

# St George's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2: 2018



## Dear Parents and Carers

It has been another productive half term at St George's school and following the two-week break I trust your children have once again settled into the school routines and are working diligently. I hope the contents of the school newsletter will give you a flavour of our life here. Once again we were all extremely pleased and proud of each and every young person in last year's Year 11 who gained such outstanding GCSE results in August. Overall our Progress 8 improved by 0.50 and our 4 & 5+ English and Mathematics is significantly above the Blackpool average. This is a fantastic achievement by our former Year 11, who displayed an excellent attitude towards school and a fantastic work ethic. Our current Year 11's have just completed their pre-public exams and I am pleased to say the indications for next year demonstrate another set of record breaking results.

Exams for the rest of school are coming up very shortly and I ask for your support in ensuring pupils prepare accordingly.

**Year 7:** Our new Year 7 pupils have settled in particularly well and have become accustomed to our routines very quickly. They have already proved themselves to be a group of positive and enthusiastic young people who I know will have very high expectations and aspirations of themselves during their time here at St George's School. It was wonderful to see so many parents and carers attend the Year 7 settling-in evening.

**Staffing:** As you know over the last two years we have made it our mission to recruit the best and I am pleased to say that this is still the case. We are fully staffed with specialists across the school. However we continue to look to add strength across the school with experienced appointments in Science joining us in January.

**Attendance:** Excellent attendance is one of the contributing factors to outstanding achievement at St George's. We have the best attendance of any secondary in Blackpool. I thank parents for your continued support in this matter. Please could I take this opportunity to remind you that schools are not allowed to authorise absence for holidays in school time and only in the most exceptional circumstances will leave of absence be granted, with no leave granted to pupils in Years 10 or 11. Please check the school website before booking holidays as the pattern may change from year to year.

**Uniform:** Your sons and daughters look especially smart and this is often commented upon by visitors. Please can I ask that you re-visit the guidance on the web-site to make sure your son/daughter meets all standards and expectations in this matter.

Thank-you for all the continued support of the school.

Mr Warnock

## Gathering in the Harvest

Year 11 students at St. George's School, A Church of England Academy, may have been hard at work preparing for their exams earlier this month, but they still found time to organise a food collection for Blackpool Food Bank to mark Harvest time.

Speaking after the deluge of donations, Mr. Chris Buckley, the Head of Year 11, commented: "The students themselves chose Blackpool Food Bank as their charity this year. When I looked into it, I can see why. The charity has calculated that there are some 9000 children living in Blackpool who are living below the poverty line. What an awful statistic for a wealthy country like ours!"

"We encourage our students at St. George's to follow Jesus' commandment that we should 'love God....and love our neighbours as we love ourselves'. And I'm delighted to see such a whole-hearted, generous response from the school community as we give thanks for the harvest."



## Walking on Water

Students in Year 7 at St. George's School were pleased to welcome the Bishop of Burnley to their morning worship this morning at the start of their first Spirituality Day.

The Rt. Rev. Philip North, a familiar voice to Radio 4 listeners, had been invited to open the day by sharing his thoughts on the theme 'Trust and Belief'. Taking the bible story of Jesus and Peter walking on water as his starting point, the Bishop talked about how God calls Christians to move out of their comfort zones and grow in faith by trusting God for the next step.

The Bishop went on to describe to students the metaphorical 'storm waves' that can come crashing suddenly and randomly into life on occasions. Recalling the recent death of a good friend and its accompanying sadness, the Bishop had also been aware of the presence of Jesus keeping his head above water, bringing comfort and restoring peace.

The Bishop was happy to take questions from students and spoke about his work as a Bishop and recent charity climb to the top of the 'Big One' at the Pleasure Beach.



## 2018 Festival of Dance

St. Georges was chosen to close the 20th 'Festival of Dance' held at the Opera House on Thursday 8th November.

On an evening highlighting music through the decades, Team SG provided an excellent finale with their celebration of the music of the 1970's.

The dance, choreographed by Miss Greaves and the students, showcased the fantastic talent of our students. St. Georges also provided 7 students to work as back stage coordinators and their professionalism and team work was a credit to them and the school.



## Parent & Carer Forum

We value the views and ideas of our parents and carers. To develop this further, last year a group kindly provided feedback and thoughts on the new initiatives we were looking to introduce and also helped us look at our parental communication. We have another meeting on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> November 4.30-6.00pm in school and would welcome any additional attendees.

If you can join us please confirm with Mrs Milner [t.milner@stgeorgesblakcpool.co.uk](mailto:t.milner@stgeorgesblakcpool.co.uk)



## "Blessed are the peacemakers"

"Have you ever heard the sound of gunfire or the noise that's made when a bomb goes off?" This was the challenging question posed by Rev. Linda Tomkinson, the Minister of Freedom Church, Mereside, as she preached during a Remembrance Service at St. George's School, A Church of England Academy, yesterday.

The congregation, made up of Year 10s, sat in silence as Rev. Tomkinson recalled the bombing which took place in her home town of Omagh in 1998. She'd been staying at her parents' house when she heard the explosion and later discovered that she'd known some of the victims personally.



*Photograph shows from left to right: Rev. Helen Houston (School Chaplain, St. George's School), Lizzie Haydon (Youth Worker), Bob Whitehill (standard bearer, Blackpool Royal British Legion), Ian Tomlinson (standard bearer, Blackpool Royal British Legion), Aimee Bland (Blackpool Ministerial Experience Scheme participant), Rev. Linda Tomkinson*

Rev. Tomkinson, who is married to a former soldier and worked for the army herself, spoke passionately about the importance of working for peace in the world. She reminded the students of Jesus' words "Blessed are the peacemakers", and told them they didn't necessarily have to join the army to bring about peace, but could think about the choices they make each day and their impact on other people.

The Year group had been treated earlier in the day to a showing of the play 'Brothers in Arms' which has been touring the North West. The play, which was a sell out at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival, tells the story of the Chavasse twins, both committed Christians, who had been part of the First World War effort. Students said that they found the play very moving and thought-provoking.

*Two of the cast members from 'Brothers In Arms', Rev. James Gwyn-Thomas and Rev. Paul Critchley.*

