

Saint Paul's Catholic High School

THE BUZZ



welcome...



Welcome to our school newsletter, The Buzz.

We see communication between school and home as vital to keep families up to date and informed, enabling you to work in partnership with the school and support your child's learning and development.

Our monthly newsletters will share with students, parents, carers and the local community, the many exciting activities our students have been involved with and what we have to look forward to in the next month.

We will also look forward to sharing the fantastic work and achievements of our students.

DECEMBER PRAYER

An Advent Prayer

A voice that speaks of peace

God of mercy,

help us to listen to your voice,

a voice that speaks of
peace to all people.

Let the sound resonate within us,

until a whisper

becomes a shout

which cannot be ignored.



GOOD
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

**CATHOLIC SCHOOLS
INSPECTORATE**



ISSUE 6 - DECEMBER 2023

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Catholic Life



Chaplaincy/Catholic Life

During form Liturgical prayer, we have started this half term by celebrating the Feast of All Saints and All Souls. We took part in a Remembrance Service and reflected on the 7th World Day of the poor, with the theme of not turning away. We have also celebrated National World Youth Day that is always remembered on the feast of Christ the King

We have started our Advent Calendar that reminds us, every morning, that Advent is a time of waiting and preparation. As we wait for Christmas, we are reflecting on the theme of each of the week of Advent – Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We have been working together in each form and creating own form Advent wreath.

Our staff have been starting each month with a reflective prayer led by Father Owen in our school chapel.

We enjoyed a wonderful Family Carol Service which took place in Sacred Heart church on 8th December and Our Christmas Masses, our pupils' choir has been practicing and performing hymns and Carols. 90 amazing students volunteered to lead the singing in both services.

We have successfully launched our Christmas Gift Campaign and we cannot wait to see the smiles on the faces of so many of our young people who will receive gifts from our generous donors this Christmas. Thank you to our Year 9 Ambassadors who have helped advertise this in forms and creating a lovely poster to promote our campaign.

The SVP group have been working hard during their lunch time meetings with Mr Iqbal and planning their charity events. On Thursday 7th December they took part in a charity football match. All money raised will be supporting our diocesan charity CARITAS.

Christmas jumper day was fantastic raising money for the Save the Children charity and we collected tins and sugar to support the Homeless shelter, CORNERSTONE, in Manchester.





Harvest Appeal

At Harvest time we had an important opportunity to show our support for the Afghan refugees who are currently staying at the airport hotel in Manchester.

They are only given £6 a week for the cost of transport and for food which does not go a very long way at all. This is why Caritas have asked us specifically this year to only help those Afghan refugees currently granted asylum after fleeing Afghanistan since the Taliban took power several years ago

For the Harvest Collection this year we collected non-perishable food items to ensure these refugees have access to culturally appropriate meals.

We would like to thank everyone who participated in this initiative which will make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need. It was wonderful to see everyone in our school community come together as a compassionate group and demonstrate our stewardship and respect for others

Thank you for joining this effort and making a difference.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

A group of students from Saint Paul's took part in a Pilgrimage to Medjugorje.

Medjugorje in Bosnia Herzegovina is an inspirational place of pilgrimage where the message of universal love shines through the local people. The students left feeling uplifted and encouraged by the message of peace and hope that pervades in Medjugorje.

The students took part in a number of Masses, services and spiritual events including walking up Apparition Hill, holding a Candle Light Vigil and attending Adoration at St James' church.

The students also enjoyed a visit to the City of Mostar and Karvice Waterfalls.

Father Owen Gallagher who accompanied the group, said: "I cannot laud your students enough. They were an amazing part of the pilgrimage and helped the other pilgrims to find grace and solace. They were of the highest impeccable manners and a true reflection of the standards and mission of Saint Paul's Catholic High School.

You, as a school and their families should be very very proud of those ten young people. There has even been commendation from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (to name but a few) for how they read at the international English Mass (where 3,000 took part physically and another 4,000 watched live online).

My hope and my prayer is that this pilgrimage has allowed them to grow even further into the person that they have been created to be by the Lord. And when I think of each of them I am reminded of an old Irish saying, 'Mo/ an Gige agus tiocfadh sí' (Praise/ foster youth and she will grow great)."

Mr Fannon, Deputy Headteacher who accompanied the trip, explained: "In June 1981, the Virgin Mary appeared as a vision to several schoolchildren in Medjugorje, since then, Catholics worldwide have made the pilgrimage to the site for its unique atmosphere of prayer and serenity as well as miraculous happenings.

Everyone in the group returned home, after this journey into grace and peace, a little bit changed for the better and would recommend to all. The students were incredible ambassadors for the school and were a credit to Saint Paul's."

"The pilgrimage was a fantastic opportunity for the students to join international visitors from all around the world in Medjugorje," commented Mr Whiteside, Headteacher. "In a place with such a wonderful peaceful atmosphere they were able to gain some extremely valuable experiences, engage in meaningful conversations and absorb the devotion and faith found in Medjugorje."






BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Dear Mr Whitehead,

I would just like you to know how Pleased I was in October 2023 to take a group of your Pupils to Medjugorje as their group leader.



They were a great group of young People, who did your School Proud. Participating in taking Part in all the Pilgrimage, they read at the Masses in Medjugorje, and our own Private Masses outside Medjugorje and all read beautifully at them all. As a group of youngsters they got on really well with us golden oldies and helped and respected each and everyone. They helped People Climbing apparition hill early one Morning, their smiles and the way they behaved was second to none. In the hotel they were well behaved I believe that whatever life holds in store for them good & bad they will never forget their Prayerful time in Medjugorje and what they felt and saw.

I thank you very much for allowing these children to have the experience

Kind Regards

Pauline Wozir

Letter from Fr Owen



SAINT BONAVENTURE'S MISSIONARY AREA

*Serving the Parishes of Our Lady Queen of Peace,
Sacred Heart & Saint Peter, Saint Hilda & Saint Aidan
Team Leader: Father Owen Gallagher
Assistant priests: Father Stephen Roberts*

www.wythenshawecatholic.com
<https://www.instagram.com/wythenshawecatholic/?hl=en>

13th November 2023

Dear Headteacher & Chair of Governors,

I am writing this letter to inform you of a recent pilgrimage to Medjugorje on which ten of your students took part.

I cannot laud your students enough. They were an amazing part of the pilgrimage and helped the other pilgrims to find grace and solace. They were of the highest impeccable manners and a truest reflection of the standards and mission of Saint Paul's High School.

You, as a school and their families should be very very proud of those ten young people. There has even been commendation from Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (to name but a few) for how they read at the international English Mass (where 3,000 took part physically and another 4,000 watched live online).

My hope and my prayer is that this pilgrimage has allowed them to grow even further into the person that they have been created to be by the Lord. And when I think of each of them I am reminded of an old Irish saying, 'Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí' (Praise/ foster youth and she will grow great).

Yours in Christ,

Father Owen Gallagher
Parochial Administrator & Team Leader

Be Internet Citizens

Our Year 9 student ambassadors enjoyed taking part in YouTube's Be Internet Citizens event – a programme to help young people aged 13 to 15 develop their media literacy. The programme helps teens learn the skills and attitudes that will help them thrive and make the most of opportunities online.

The event brought multiple secondary school pupils across the borough together to participate in various interactive activities. Pupils learnt the importance of Digital Citizenship with a focus on topics such as online bias, fake news and emotional manipulation.

YouTube and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue want a safe and exciting web where young people can be creative, express themselves and belong. Be Internet Citizens has been designed to teach teenagers about media literacy, critical thinking and digital citizenship, with the aim of encouraging young people to have a positive voice online. The programme provides a strong foundation, empowering them with the confidence to become producers of online content, where they can express their identities, share their stories, make a social impact, and bring communities together.

Be Internet Citizens - Award

Pupils were awarded a certificate for their involvement in the Be Internet Citizens workshop highlighting the media literacy and digital citizenship skills needed to be strong, heard and proud online. This will be proudly displayed in school.

Well done to everyone involved.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Christmas Spirit at Saint Paul's



Christmas Spirit at Saint Paul's

Staff and students from Saint Paul's dressed in Christmas jumpers to generate donations for the Cornerstone shelter charity.

"As a Catholic school, Advent is a really important time for our students to think about others and how we can help and support them," explained Mr Whiteside, Headteacher. "The students, and staff, enjoyed wearing their Christmas jumpers and we appreciated the many donations which we received."

This year we asked for donations of 50p or more and/or tins food and/or bags of sugar.

All donations will be sent to Cornerstone shelter for the homeless in Manchester.

Thank you everyone for your support.

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Christmas Spirit at Saint Paul's



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

#BeeWell

#BeeWell

We have been involved with #BeeWell, a new programme, co-created with young people, in which BeeWell are surveying the domains and drivers of wellbeing of pupils in secondary schools across Greater Manchester on an annual basis from autumn 2021, using the data generated to deliver positive change in our schools and communities as a result.

#BeeWell is a collaboration between the University of Manchester, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, and the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families.

The annual #BeeWell survey is the first of its kind across a city-region and has heard from tens of thousands of young people.

This year (2022-23), pupils in Years 9 and 10 in secondary schools across Greater Manchester completed the #BeeWell survey. As part of the survey, they provided their residential postcode, which enabled BeeWell to map their aggregated data across the neighbourhoods of the city-region.

Year 9 Rewards

We are delighted to celebrate the success & contributions to school life of some of our Year 9 pupils.

Celebrating perfect behaviour, excellent attendance and no lates!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Mini-DASH

Schools Come Together for MiniDASH

Students from Saint Paul's joined with students from other schools in the Diocese to take part in the Mini DASH (Diocesan Association of Secondary Head teachers) meeting which is organised by the Diocese of Shrewsbury.

A group of Year 8 pupils represented Saint Paul's at the schools event hosted by Blessed Thomas Holford Catholic College, Altrincham.

The meeting is for Head Teachers and a selection of students also attend to meet with students from other Catholic schools and take part in various activities related to their faith.

The theme for the day was Youth Leaders. The students particularly enjoyed the session where each group had opportunity to interview one of the head teachers from the various secondary schools in the Diocese.

The meeting for the students is held at the same time as the secondary head teachers of the Diocese of Shrewsbury meet together. Students were able to share and discuss a wide variety of ideas and suggestions and were encouraged to take the ideas back to their own schools, passing them on and developing them.

Mrs Timkovicova, Head of RE, said: "Students from schools across the Diocese attended the event. They took part in collaborative activities that focused on positive relationships between our peers and they also participated in training as Young Leaders. The day was extremely uplifting; this was a first session out of four this school year."

"At the Mini DASH the students engaged in themed activities in the morning and then feedback what they had discussed and learned to the heads," explained Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher. "It was an excellent opportunity for the students to mix with students from different schools. The students were able to get together and share their thoughts and ideas."



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Forest School

Forest School

The New Horizons group in Year 7 enjoyed six sessions of Forest School at St Anthony's. There were many different activities and areas such as the bird watching, hut building area, swings and the chill out tent.

The students loved being outdoors, playing in the mud and collecting bugs. They enjoyed learning how to build a shelter and make a fire.

The students said their favourite parts of Forest School were getting to know each other better and working together; building fires and learning about fire safety; toasting marshmallows and cooking bacon sandwiches on the fire; and making a game using a rope and tree where they built a pulley and worked together to lift people up.

Thank you St Anthony's for an amazing experience!!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Head's Breakfast



Mr Whiteside invites a group of students to have breakfast with him each week to celebrate their positive input into our school life and their wonderful achievements.

He celebrated student leadership over breakfast with a group of students who contributed so positively to our recent Open Evening.

The students were all keen to give back to the school and were proud ambassadors greeting parents and primary school pupils and showing them proudly around their school. We received much positive feedback from the visiting families about our student guides.

We were delighted to see such a significant increase of families touring the school for their next destination after primary school.

Well done to all those involved - we are very proud of you!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



100% Attendance Reward Day



100% Attendance Reward Day

Staff and pupils were delighted to celebrate 100% Attendance Reward Day. Pupils who have achieved 100% attendance were given a golden ticket and invited to enjoy an extra long breaktime with a delicious hot chocolate

As a school we want to reward positive behaviour and good attendance and celebrate the success of our pupils and, with this in mind, we arranged for a hot chocolate and a long break to reward those pupils with 100 per cent attendance.

Ms Le Marquand, Education Welfare Officer, explained: "Rewards such as this, motivate pupils to do well, it is a tangible reward for their success. We believe that praising the pupils and recognising success has a very positive effect upon their behaviour and performance."

"We want all of our pupils to have a drive to attend and achieve during their time at Saint Paul's," added Ms Doherty-Dyson, Attendance Officer.

Mr Seddon, Assistant Headteacher, commented: "We believe that treats like this encourage and inspire our pupils to achieve the best they can. It was a great pleasure rewarding those pupils who have had such excellent attendance and have worked so hard throughout the term."



Bookbuzz for the Year 7s

At Saint Paul's, we are passionate about books and this love of reading is shared with all pupils. There was a real buzz in school at the moment as every student in Year 7 received their brand new book from Bookbuzz.

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from The Book Trust, which supports schools to encourage reading for pleasure, independent choice and to develop a whole school reading culture.

Mrs Savova, School Librarian, explains "As a school, we work hard to encourage a reading for pleasure culture and promote a love of reading. Choice is central to engaging students with reading and the Bookbuzz offers an excellent selection from which the pupils can choose.

Bookbuzz provides a really high quality focus of attractive new books with a great selection of award winning authors, and really does create a "buzz" about reading because students get their very own book to keep!"

"We are delighted to be taking part in the Bookbuzz programme once again, and our Year 7 students are so excited about choosing their free books," commented Mr Sharrock, English Teacher and Literacy Coordinator. "At St Paul's we firmly believe that an ability to read competently is of the utmost importance to a student's success in all aspects of life. Reading develops cultural capital, allows individuals to participate more fully in the world around them, and equips them with the means to act with agency and independence in their own lives."

"Reading is a skill that most of us take for granted, yet is one that is essential for being able to get on in life," added Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher. "As a child grows up, being able to read well not only enables them to discover new facts and to learn at school, but also opens them up to a world of new ideas, stories and opportunities. As research shows children who read for pleasure will achieve more than those that don't in later life. All our staff are committed to ensuring that all children become independent and fluent readers during their time at our school. We want our children to enjoy books as much as we do!"





BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



P.E. Department



Cross Country Running!

Well done Scarlet M! Second place in city-wide cross country finals!

Also special mention also to Ava P (11th), Grace C (15th), Aaron J (14th), Ava H B (5th) and Rocco N (6th)!

The pupils were a real credit to the school. We are so proud of you all!

Well done Year 7 girls!!

The Year 7 girls cross country team gained 3rd place in Manchester Cross Country events earlier in the year!



Trafford AC Schools Cross Country competition

Aaron J represented Saint Paul's in the second round of the Trafford AC Schools Cross Country competition at Longford Park. He finished 7th place! Well done Aaron



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



P.E. Department



Netball

Well done to the Year 10 and Year 11 netball teams... not the results we wanted but a great team attitude and effort shown by all! Well done Year 7 netball team! Two games in a week!

A narrow 8-11 to Parris Wood and a 5-1 win against Wright Robinson.

Keep going strong girls!!

Boys' Football

Boys Football League Result - Year 9 2-1 against Dean's Trust. Player of the match Louie N - solid at the back!

Boys Football Result - Year 7 6-0 against MEA Wythenshawe. Well done boys keep the momentum going!

Girls' Football

Girls Futsal Result - The Year 7 and 8 girls football players finished 3rd in the Manchester Futsal Competition. Well done!



Primary Athletics event

Well done to all primary school pupils who attended the indoor primary athletics event at Saint Paul's. It was a real pleasure for Saint Paul's to host!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



P.E. Department



Table Tennis

Well done to the pupils who represented school in a table tennis competition against William Hulme's. Players from Year 7 to Year 10 competed well against very good opponents.

Silver Awards

Silver Awards

Year 7, 8 and 9 students who had gained 200 achievement points were recognised by receiving their Silver Awards.

Well done!! We are very proud of your achievements!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Form Saints

Form Saints

At Saint Paul's we find it important to have role models for all within our school community. With this in mind, nine Catholic Saints have been selected to represent the students who are within our school.

One Saint will be linked to each form and we believe that the students should see role models in these saints with which they themselves can identify.

Year 7 students worked extremely hard together in their form groups producing beautiful posters about their form Saints. In their work they demonstrated how they can follow in their Saints' footsteps and become resilient, compassionate, loving stewards in service to others.

We hope that our Saints inspire our students to be the best that they can be and continue the work of the Holy Spirit with the Wythenshawe community and beyond.



Year 8 Rewards Assembly

Year 8 Rewards Assembly

Year 8 pupils celebrated their excellent work, fantastic attitude and good behaviour at their Rewards Assembly.

Well done to all those involved, we are very proud of you!!

BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Revision/Catch Up Club

Revision/Catch Up Club Sports Studies & Health and Social Care

Every Tuesday after school 3.15 - 4.15pm, your child is invited to attend a revision / catch up club for their option of Sports Studies or Health and Social Care. This will be in Room 215.

Pupils can catch up / improve coursework that is due just before this Christmas break.

After Christmas, your child can use this session to revise with staff for their terminal exam in the summer of 2024.

Whilst the session is open to everyone, some pupils will be targeted for intervention for this session and parental contact will be made.

Year 10 Study Skills Workshop

A group of Year 10 pupils were invited to a special study skills workshop in conjunction with the award-winning Elevate Education in a bid to boost their independent study and revision skills and encourage them to maximise their potential as they begin their GCSE courses.

The Study Sensei workshop aimed to provide pupils with cross-curricular skills to assist their learning in all subjects, both in school and at home.

The workshop was delivered by an experienced professional from Elevate with school staff in attendance to support. The one-hour session provided guidance to pupils on: utilising the syllabus to frame study; structuring and reviewing organised notes; conceptual learning to develop deep understanding; utilising practice exam papers and standing out through independent learning. The pupils were also given access to further resources, strategies and lessons to complete independently to further enhance their independent study.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Year 8 Student Ambassadors

Year 8 Student Ambassadors

Saint Paul's is delighted with their new team of Year 8 Student Ambassadors, important positive role models within the school community.

The role of the Student Ambassadors at Saint Paul's is to make the school a better place, through their actions, their words, their encouragement of others (or, when necessary, cautionary words to others!), and the feedback and advice they offer to the staff. Saint Paul's sees the role as a significant post of leadership and responsibility for the younger half of the school.

The Student Ambassadors will play a vital role in setting the tone for the school, influencing attitudes and providing a link between pupils and adults in the school. The Saint Paul's believe that it is an important part of a young person's development to take on a range of responsibilities. They also seek to provide opportunities for developing organisational, communicative and leadership skills in their pupils.

The Student Ambassadors are good role models in all areas of school life. They are dependable and approachable students who are committed to improving the school and care about the opinions of their fellow students. They contribute to decision-making and support the school Leadership Team in various activities. They embody the school's values of respect, love, service, stewardship and compassion.

One of the Year 8 Student Ambassadors commented: "It is an honour to be selected as an ambassador and I hope to make an impact here at Saint Paul's."

The Student Ambassadors were selected at the beginning of Year 8. All pupils selected had excellent attendance and behaviour and the highest Achievement Points in the year. They will be helping at school events and performing a variety of duties around school.

Mrs Rudd, Year 8 Progress Leader, explained: "This is the first time that Year 8s have had the opportunity to be selected as ambassadors. I am excited to see the impact they will have around school and the wider community."

"Not only do the Student Ambassadors serve as role models - they are also empowered to mentor, guide and help those younger than themselves, enabling them to succeed in all aspects of their educational experience," commented Mr Whiteside, Headteacher. "They are true leaders in every facet of school life, representing the values and expectations of Saint Paul's."



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Year 9 Pupil Voice Ambassadors

Year 9 Pupil Voice Ambassadors

Pupils in Year 9 who have good attendance, punctuality and behaviour were asked if they wanted to apply for the role of Student Ambassador in charge of Pupil Voice.

The pupils had to get a statement off the Senior Leadership Team as to why they should be elected. They then attended an interview with Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher, and Mrs Delaney, Assistant Headteacher.

We are delighted to announce that the successful candidates are:

Isaac, Emma, Michael and Manna.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Community Litter Pick!

Saint Paul's Community Litter Pick!

At Saint Paul's Catholic High School, we take litter very seriously within school and have had a big drive to encourage our students to take responsibility for their own litter.

This extended to a community initiative with our Year 9 Student Ambassadors embarking on a litter pick in the local area with Mr Casey and Barney from Wythenshawe Waste Warriors.

Mrs Delaney, Assistant Headteacher, explained: "As respect is a big part of the Saint Paul's spirit, we are hoping that events like this will instil a deep respect for our wider community in our students."

"It is good to raise awareness and to be able to discuss the impact of littering to our students who are passionate about taking care of our environment," added Mr Whiteside, Headteacher.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Library Department of the Month



Library Department of the Month

Each month we will be featuring a different department in the school library. This month, we are celebrating the History department and all the wonderful History related books which we have in the library for pupils to read in school or to borrow to take home.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Forensic Science Week

Forensic Science Week

Forensic Science was the theme explored by students who recently took part in a Forensic Science Week, a celebration of science, engineering, maths and technology.

The children enjoyed an exciting, engaging and immersive range of activities that showcased how the Science they learn in school can have a powerful impact in the real world. One of the main objectives of the Year 7 Forensics week was to link some of the practical skills which the students had learned in their first term to the 'real world' and potential careers they could pursue.

The week started with the introduction of a 'crime scene' and progressed to the examination of forensic exhibits, evidence interpretation, and the presentation of evidence in a courtroom trial. The Year 7 students had the opportunity to be Crime Scene Investigators during a week full of activities.

Implementing Biology, Chemistry and Physics-based skills along with cooperation and impressive teamwork, the children became CSI style investigators who worked together to solve a particularly complex and heinous crime. There were also activities that focused on the diversity of knowledge, through to STEM careers and subjects.

The students were given a 'real' crime to investigate and evidence to analyse in order to present a case against the suspects. The scenario was that the suspects were caught speeding away from the bank, which had just been robbed. The students had to analyse fingerprints, ink and blood as evidence.

Miss Dewhurst, Lead Practitioner of Science, said: "The week's programme aimed to inspire the next generation of scientists with fun and participative activities. The activities highlighted how science relates to our everyday lives. The pupils learnt about taking samples, fingerprints and DNA to use as evidence and also about the role of the forensic scientists and Crime Scene Investigators."

Miss Dewhurst added: "There were lots of exciting activities happening throughout our school. We are very keen to inspire and engage the students in the wonder and excitement of Science."

Mr McMahon, Head of Science, added: "The week's activities engaged and excited the children in science by constructing a mock crime scene investigation. This allowed the children to practise skills such as gathering evidence, interpreting data, taking measurements, teamwork and looking for trends and patterns. The activities were great fun and very popular with the students. The sessions helped the students see how Science can be applied in real life."

"Science is vital to the future of our country and involvement in projects such as this are a great way for us to encourage our students to enjoy the subjects and see them as both interesting and accessible," commented Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher. "We need to do everything we can to inspire the next generation."



Forensic Science Week



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Forensic Science Week



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

People's History Museum

A Visit to the People's History Museum

A group of students from Saint Paul's visited the People's History Museum in Manchester as part of their GCSE History studies.

The People's History Museum in Manchester is the national museum of democracy. The museum aims to engage, inspire and inform diverse audiences by showing 'there have always been ideas worth fighting for'.

As part of the Year 11 History GCSE, the History department organised a visit for the students to the museum which covers the vast majority of a module of their GCSE (Power and the People). The students were able to expand their learning by exploring in much greater depth areas of the syllabus such as the Chartists and the Suffragettes.

Mr Welsby, Head of History, explained: "The Year 11 students are studying the abstract concept of power as part of their History GCSE and the People's History Museum helped them to visualise this concept. The students attended live action shows, were able to handle and explore real life artefacts and see the many links with the local community."

"The students showed a great deal of interest and enthusiasm in the subject and their behaviour during the trip was exemplary. They were extremely engaged with the exhibits and talks - it brought their learning to life!"

Mr Whiteside, Headteacher, added: "It was fantastic for the students to see their classroom learning coming to life as they explored the museum. Visits like these provide a very valuable experience for our students and enhance the learning curriculum. This was a wonderful visit which provided masses of inspiration; the visit provided a unique opportunity for our students to produce primary research to support their classwork."



PEOPLE'S
HISTORY
MUSEUM



STEM Club

STEM Club - Stimulating Minds at Saint Paul's!

The STEM Club at Saint Paul's has been designed to spark inspiration and to foster long-term interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The Club gives the opportunity for Year 8 students to explore the wonders of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) in a stimulating and engaging environment.

The club has been designed to complement the national curriculum by demonstrating the link between the wider world and enhancing the students' understanding and aptitude for problem solving, creativity and engineering.

The first project, which involves reducing single use plastics and taking greater care of our planet, will focus on making and marketing shampoo bars:

Science - researching ingredients and formulating the perfect environmentally friendly 'recipe' through experimentation (practicals).

Technology - using CAD (computer aided design) to create a company logo and building a template for a silicone mould.

Maths - costing materials and using geometry packaging design.

Pupils will also learn about marketing and advertising campaigns

"The students attending the STEM Club are curious about science, technology, engineering and math and enjoy the hands-on approach we encourage," explained Miss Dewhurst, Lead Practitioner of Science. "It is a pleasure to spend time with these pupils who are so positive. We have already seen improvements in practical skills, self-confidence and thinking skills of those pupils who attend the club."

Miss Dewhurst added: "STEM is central to our lives and we try hard to make it an interesting and fun subject to learn. At the club, the pupils are actively involved in the experiments, making it much more fun and relevant to them - we will be exploring a wide variety of STEM related topics making them as entertaining as possible."

"The STEM Club has been designed to excite the pupils about science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and to stretch and challenge their thinking," commented Mr Whiteside, Headteacher. "The club is an effective way of enriching and extending the curriculum taught in the classroom. We have tapped into our pupils' interests and will demonstrate to them the relevance of STEM to life outside school."



11 School Days of Christmas

11 School Days of Christmas competition

Our 11 School Days of Christmas competition began on 1st December.

Each day students are entered into a prize draw to win fabulous prizes - rewarding excellent attendance and good behaviour.

If pupils:

Attend the full day

Arrive on time

Receive no behaviour points for the day

They were entered into a draw each day to receive a £100 One4all gift-card!

The main prize will be drawn on 15th December and is a £250 Trafford Centre voucher!!

Each school day this will reset and YES you could win more than once - Do you feel lucky?

Got a One4all Gift Card and looking for a shop to spend it in? With over 55,000 stores nationwide and online to choose from, you'll find the perfect gift to treat yourself. From fashion to food, homeware to holidays, there are thousands of ways to spend your gift card in-store and online. View the full store listing including:

Five Guys, Nandos, JD, Primark, Wagamama, Odeon, Vue, Cineworld, River Island, Lush, Footlocker, Pandora.



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Inspired by Shakespeare

Saint Paul's Inspired by Shakespeare

Year 10 GCSE Performing Arts pupils from Saint Paul's took part in the MANCEP (Manchester Catholic Education Partnership) Shakespeare Festival. The Festival involves local Catholic High Schools and Loreto and Xaverian College and was held in the Ellis and Kennedy Theatre at Loreto College. Saint Paul's brought an abridged version of Shakespeare's play 'Much Ado About Nothing' to life with their wonderfully inspired performance directed by their teacher Mrs Kathryn Slater.

The aim of the festival is to further develop the relationships with other Manchester Catholic high schools and sixth form colleges, engage pupils through an active way of learning and expand the young learners' knowledge within the performing arts field. In preparing and performing the plays participants also learn about Shakespeare's language, themes and characters.

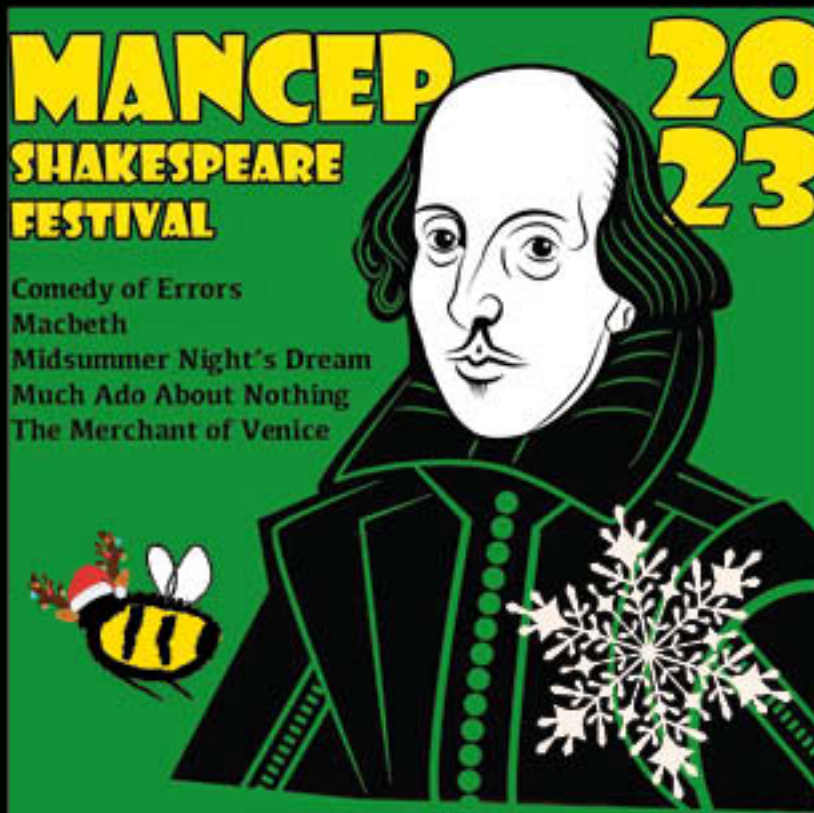
The GCSE Performing Arts pupils had been working on the play for several weeks as part of their exam and spent the whole day at Loreto, rehearsing, before the performances in the evening which parents and friends could watch.

Each production used minimal set and costume to place emphasis on language and performance rather than set and design.

"Shakespeare's delightful play, Much Ado About Nothing, provided an excellent platform to showcase the exceptional skills and talents of our pupils," explained Mrs Slater, Head of Performing Arts. "The Year 10 Performing Arts students gave a captivating performance bringing to life all the themes and imagery of Shakespeare's classic play. I am very proud of the work they created."

Mrs Slater added: "The MANCEP Shakespeare Festival is a great opportunity for all involved and has had a real positive impact on our own lessons, providing a significant 'can do' attitude and positivity towards aiming high."

"I was very proud of the amazing performance by our pupils," said Mr Whiteside, Headteacher. "The event was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the talent of young people and to extend the partnership that we have within MANCEP. Having had great feedback from Loreto College, I firmly believe that our pupils can aspire to do great things and are a credit to the staff that teach them."





Dance Workshop

Inspirational Dance Workshop

Pupils from Saint Paul's enjoyed a visit from a professional dancer from The Lowry who worked with a group of aspiring dancers.

The school was delighted to welcome Cameron Woolnough as part of The Lowry CAT scheme to school where the pupils were able to take part in a wonderful contemporary dance experience.

The Lowry CAT (Centre for Advanced Training) gives young people access to high quality dance training.

CATS help identify, and assist, young people with exceptional potential, regardless of their personal circumstances, to benefit from world-class specialist training as part of a broad and balanced education. The Lowry CAT taster dance workshops provide an insight into the world of contemporary dance.

Working with Cameron, a professional dancer, the pupils explored a variety of contemporary dance.

Mrs Slater, Head of Performing Arts, explained: "This was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn more about contemporary dance and to take part and experiment in a very supportive environment. Cameron engaged well with the pupils who really enjoyed taking part in such a fun and energetic workshop."

Cameron worked hard to create an inclusive space for the participants to feel comfortable but challenged in order to try new things and to leave the session with a new-found confidence. We are very pleased and proud of them all."

Mr Whiteside, Headteacher, added: "This was a great experience for all the students, the session was extremely energetic, upbeat and inspiring. Involvement in workshops like this provide a very valuable experience for our students and enhance the learning curriculum."

Thank you to the Lowry CAT and Cameron for a fantastic visit!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



Love of Reading

Promoting a Love of Reading

The Library Monitors at Saint Paul's are students who help in the library at break and lunch times. They work with the librarian, Mrs Savova, to help the library run smoothly and efficiently and provide an opportunity for pupils to be active in decision making about what the library offers.

Organising students to help with the library not only ensures the smooth day-to-day running of the library, but also helps develop a sense of responsibility, achievement and self-esteem in the children

The role of Library Monitors provides leadership opportunities within the school, it encourages ownership of the library by students, improves the library environment following student input and provides the opportunity to learn new skills, including research and ICT skills.

When selecting Library monitors the school takes into consideration the student's willingness to take responsibility, their interest in promoting the library, being a team player, their willingness to give up some time at break and lunchtimes to help out in the library, being organised and accurate, their desire to make the library space a safe and enticing place for other students to use and providing friendly customer service.

Mrs Savova explained: "The monitors volunteer during break and/or lunch on a rota to help with tasks such as issuing/returning/renewing books, shelving, collecting and giving out passes, promoting the library (putting posters around school or helping running activities), giving out reminders to forms, helping younger students with homework or troubleshooting issues with computers such as logging in, printing, etc.

They gain a valuable experience and are trained how to use the library management system and some of them go on work experience in public libraries (last year Alex went to Manchester Central Library and this year Minna and Kezia will be doing their work experience there.

Quite a few of them are doing or intend to do Duke of Edinburgh award and use the experience they gain in the library as part of their volunteering or skills section."

"Our Library Monitors do a wonderful job of helping our Librarian, carrying out varied jobs to keep our library looking wonderful," added Mr Sharrock, English Teacher and Literacy Coordinator. "They help other students and teachers in the library, assist to keep the library a wonderful place to visit, help build a love of reading, help organise activities for other students to participate in when visiting the library, assist the librarian to come up with new ideas and activities and promote the love of visiting the library."

"Saint Paul's has a motivated and dedicated group of students who assist in the library during break and lunchtimes," said Mr Whiteside, Head Teacher. "A big well done to them all for their super work, your help is greatly appreciated by staff and students alike."





**Love to argue?
Always looking for
the last word?
Want to build your
confidence
and find your voice?
Join Debate Mate!**

**Tuesdays, 3:20pm-4:15pm
in room 204
with Debate Mate tutors
and Miss Lewis.**

**Respect, Responsibility, Reward
Receive 5 Achievement Points
for every session attended.**



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Debate Mate

Debate Mate

Students at St Paul's are enjoying Debate Mate sessions where university students come into school to run extra-curricular debate workshops.

The Debate Mate programmes increase speaking and listening attainment and improve a range of higher-order thinking skills and non-cognitive abilities such as confidence, teamwork, and leadership.

At the same time as focusing on debating skills, the sessions look at raising aspirations and helping students to make informed post-18 choices.

Students are also able to enjoy the free food which is provided at the sessions and they get to take part in competitions against other schools.

Debate Mate supports the young people of today to find their voices, so that they can become the leaders of tomorrow!



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE



We are His body, living and learning as one.

WORK WITH US

Vacancies within the Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust

www.corpuschristitrust.co.uk/vacancies/



BELONG BELIEVE ACHIEVE

The School Prayer

Dear Lord

**Thank you for our
school community.**

Bless us all and keep us safe.

**Send your Spirit to guide us,
as we become the people
you want us to be.**

**Be with us on our journey
as we learn to love and
love to learn.**

Through Christ, Our Lord.

Amen.



DATES FOR THE DIARY:

14
DEC

**GCSE
Certificate
Evening
6-7.30pm**

15
JAN

**Year 11 photo
morning**

15
DEC

**School
closes for
Christmas
holiday**

22
JAN

**Year 9 Retreat
Day Week**

02
JAN

**School opens
after holidays**

25
JAN

**Year 9 virtual
Parents' Evening
4.30-7pm**

04
JAN

**Drama trip to
The Lowry**

05
FEB

**Year 11 mock
exams start**

11
JAN

**Year 11
Face to face
Parents' Evening
4-7pm**

14
FEB

**Ash
Wednesday**

