



ST GABRIEL'S

ROMAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

PRONUNTIO

March 2015



Our Mission

In the week before half term, eight members of the Sion Youth Team came to school to lead a mission. The week was jam packed with opportunities for our whole school community to delve deeper into our Catholic journey. Every day began with an assembly for each year group, exploring themes such as God's Call, God's plan for our lives, our belonging to the Church and Jesus' ministry.

After assemblies, the Sion team led interactive workshops throughout the week for smaller groups. These sessions were tailored to the ages and interests of our pupils. The Year 7 and 8 boys found out more about the Mass through football and the Year 11 girls looked at challenging what the media says about us with what God says. Staff were also invited to get involved in the mission with social gatherings and a daily morning liturgy before school began.

The mission team ran after-school events for staff, pupils and our whole parish family which concluded on Thursday night with 'The Main Event'. We had the chance to celebrate the gifts and talents of our young people and the opportunity to respond in prayer during a short but powerful liturgy led by the mission team.

The week was a fantastic success and a chance to realise just how blessed we are as a faith community.

Welcome to our spring term edition of Pronuntio.

You may remember, that when we revamped our old newsletter into Pronuntio, I made reference to the translation of Pronuntio as to 'announce' and 'proclaim'. This is precisely what we have been doing this term: the Sion Youth Mission, our standing at the top of the latest 'league tables' and the work our young people do as good citizens in our community and parishes. I very much hope you enjoy this edition and see for yourselves what our young people have been up to this term. There is much to celebrate and give thanks for as we approach Easter! **Mr S.A. Smith**



St. Gabriel's is Top of the Class

Last year's GCSE results meant that St Gabriel's was the most successful state school in the borough according to the league tables in the Bury Times recently. Our 5 A* to C with English and Maths was at 66%, substantially higher than the school in second place. Our 5 A* to C was at 80%, again in first place. Mr Smith, Headteacher, said "These results are great news for the school as we continue to build on our past results. We are especially proud of all our young people and those who played a role in supporting them to achieve their goals, whether as teachers, support staff or parents. While we do have league tables, parents and our communities must always look beyond them. They do not show how happy pupils are in school, which cultural and enrichment programmes they take part in, or, in our case, measure their personal and spiritual growth. These are equally important to us."

Recently, the Manchester Evening News published their Real Schools Guide and ranked St Gabriel's as the top school in Bury. This time it took into account not only the school's results for 2014, but also attainment, teaching, attendance and outcomes. Whilst league tables are one valuable measure of how our school is performing, we are very proud of all aspects of our school community. It is a reflection of the strength of the Catholic sector, building on the outstanding work of our feeder primaries.



Preparing for the Future You're Hired!

On Tuesday and Wednesday 10th/11th March 2015 Year 11 took part in their mock interviews, where they prepared a letter of application for a job and then experienced an interview with expert employers drawn from our community. The students took advantage of this important aspect of their IAG Careers Programme. Year 11 pupils received positive and helpful feedback after their "grilling". Many found the mock interview experience "nerve racking" but extremely useful and worthwhile. All were smartly dressed and "scrubbed up" and no doubt greatly relieved once the interview was over, hopefully having done justice to their talents and aspirations. One student said, "I was so nervous, but it was really helpful and I am so pleased I had the opportunity to try out my interview skills."



The mock interviewers, who come from our business and professional community, were extremely impressed with our students. They were genuinely complimentary on how our students prepared themselves for the interview, how they conducted themselves as young adults about to embark on their future careers and how seriously they took on the process.

All in all the mock interviews are an important aspect to preparing our students for the adult world post-16. A big thanks to all the interviewers who gave up their valuable time to help our students. Thanks also to the students who made such a fine effort in the process and a big thanks to staff who helped with the two evenings. A special thanks goes to Ms Claire Saunders for administering and helping out with the interviews. Yet again our Year 11's did us proud.

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 now the lead school for training teachers as part of the St Monica's Catholic Teaching School Alliance and School Direct. This is an exciting time for the school as we are currently the only school in Bury to offer the School Direct PGCE Primary and Secondary programmes. 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 as we become a hub school for teacher training in the Bury area.



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. All of the places on our School Direct programme have been created by analysing our staffing needs for the future. Therefore, there is a high possibility of employment at the end of a successful training year. Thanks to the strong partnerships we have developed across the local authority and with our two teaching school partners we are in the unique position of being able to offer placements in the Special Educational Needs and Sixth Form sectors. The PGCE course begins in September, 2015 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, Physics, Biology, Food Technology, English, Religious Studies and Primary. If you are a graduate and wish to explore your options in teacher training further, do not hesitate to contact the school or visit the school website for more details.

Keep up the good work!

Prom Fayre

A massive thank you to all those involved in the Prom Fashion Show on Tuesday 3rd February. It was the biggest and best yet! A huge thank you must go to the outfitters: Esme, Because I Love You, John Francis and Debenhams for supporting the event and helping to make it such a success. The pupils involved loved every minute and it has started the excitement for one of the best nights of their lives in June. A big thank you to all the members of the PTA and staff helpers but most of all, the Year 11 pupils who were fantastic as the models. They did themselves and St. Gabriel's very proud. Here's to a wonderful Prom on June 23rd 2015!





Hate Crime Conference

On Friday 13th February, four Year 9 pupils accompanied Mrs Harvey to a hate crime conference at Bury Town Hall in anticipation of Diversity Day which will be running here later in the school year. The four pupils were Thomas Mather, George Ellis, Victoria Smith and Imogen Hart. They were true ambassadors, participating in every activity and at all times representing our school community well.

The day was made up of a variety of workshops and guest speakers including Sylvia Lancaster who founded the Sophie Lancaster foundation after her own daughter was murdered in a vicious hate crime. We all found her talk especially moving, but Victoria noted that she was an inspiring person, because despite all of her own suffering, she has worked hard to bring light out of that darkness, to raise awareness and bring hope to others.

George was surprised to see that so many people and organisations are working hard to combat all forms of hate crime. Imogen found the day really reflective and it made her consider all the different types of discrimination that exist. She wants to make a real effort to stand up against any form of prejudice and discrimination. Tom found it helpful, because he is more aware of the sorts of actions that should be reported. He also thought the whole day was relevant, because it really made us think and Victoria agreed that she will certainly think before she speaks in future and consider the impact her words might have. Mrs Harvey was really proud of how our pupils represented our school and our Catholic ethos throughout the day. They set a great example to the pupils and staff from a wide range of schools, organisations and charities present.



A gift for life

The Bible is the single most important book ever written. It is an eyewitness account of events of such magnitude that they have literally shaped the world in which we live. Without this book the Western world and a good deal of the Eastern world would be completely different today if the events of this book had never occurred.

We would like to thank the 'The Jerusalem Trust's Small Grants to Schools Scheme' for their grant which enables us to purchase 42 bibles to be used in Religious Education Lessons.

In addition, each year Gideon's International visits us to give every Year 7 pupil a New Testament and Psalms.

Every Religious Education lesson at St Gabriel's is based on a bible reading or quotes from the catechism so we are delighted that we can update the bibles which we use in school. Please encourage your child to look after their Gideon Bible and use it to help them with their home learning.

Holocaust Memorial Day

27th January this year marked the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Birkenau. We commemorated the date through a variety of activities. All pupils learned about the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in PSHE. Mr Loster as well as Michael Pickup, Patrick Gillan and Louisa Munch led a thought-provoking assembly on the theme of honouring the memories of those affected by the Holocaust. All three pupils were shining examples and read beautifully and respectfully.

Our commemorations came to a conclusion through a whole school reflection event facilitated by our wonderful school chaplaincy team as well as some helpful Year 11 school council members. The event focussed on the lives of three Holocaust survivors who want their memories, and in particular the lessons we can learn from them, to stay alive. The pupils conducted themselves so respectfully and a wide variety of pupils and staff popped in to pay their respects and reflect during the voluntary event that ran over the lunch period.

More than 200 people filled in a promise card explaining which person they wanted to honour and how they were going to keep their memories alive. Promises ranged from posting a picture in honour of the survivor they had chosen on Instagram to more serious ones about committing to treat people of different religions or races equally, learning to be more tolerant of people and their differences, retelling their story to a family member, forgiving someone for the serious hurt they had caused and many more.

On the evening of the 27th, our school also hosted an event that was organised by the Department of Evangelisation and the guest speaker was a remarkable lady who survived the Holocaust. Some of our pupils attended it and found it to be incredibly moving.

Mrs Harvey would like to thank all of the pupils and staff alike who made the week leading up to Holocaust Memorial Day and the day itself a haunting, but reflective and inspiring time. You may have seen the moving picture of Rebecca Barbosa in the Bury Times article written about our school community's commemorations.



Got ADDitude?

(information for parents/ strategies/ routines that work)

For families who have a family member who has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or ODD (Opposition Defiant Disorder), the following website has lots of useful tips and information. It can also give ideas for dealing with issues faced by every teenager, such as getting organised, good ways to establish routines, discipline issues, etc.



www.additudemag.com

It is an online magazine which is free once you sign up. You will get regular newsletters and access to short videos on many subjects, e.g. ADHD information for parents/ strategies/routines that work, ODD, health & nutrition, organisational skills, social skills and sleep problems.



Cheque for £2400 gratefully received by Bury African Outreach
Thanks for another great Coffee Morning.

Caritas in Action Training day

'It has always been at the very foundation of our Christian faith that we not only profess our faith and belief in the love of God but that we express that faith in an active care and love for our neighbour.' Bishop John Arnold, Caritas in Action Handbook

Six pupils who are active participants in St Gabriel's MAD (Make A Difference) group attended a special day at Salford Cathedral Centre on Tuesday 3rd March. The aim of the day was to introduce them to a new handbook, written especially for young people in the diocese. The handbook specifically focuses on advocacy and leadership in the social teaching of the Church. Throughout the day our pupils were encouraged to be the hands, feet and voice of God in our world.

Our pupils came back to school with a renewed passion for supporting the work of the Caritas projects in the diocese, speaking out for the voiceless in society and walking day by day with Jesus, learning from His example of compassion and justice.



IDL Raffle

Some of our pupils have been using an Internet based programme called Indirect Dyslexia Learning, which is designed to help improve reading and spelling. Dyslexia affects many people and is often not recognised, which leads to a lack of success in school. Many people with dyslexia, however, are very creative and dynamic people, who go on to achieve great success in later life, such as Sir Richard Branson.

To encourage pupils to come to IDL sessions in their own time, the Curriculum Support Department awarded a raffle ticket each time they attended. The winning raffle ticket belonged to Victoria Smith of 9W. She is pictured accepting her prize of a £20 voucher.

We're the tops

High street handmade cosmetics chain 'Lush' turn used plastic bottle tops into new pots for their products.

Year 7 pupils were encouraged to bring in plastic bottle tops as part of our continuing commitment to highlighting environmental issues and stewardship. Members of the Year 7 Eco-council made a great effort to collect the tops from each form once a week.

In total over 10,000 plastic bottle tops (that's 20kgs in weight) were collected. This means that rather than sending the tops to landfill, they can be recycled and transformed into useful products. The tops will soon be presented to the Lush shop on The Rock.



Journalist visit: the return of Moriarty!

Twenty pupils interested in a career in journalism attended a second focus group led by the successful journalist, Richard Moriarty. Our budding writers were given tips on embarking upon a career in writing and a real life account of what a career in journalism means.

Pupils showed an excellent level of enthusiasm when listening to Moriarty's anecdotes. Being such inquisitive individuals, they savoured the chance to ask burning questions that ranged from what makes a newsworthy article to issues regarding libel law. Luke Kiely in particular showed an interest in the travel aspect of the job!

Plans are afoot for the year 11 pupils to work alongside Moriarty on a front page project that will report on the last two months of their time at school.

By Katie Stansfield and Ciboney Perkins



Poetry By Heart regional competition

The Poetry By Heart competition is a pioneering national competition designed to encourage pupils aged 14-18, at school and college in England to learn and recite poems by heart. Following a hard-fought school competition, Charlotte Taylor was selected to represent St Gabriel's at the regional competition which took place at the Life Centre in Wigan on February 7th.

Charlotte performed wonderfully on the day but lost out to an experienced competitor. However, all of the judges commended her on her outstanding renditions of Emily Brontë's 'Remembrance', Edward Blunden's 'Concert Party: Busseboom' and Theodore Roethke's 'My Papa's Waltz'. Each of Charlotte's performances clearly demonstrated how much time and effort she had put into the preparation for the competition; she did fantastically well!

The judges encouraged Charlotte to enter the competition next year as she had impressed them with her sensitive approach to, and mature understanding of, the emotions and complexities of each poem. Her performance was flawless despite being packed with emotion. We are enormously proud of Charlotte and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate her once again!



World Book Day

Once again, World Book Day was a resounding success at St. Gabriel's, with numerous members of staff dressing up as literary characters (making fools of themselves), tons of activities and prizes at the Harry Potter lunchtime event, and Drop Everything and Read.

A trip round the English department would suggest there had been a teacher-exchange with the Hogwarts school of Witchcraft and Wizardry for the day. Therefore, many thanks to Dumbledore, Bellatrix Lestrange, the Whomping Willow, Luna Lovegood, Filch the caretaker, and even Harry himself, for stepping into our shoes for the day. At least, I think it was them.

Not to be outdone, the Maths and Science departments were clearly inspired by Dr. Seuss and made a wonderful effort with their costumes.

All in all, the pupils went from hysterics, to bemusement, to embarrassment and downright pity. Swiftly moving on...

Congratulations must go to Grace Soro, Lilian Noble and Jack Williams for winning a selection of fabulous prizes at the English lunchtime event, hosted by Mrs. Banton...I mean, Bellatrix (boo!). Grace's fan-fiction could have been mistaken for the work of J.K. Rowling herself, whilst Lilian and Jack's formidable knowledge of the Harry Potter universe is surely unrivalled amongst Muggles.

Finally, it was a pleasure to see the whole school dropping their pens for twenty minutes and reading in perfect bliss, during the course of the day, providing a reminder that any opportunity to use our imagination and enjoy some personal time with a piece of literature is simply priceless.



Music Tour to Disneyland Paris

48 students and 7 staff members enjoyed a wonderful 5 night trip to Paris over the half term. On Saturday 14th February we all gathered at the school gates excitedly waiting to hop on the coach down to Dover, where we caught the ferry to Calais and then on to Paris. We arrived in Paris late that afternoon, settled into our rooms and prepared for the busy days ahead.

We were woken up bright and early and headed to our first day at Disneyland. Everyone felt like a 5 year old again as we spent the day going on all the rides and watching the parade. It was an amazing first day and we couldn't wait for the days to come.

The following day was concert day. Before this in the morning we went sightseeing around the beautiful City of Paris. We saw famous landmarks such as The Eiffel Tower and The Sacre Coeur and also went up the Montparnasse Tower- the view was breath-taking! In the afternoon, it was time for our concert at the enormous L'Eglise Madeline. We were all excited to show off what we had been rehearsing for the past two months. Despite nerves because of the size of the place, the concert was a great success and all of the songs sounded lovely. There was lots of great feedback from the audience.

The third and final day was definitely the best. We spent the day in Disney again in the Hollywood Studios Park. We ended the day with a disco and quiz- a great way to end an amazing holiday.

A huge thank you to the teachers, who gave up their half term to come away with us. It wouldn't have been half as good without you: Mr Rushworth, Mrs Bingley, Miss Maymon, Miss Boucher, Miss Dobie and Mr Fleming- a great trip to end our time at school.



GCSE Performing Arts Evening

On the 12th March an audience of around 250 people watched a dress rehearsal for new devised performance created by the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Performing Arts students.

The performance, titled 'Museum of Science and Art' celebrates the diversity of these two subjects. The cast was made up of 80 performers who all sang, danced and acted without ever leaving the stage for the hour-long show. 'Museum of Science and Art' was performed in the round which made it extremely complex to stage; however, it was worth it as it allowed the performers to interact with the audience and even got them involved in a real-life Science experiment!

The show was created in response to this year's Performing Arts exam brief which stated that candidates should produce an educational performance for Key Stage 2 students as part of a Science and Arts Fair. It was finally performed in front of the Chief Examiner of the country on the 18th of March and 80 primary students.



GCSE Music Performance Evening

On Thursday March 5th there was a Music GCSE performance evening at which Y11 students showcased some of the practical coursework that they have been preparing in their Music lessons over the past two years. This practical coursework makes up 60% of their GCSE and consists of solo and ensemble performances and compositions. The evening was set out in an informal 'cabaret' style in the Drama Studio and the musical talent displayed by the students was tremendous. There were many proud parents (and teachers!) in the audience. Congratulations to all involved.

Music at the Heart of Bury

The Chamber Choir performed at this special event on Wednesday 1st April at Holy Cross College. The concert involved groups from local schools, Holy Cross and Bury Music Centre String Orchestra. Various local dignitaries were present at the event to help make it both a prestigious evening and raise the profile of music in the Bury area.

Future events

- Performing Arts Festival: April 27th- May 1st
- School Musical Auditions: April 29th- 30th * More information to follow.
- African Jigsaw: July 7th-8th An ecological Musical performance featuring feeder Primary Schools.

Year 9 Art Ambassador Badge Competition

This term the Art department ran a competition to find creative badge designs for our art year 7, 8 and 9 ambassadors. Our ambassadors enjoy sharing new creative skills with their peers during lessons.

We had so many fantastic entries for the competition which showed imagination and skill. The pupils' efforts ranged from fierce flying dragons to comical dragon characters. Look out for our ambassadors wearing their new customised dragon badges when they demonstrate a new technique.

Our winners were awarded with drawing and painting materials to develop their art and design skills. Well done to our creative year 9 pupils!

First prize - Sinead Holdsworth

Runner's up - Patrycja Stasiukiewicz

Elle Jackson-Soria



Real Business Challenge

In February, six Year 10 Business Studies pupils attended the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester to take part in the North West Regional Final for the Coca Cola Real Business Challenge. They competed against nine other schools and had to produce a marketing campaign to promote the Special Olympics 2015. Even though they did not win the event they had a wonderful day and gained much experience from taking part.



Lazer Quest Fun

Miss Latham and Mr Kane took 26 Year 10 and 11 pupils studying computer science to Lazer Quest at the Trafford centre for some lazer fun. The trip was to reward pupils for achieving their targets in their mock or controlled assessments. All pupils really enjoyed the experience of trying to shoot their opposite team, with Year 11 beating Year 10 by 500 points.



Basketball

The Year 10 Basketball team had a fantastic season and reached the final of the Bury Schools Tournament. The boys won all the group games to qualify for the play-offs. In the play-off semi-final they defeated Prestwich comfortably, setting up a final against defending champions Philips High School. Philips had swept all before them to reach the final winning all their games easily and were expected to beat St. Gabriel's just as easily. Our boys had other ideas and put in a tremendous performance, leading at half time in the final, much to the surprise of the Philips team. In a close fought second half, with the lead changing hands several times, Philips eventually ran out narrow winners 59-54. Many congratulations to the team of Tom Hamer, Tom Taylor, Pavel Dekowski, Patrick Watson, Jack Stainton, James Kenny, Matt Wilkes, Anton Tamanis and Ross Lomax.

Netball News

The Year 11 netball team have finished their playing career for St. Gabriel's on a high by reaching the semi-finals of the Bury Schools' Netball Rally and producing some excellent performances at the U16 Greater Manchester County netball tournament. These girls have been excellent representatives for St. Gabriel's school sport and their determination and hard work has resulted in a very high level of performance. Becoming champions at Condover Hall in Year 9 unleashed a new team and they have not looked back since; it has been fantastic to see them grow in confidence and simply love playing netball. Well done girls. You have been brilliant for 5 years. We hope you continue to play as you leave St. Gabriel's.

The Year 9/10 netball teams have been training and playing hard for the final season games. The Year 9 netball team played in the county tournament at Wright Robinson Sports College during which they showed determination and commitment throughout each game. The player of the tournament was Charlotte Benson.

The Year 10 netball team also entered the Bury Schools' Rally which was held at Bury Grammar, winning the final in style. The players of this tournament were Freya Wright and Bethany Doughty. Congratulations!

Year 7 netball

Catholic Schools Competition- well done to all involved. Congratulations to Grace Taylor-player of the tournament.

Greater Manchester Schools competition - all played fantastically well! Well done to Lily Thompstone and Nicole McClelland - players of the tournament.

Year 8 netball

Congratulations to all who participated in the Catholic Schools Competition. All of them earned a nomination as player of the tournament!

Year 9 Bury Netball Rally – Semi-finalists



Football News

Year 7 football

The Bury Schools Year 7 girls' football tournament was held at Woodhey High School. All the girls involved played great football showing potential for upcoming fixtures. There was fantastic teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the afternoon. The player of the tournament was Katie Findlow.

5-a-side specialists!

The Year 11 football team became North Bury 5-a-side winners again this year. This completed an unprecedented clean sweep as the boys have now won this competition 5 years on the run. They face South Bury winners Castlebrook High School later on this term in a battle to become Bury Champions. Our boys have a good record at this stage as well, being Bury Champions 3 times in the last 4 years. Good luck to the squad of, Ben Hornsby, Nathan Healey, Lewis Batty, Connor Schofield, Callum Andrews, Jamie Hart and Michael Pickup.

Year 10 undefeated.

The Year 10 football team are having a great season and to date have won all their games this season. They have reached the Catholic Cup final with victories over Barlow High School 3-0, St. Monica's 1-0 and Our Lady's (Blackley) 4-3. Hopefully this winning run will continue in the final! They also have a perfect record in the Bury Cup and League with wins over Bury Grammar 5-2, Woodhey 3-1, Bury Church 11-0, Derby 7-0 and Parrenthorn 4-0. If the team can keep this going there will be silverware to follow.

