

Saint Paul's Specialised IT Facilities

Saint Paul's was recently visited by Mr Chris Kiernan, Executive Director of Children and Young People Services from the London borough of Waltham Forest.

The aim of the visit was for Chris Kiernan to gain an understanding of how the IT systems at Saint Paul's are designed, implemented and managed and how they are used to benefit both the pupils and the staff.

Chris toured the school and involved himself in several of the lessons where he had the opportunity to ask what both the teachers and the pupils thought about the IT facilities at the school.



Visit to the University of Manchester

A group of Year 7 pupils from Saint Paul's have been taking part in the University of Manchester's Gateway programme which provides pupils with the

opportunity to learn more about higher education.

The pupils looked at the range of subjects available including science, engineering, medicine and humanities and investigated these areas through a series of challenges. The challenges involved exciting hands-on activities, team building, problem solving and presentation skills.

The learners were encouraged and supported by mentors from the university who provided positive role models for the students.



Firefly

Pupils enjoyed taking part in a Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, called "Firefly". The aim is to educate the youngsters about fire safety in their homes and communities. It is also aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour, hoax calls and abuse towards firefighters.

The course offers young people an energetic physical challenge and the chance to learn skills in firefighting, home safety awareness, first aid, team building, communication and personal development. The pupils also had the opportunity to learn practical fire service skills, use fire service equipment and be part of a team. They also carried out emergency life support skills during 'Heart Start' training.

Firefly is an accredited five day course based at a working fire station and is run by firefighters.



Engineering Update

There have been some exciting developments in engineering with the installation of new benches, new welding equipment and improved CAD/CAM (better even than many universities and colleges).

Year 10 Engineering Diploma students are building a 'Green-power' electric car which is helping them learn about the principles of how vehicles work and different assembly techniques.

Members of the school's Engineering Club are building some high quality radio controlled cars. Anyone who would like to join the club should see Mr Ramsay.

Key 103

Pupils took part in a road safety campaign on the Key 103 bus to raise awareness of safety around motorways. The pupils had to prepare a script and record a radio advert aimed at young people of a similar age.

The students were split into small groups and given a laptop to work as a team and put together a short script, poem or speech on the dangers of crossing motorways. They then moved to the recording part of the bus and recorded their piece of work.



Diary Dates 2010

Monday 29th March to
Friday 9th April 2010
School Closed for Easter Break

Monday 12th April 2010
Return to School

Thursday 22nd April 2010
**Year 7 Parents Evening
6.30pm - 9.00pm**

Monday 3rd May 2010
School Closed for Bank Holiday

Monday 31st May to
Friday 4th June 2010
School Closed for Half Term

Monday 7th June 2010
Return to School

Friday 9th July 2010
Year 11 Prom, Cresta Court

Monday 19th July 2010
First Day of Summer Holidays

Saint Paul's in Parliament

Pupils had the wonderful opportunity of visiting the Houses of Parliament. The trip was organised for those pupils studying GCSE Law to support their classroom studies.

The pupils were given a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament and took in two debates. In the House of Lords the Police and Crime Bill was under discussion whilst in the House of Commons the MPs were discussing climate change.

The pupils then attended a lesson, within Parliament, on

How Laws are Made which deepened their understanding on ministerial procedures involved in both making and amending laws. The local MP, Paul Goggins, then arrived to greet the group and discuss the laws in which he had been involved in making.





St. Paul's Catholic High School

Easter Newsletter 2010

INDEX

PAGE 1

Success for Saint Paul's

PAGE 2

Safe Internet
Helping Haiti

PAGE 3

MP Visit
High Achievers

PAGE 4

Beauty and Hair Therapy
Ancient Culture

PAGE 5

Specialised IT Facilities

PAGE 6

Engineering Update
Diary Dates

Dear Parents

Once again thank you very much for your continued support throughout the year. As winter snows melt and we move into spring we have a great deal to celebrate here at Saint Paul's.

Firstly thank you for your attendance at Parents' Evenings this term.

This has been most encouraging, particularly Year 9 Options Evening when almost 90% of the year group were represented. Given that many parents work shifts or have young children, this was a particularly impressive turnout.

As you can see from the article below, we are now in the top 50 most improved schools in the country. It is also worth noting that four of our pupils and myself were invited to Westminster Abbey recently to celebrate Commonwealth Day in the presence of Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh. Again this invitation was down to the fact that we are now a successful engineering college, the

only one in the Manchester Local Authority.

There are many many successes now in Saint Paul's and you can read about a selection of these in the newsletter. The word that the school is improving is clearly being heard in many areas and I receive many compliments from members of the public about our pupils' very good behaviour when they are out of school on educational visits.

Have a Happy and Holy Easter. This is an important time for us as a Christian community and one when we think of others much less fortunate than ourselves. Again it is reassuring to report that the pupils have raised hundreds of pounds for both local and international charities. In a few weeks 20 of our Year 11 pupils and four staff will be travelling once more to the Pattaya Orphanage in Thailand to work with the children there.

Yours sincerely

W. A. Daron
Head Teacher

Success for Saint Paul's

Saint Paul's has recently been recognised as one of the Top 50 Improving Schools in the country. The school's GCSE results now puts Saint Paul's in the top 30% of schools nationally when compared to schools with similar socio-economic circumstances.

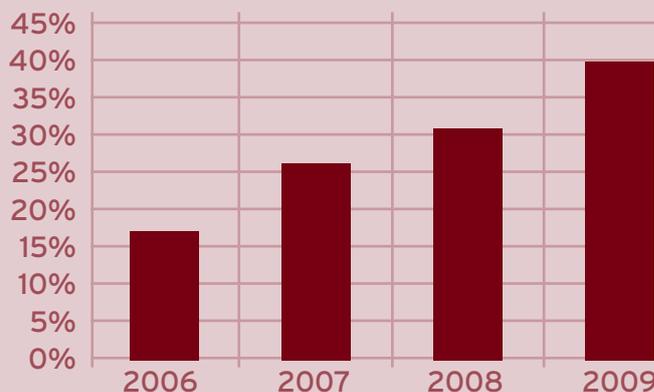
This reflects the rapid progress at the school in the last few years. (In 2005 Saint Paul's was in the lowest 5% of schools.)

Based on the government's preferred measure of 5 A* - Cs including English and Maths, Saint Paul's has improved by 23% from 2006 to 2009.

The school is now the 44th most improved school in the country.

% 5 A* - Cs with English and Maths

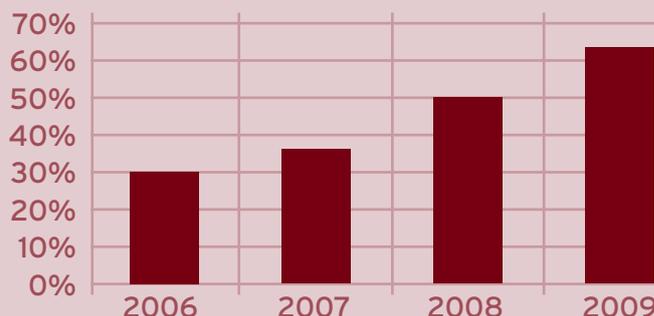
Percentage of pupils with 5 GCSEs grades A* - C including English and Maths



The percentage of pupils gaining 5 GCSEs grades A* to C has also improved dramatically in recent years.

% 5 A* - Cs

Percentage of pupils with 5 GCSEs grades A* - C





Safer Internet Week

Pupils took part in Safer Internet Week where the 2010 theme was "Think Before You Post".

The aim of the week was to raise awareness of internet safety especially amongst those pupils in years 7, 8 and 9 who completed a

mini unit of work called "E-Safety" in their ICT lessons. The pupils looked at mobile phone technology and the potential dangers, social networking sites, cyberbullying, how to use the internet and e mail safely and responsibly and staying safe in chatrooms.

All pupils who took part signed the Saint Paul's Catholic High School E-Safety Pledge.

Helping Haiti

Staff and pupils have been working hard to raise money for Haiti following the earthquake disaster. The fund raising activities have been very varied and have included Crazy Hat Day, ribbons, disco, cake sale, hamper raffle and a teddy bear raffle.



In addition to the Disneyland experience, the pupils also got the opportunity to visit central Paris where they spent time at the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre.

Chinese New Year

Saint Paul's celebrated the Chinese New Year with a Year of the Tiger party for the school's International Club pupils and the school's Chinese pupils.

The pupils enjoyed traditional Chinese food - cake, steamed buns, fortune cookies and sweets. The Chinese pupils then judged the English pupils on who said the best "gong hay fat choy" (Happy New Year). All took part in making Chinese lanterns, they listened to Chinese music and did some origami; prizes were given in red Chinese envelopes to those who created the best designs.



MP Visit

Pupils from Saint Paul's were delighted to be visited by their local MP, Paul Goggins.



Mr Goggins met with a group of GCSE Law students from the school to take part in a "Question Time" type event.

The visit, which will support their classroom activities, was followed up when the MP met the pupils at the Houses of Parliament. The pupils posed a number of thought provoking questions related to current political issues, including questions on the MP's expenses system, the Northern Ireland peace process and the role of prisons in today's society."

Engineering with Primary Schools

Saint Paul's is working with local primary schools to promote the practical application of Maths and Science. The school has embarked upon a course where the Year 6 children from the local primary schools visit the school to focus on the application of maths and science through Design and Technology. The primary school pupils will take part in different activities each term.

The vision is to encourage girls and boys at a young age to enjoy these subjects and to encourage them to aspire to become designers and makers - the Engineers of the future.



High Achievers

2009 was a truly outstanding year for those pupils attending Saint Paul's Catholic High School who achieved so well in their GCSE exams. The school celebrated their achievements at their annual awards ceremony held at the Whitworth Art Gallery in Manchester.

John Edwards, the Deputy Director for Children's Services in Manchester, was the guest speaker for the evening and he presented the awards to the proud students.



Chemistry Fun

A group of Year 7 pupils have been enjoying their new Chemistry Club where they have been involved in a number of exciting projects including creating a hovercraft, making a homemade lava-lamp, writing secret messages with invisible ink, making a rainbow of fizz and producing their own fire extinguishers.





Beauty at Saint Paul's

Pupils from Saint Paul's have been training for their dream career in beauty and hair therapy. The girls were lucky enough to have been selected for a national diploma course which has only just become available for school aged pupils.

The five girls now spend two days each week in a variety of locations where they can experience the numerous different skills needed for a career in the Hair and Beauty related industries. The girls have also worked for a period of ten weeks in hair salons as an essential part of their course.



Visit to Savio House

Pupils enjoyed a three day residential retreat at Savio House in Bollington, Cheshire. Here they were able to take time out from their busy lives to reflect upon themselves, their hopes and dreams and their relationships with those around them.

Ancient Culture

A group of Year 11 pupils visited The Manchester Museum to produce some primary research for their BTEC Art brief on cultures.

During the visit, the pupils were lucky enough to be able to handle, draw and photograph real artefacts from the anthropology department.

The pupils were able to use the school's brand new tuff cams to produce their own photo documentation as part of their research.

Aerospace

High flying pupils took part in an Aerospace event at The University of Manchester.

The "Hovercraft Challenge" event was designed to encourage boys to go into Aerospace/Engineering

as a career. The boys from the Gifted and Talented group were able to discuss the engineering career opportunities afforded by Higher Education as they worked in teams to build an operational hovercraft in a day.

The students are challenged to design and make a working hovercraft, which will support the weight of one person as the hovercraft is moved across the floor.

