain the passes. However, this wasn't the case. Perhaps the consultation, realistically, was not going to make a difference, regardless of the outcome?

St Gabriel's French Spelling Bee

For the third year running, we have put Year 7 through their paces as they faced the huge challenge that is the National Spelling Bee Competition. 50 French words had to be learnt then spelt out correctly using the French alphabet including accented letters. Class winners were the pupils who spelt the most correctly in 1 minute. The following class winners then made it through to the year group final with an additional 50 words to learn:



Flora Knowles 7P
Joe Whelan 7C
Bethan Kelly 7R
Niamh Lindo 7B
Morgan Charnley 7B
Joe Kilroy 7L
Sean Corcoran 7S
Maksymilian Gotkowicz 7S
Liam Hincliffe 7L
Jack Bennett 7L



It was a very intensive and nerve-racking competition with the rest of year in the audience. They were in awe of the levels of concentration and the speed and accuracy of the spelling. This final was won by Bethan, Maksymilian, Flora and Joe Whelan who go through to the Regional Final at Manchester Metropolitan University on 20th March. This time with 150 words to learn and spell. If they are successful, they will go through to the National Final at Cambridge University. Successful or not, we are really proud of all the participants.

World Book Day

March 7th 2013

This year, the English department continued to build upon the success of last year's World Book Day events by dressing as their favourite Fairy tale characters.

Drop Everything and Read

At 2.55pm, everyone in school was given the opportunity to stop whatever they were doing and spend fifteen minutes reading a book, magazine or newspaper. It was wonderful to see so many staff and pupils taking part in this activity; the range of reading material was fantastic. There was a lovely sense of relaxation in each and every classroom which was visited.

Get Caught Reading

Pupils were challenged to 'get caught reading' around school during the week of World Book Day. Staff ventured into all areas of the school to seek out avid readers. Pupils should look for posters around the school throughout the next few weeks to see if they were one of the lucky pupils caught reading. A prize awaits them!

Reading Aloud

During the week of World Book Day members of staff from various departments including Learning Support, RE and Science volunteered to read aloud to pupils in the resource centre. They chose their favourite books or short stories to read to pupils. Pupils enjoyed listening to the adults reading work by John Grisham, W.W. Jacobs and Roald Dahl.

Book Poll

A teen book poll was given out to all forms to find out their opinions on everything from the author they would most like to spend a day with, to the character that would make the best boyfriend or girlfriend. Pupils enjoyed discussing their answers. The scariest book identified amongst pupils was the Woman in Black by Susan Hill. Many pupils thought that they would like to take the place of Hermione Granger in the Harry Potter series.

Staff were also involved in the poll, identifying Mr Darcy from Pride and Prejudice as the literary character who would make the best boyfriend!

Book Swap

Key Stage 3 pupils were invited to bring in books they had read, enjoyed and would recommend to others. They had the chance to swap their book with a book recommended by another pupil. Pupils enjoyed talking about their book and why it was worth reading. Pupils involved were keen to make this a regular event in school.

Graphic Novel Event

We were overwhelmed with the response to our first 'Graphic Novel/Comic Book event' with B3 being filled to the rafters. Pupils took part in a fiendish quiz whilst enjoying some delicious homemade comic cupcakes; all pupils entered into the spirit of the day and there was a fantastic atmosphere during the lunch break.

Special thanks must go to Sophie Wilding who ran a Manga drawing workshop wonderfully; there was still a queue of pupils waiting to have their portrait drawn at the end of lunch – no doubt she will be busy for many weeks to come!

We were also impressed with the knowledge of our pupils; in particular Luke Hogan was focused and enthused throughout the whole event.

Well done to all involved! We can't wait for next year!



Year 7 Computer Club

Year 7 Computer Club has been running since October and we have been enjoying learning about different programming languages such as BBC Basic and Scratch. We have also learnt some Flash animation skills from the Master of Flash, Rowan Gaunt, our resident specialist. We have also had some fun building a Robot with Lego Mindstorms which we really enjoyed. If you would like to come to Computer Club and you're in Year 7, see Miss Latham about joining and learning more about computers.



Primary Science Fair March 6th

This event was held at St Marie's Primary School for the 7th Year running and was entered this year by Our Lady of Lourdes, St Joseph and St Bede's, Hollymount, Guardian Angels and St Marie's. Two of our Year 9 ambassadors were part of the Science Fair themselves in 2008!

Each school sent a team of pupils along with their display board and interactive items that summarised their entry. All the pupils had a chance to demonstrate their excellent science knowledge to St Marie's pupils and the three judges – two pupils from Year 9 – Natalia Abramowicz and Beatrice Lee Horton and Steve Rossington from Salford University.

The teams also had an explosive show demonstrated by Steve Rossington - or as one of the pupils from St Joseph and St Bede's said "are we going to see a show on real science!"

This year we had displays on friction, characteristics of materials, fizzing fun, what floats your boat, separating solids and liquids, and a robot style sorting machine. Hollymount had an interesting team made up of Year 6 and Year 1.

The judges and all of the Year 9 ambassadors were thoroughly impressed with the scientific process demonstrated by all the teams and each team was awarded a prize to match their particular skills. These ranged from scientific thought, creative ability, clarity, teamwork and interactivity of the display.

A massive thank you to St Marie's agreeing to host this event again.

War of the Worlds

A huge congratulations to Stephen Mitchell 9B who recently won the prestigious honour of having his superbly written review of 'War of the Worlds' featured on *filmclub's* 'Review of the Week' page. As well as achieving the fantastic feat of fending off thousands of competitors throughout the country, Stephen was rewarded with a Vue voucher so that he can continue his expert critique of cinematic events.

On 5th March, *filmclub* coordinator Lucy Whitehead said, 'Stephen's review for 'War of the Worlds' has been chosen as our featured review this week. We get around 5,000 reviews submitted each week so this is no mean feat!'

War of the Worlds **** 4 out of 5

A gripping plot; Fantastic CGI; An action packed adventure; a selection of great actors - well, it is directed by Stephen Spielberg. Need I say anymore?

War of the worlds was a thrill to watch, containing a nice balance of action, fear and touching family bonding. We start off in the gritty reality of modern life: a broken family, a cramped city home and a less than loving father, giving us a realistic background for our characters. The convincing acting and the plausible setting makes the concept of aliens from Mars, who have stayed hidden for millennia, plundering our planet in narcissistically formed tripod robots, a little more digestible. The film is fantastic though, so excuse my unruly skepticism!

One thing I can critique it on is the unlikely nature of Ray and the gang's near death escapes. I mean, it's a little bit like watching power rangers: the good guys always get out alive but for some reason the enemies' lasers keep missing. Now I'm not saying all the characters should've died, but perhaps if their escapes were a bit more feasible, my immersion would remain intact for the whole film.

Before spoiling any more of the movie, I would like to congratulate possibly the most recognisable name in directing of our time on making this film for us to enjoy (and poke at) here at film club.

**** "Any more explosions and I would have got a tan!" *The Daily Telegram*

By Stephen Mitchell



Mind, Body and Spirit Workshop



On 28th February, the RE Department, along with the PE Department, ran a 'Mind, Body and Spirit' workshop at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School. Based around the theme of the Olympics, pupils and parents from Our Lady of Lourdes were given various activities to participate in. The RE Department focused on the idea of gifts and talents, not only identifying their own but also looking at how they could help and support other people using theirs. The RE Department also had a Fairtrade taste testing workshop, which was certainly very popular. The London Olympic Organising Committee made sure that Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar, bananas and chocolate was used and sold throughout the London Olympics. The evening was very successful and the Year 9 ambassadors that supported the RE Department were a credit to the school.

Year 10 GCSE PE pupils have been working hard throughout the year to complete a Sports Leadership Award in conjunction with Bury FC. As part of their course they have ran various sports workshops for our Year 7 pupils and pupils from our local Primaries. On Thursday 28th February these pupils demonstrated their excellent sports leadership skills again at the Mind, Body and Spirit Workshop ran by the RE and PE Departments at Our Lady of Lourdes. Our pupils ran stations that included an assault course, a speed and co-ordination challenge, a healthy heart workshop and an aerobics class all of which definitely put the pupils (and staff!) through their paces. All of the pupils were excellent ambassadors for St. Gabriel's and can look forward to further opportunities for leadership in sport.

Sports Leaders involved: Olivia Johnstone, Abigail Murphy, Eliza Hart, Clare Murray, Anna Norman, Becci Jones, Roisin Langan, Harry Stainton, Carl Farrelly, Chris Wright



Year 8 Prayer

There have been a number of opportunities for Year 8 to participate in prayer and reflect on the role of faith in their lives. During small group sessions pupils have been given the opportunity to reflect on the link between what they study in RE lessons and their own questions. Through art, prayer and sharing, pupils have explored their own image of God, different methods of prayer and the role that faith and relationships play in their own lives. Pupils have commented that, in a small group setting, they have felt able to ask and explore answers to questions that they have such as: 'Can we believe in God and in the Big Bang?' 'What do other religions believe about God?' A particular favourite has been the opportunity to experience a guided meditation which they have found to be both restful and a helpful way of encountering Jesus.

During the term Year 8 have also prepared for, and participated in, form Masses. Each Mass has taken its theme from the readings of the day which pupils have taken as a basis for their preparations. Many pupils have written and read prayers and readings during Mass and all have contributed through reflection and preparing an altar frontal that represents each person in their form.



Year 8 Retreat

On the 31st of January and the 1st of February Year 8 pupils enjoyed a retreat day in the hall. Pupils were encouraged to get involved in a range of activities that allowed them to get to know themselves and each other better. They also had an opportunity to show off how creative they are when they produced models of Jesus using everyday household junk. Their 'Junk Model Jesus' had to have physical characteristics that represented Jesus' many qualities, for example: a big heart to show how loving he is. Role plays explaining 'Junk Model Jesus' concluded a very enjoyable and valuable day for all involved.

Spotlight on Performing Arts Music Trip to Belgium

47 students and 5 staff members enjoyed a wonderful four night trip to Belgium over the half term. Everyone had a fantastic time with many memorable experiences including a trip to one of the most famous aquariums in Europe, a visit to the chocolate factory and sight-seeing in Brussels and Ypres. However, the highlight of the trip was a musical performance from the Senior and Chamber choir (plus soloists) in Brussels.

Many thanks to all students and staff who made it so successful.

Belgium 2013- a student diary

"It was 9th February at 6.30am- we were all excited and off to Belgium!

After a long journey we arrived at the Ypres Lodge Hotel. We had a great first night in our dorms. The next morning we tasted our first continental breakfast (chocolate croissants!) and headed off to Bologne-Sur-Mer in France. Sadly as it was a Sunday, most shops were closed so we headed for the nearest Pizzeria. In the afternoon we went to a world famous Marine Centre which was absolutely fabulous. We all loved the penguins! In the evening we were subjected to Mr Ellis' and Mr Kane's Quiz! Everyone had a great night-the quiz wasn't too bad either!

On Monday morning we woke up to snow and went to the picturesque town of Ypres and bought lots of delicious Belgium Chocolate! We then went to a Boulangerie in France (where we ate croissants) and then headed off to visit a Chocolate Factory (more chocolate!) In the evening we enjoyed a bowling trip. Well done to Thomas Spencer- our bowling champion!

Tuesday was our performance day. Off to Brussels! After a few hours of shopping and exploring the city, we headed for our concert venue (a home for the elderly). It was a fantastic experience singing for such a lovely crowd. A few tears were shed as we sang our final song because we didn't want to leave. Our last night was by far the best! A disco/karaoke night was organised for us- everyone loved the night. It was a great end to an amazing holiday! Bring on 2014!

An extra special thank you to Mr Rushworth, Miss Whalley, Mr Ellis, Mrs Robinson and Mr Kane who gave up their half-term holiday time to be with us. Thank you so much."

Eirinn Kilvington and Alix McHugh (9R)

The Sound of Music- Holy Cross

We were delighted that four St Gabriel's gifted and talented musicians were invited to be part of the orchestra for the Holy Cross production of 'The Sound of Music'. The students involved were Anthony Rushworth, Jack Sindall, Sam Sindall, Phoebe Forrester

The production has been a huge success- Congratulations!

Holocaust Memorial Service

On Thursday 24th January at Radcliffe Civic Suite, the Chamber Choir were invited to perform at this annual event. They sang 'I am a Small Part of the World' beautifully at the end of the service and were a credit to the School.

Past Pupil Success

Congratulations to Emma Rushworth who has been awarded a scholarship to study violin at the Royal Northern College of Music. She follows in the footsteps of previous St Gabriel's students Louise Rogan, Lucy Baines and Sean Boyes. Good luck for the future!

Future events

- Performing Arts Festival: April 22nd- 26th
- School Musical- November 2013
- School Musical Auditions: 1st and 2nd May after-school * More information to follow!

Drama

GCSE Drama and Performing Arts students were given the opportunity to be mentored by Bury College 2nd Year Performing Arts students. The Bury College students provided performance skill workshops, which they have learnt as part of their course, whilst offering valuable advice and guidance to our students in the devising of their own performance work for assessment. The students also answered questions about college life and choices available to those wishing to study drama or performing arts at college.

GCSE Performing Arts

GCSE Performing Arts students were given a fabulous chance to experience the running of The Met Theatre in Bury. The students spent the day in the theatre having question and answer sessions with the Artistic Director, Marketing Officer, technicians and a representative from the Arts Council. They learnt about budgeting, applying for arts funding and the on-going problems a small theatre faces. After touring the theatre, the students also had the opportunity to speak to the actors from Hull Truck Theatre Company to discover how professional actors earn a living, before watching their fantastic production of The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde.



Manchester Catholic Schools Cross Country Championships.

Double delight for the Year 7 Boys' team who followed their win in the Bury Schools' Championships in November by winning the Manchester Catholic Schools' Cross Country in February.

A fantastic performance from a talented team with all 7 members finishing in the top 21 positions! Well done again.

Kelvin Cockcroft 2
Curtis Johnstone 4
Joseph Klusiatis 6
Joseph Whelan 14
Adam Mannion 15
Cameron Prow 20
Kieran Routh 21



The senior boys team also put in a great performance to finish second overall. The team consisted of Harry Stainton, John Murray, Liam Shaw, Philip Georgiou, Taylor Gibbons and Chris Wright. Special mention should go to Harry Stainton, Liam Shaw and John Murray who finished 5th, 6th and 7th respectively which was a great effort.

The Year 7 girls did very well to finish 2nd overall. The team was Selina Cockcroft, Rebecca Gartland, Holly Smith, Lara Bridges, Jodie Reynolds and Sadie Thompstone.



Senior Badminton.

Well done to the senior boys' team of Daniel Gillan, Andrew Heywood and Chris Wright who took part in the Bury Schools tournament earlier this year. Although they did not win the competition they did perform creditably, and it was good to see St. Gabriel's represented again in this competition.

Year 9 5-a-side Winners

The Year 9 boys' football team won the Bury Schools 5-a-side championships in February beating a strong Castlebrook side 5-3 in the final. The team had qualified by winning a tough Bury North section earlier in the year beating Bury Church, Elton, Derby and Woodhey. Well done to all the team.

Joe Duffy, Connor Schofield, Ben Hornsby
Callum Andrews, Robin Greenwood
Nathan Healey, Will Rendell, Jamie Hart



Year 7 Athletics

The picture is of our Year 7 indoor Athletics' team that participated in the Bury Schools' Year 7 competition and finished 4th at Broad Oak High School. The girls were outstanding and finished with the highest total points score in the overall competition. Well done to all competitors; great prospects for the future of St Gabriel's athletics success.

Netball Update

As the netball season draws to a close, all teams are training and playing hard to secure their league finishing positions and to beat the opposition at their end of season tournaments. Tournaments that the teams have competed in and results confirmed so far are listed below, however, look out for more netball news in the next issue when all competitions have been played!



Year 11

Bury Schools Tournament – 2nd Place
Greater Manchester County Schools



Year 10

Bury Schools Tournament – 3rd Place
Greater Manchester County Schools



Year 9

Catholic Schools Netball Tournament
Greater Manchester County Schools



Year 7

Catholic Schools Netball Tournament



Year 8

Catholic Schools Netball Tournament – Winners, Greater Manchester Schools Tournament – Semi-finalists



Goodbye Year 11 Netball Team

Well done and thank you to all of the girls involved in school netball throughout this year. In particular, a special thank you must go to the Year 11 Netball Team who will compete in their last ever competition for school at the forthcoming Netball Trip. These girls are talented, team players who have been committed to St. Gabriel's Netball since starting in Year 7. Throughout their time they have always worked hard and demonstrated an extremely high level of skill, not just on the court but off as well, as they have coached and umpired netball for Primary School Children and our younger pupils. They have always been excellent ambassadors for St. Gabriel's Netball and School Sport and it has been a pleasure to coach them and always a joy to watch them play. Well done girls and thank you; keep up the netball on leaving St. Gabriel's!

Miss Rhind