St Bernard’s High School
A Catholic Academy for Arts and Science

St Bernard of Clairvaux

Newsletter 6 - Summer Term 2017
Dear Parents,

I am very pleased to introduce the final newsletter for this academic year. I hope that you enjoy reading about the wide range of activities and experiences enjoyed by our students. Together with the earlier editions sent to you during this academic year, this edition completes a useful record of the splendid work undertaken by the school community. It covers the academic, the spiritual, and those activities which enhance social, moral and cultural understanding, as well as the marvellous fundraising for charity that is a hallmark of our school. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr A Sharpe
Head Teacher

Spiritual & Moral

RAISING MONEY DURING RAG MONTH
By Katriona Stidson, Year 12

To raise money for RAG month, the drama studio transformed into an eerie hospital setting for the 'haunted house' experience. For the first time, a short film prefaced the experience, introducing the students to the horrors within the hospital and preparing them for their guided tour. Escortored around by ghoulish tour guides ensured a thrilling and fun encounter.
Over twenty sixth-formers threw themselves into their roles and dressed up as scary doctors, nurses, and patients, and many others assisted behind the scenes. To 'spook' the visitors, the zombie-like students jumped out from behind the curtains, and released blood-curdling screams!

A PRAYER FOR HOPE
By Alannah Rouillion, 8R

Dear God,

At this time, when terror attacks, inhumane acts and frightening events have occurred throughout Britain, we pray for all survivors or witnesses of these events and for all the families and friends affected.

We pray especially for the deceased, their families, friends and survivors of the recent Grenfell Tower fire in London. Please give strength to political leaders to help them prevent such an event from happening again. Please bring comfort and support to the grieving and those scared (both mentally and physically) that they find peace at this time of suffering.

We also offer our prayers for the victims and their families, as well as the eyewitnesses of the Manchester arena attack. Give them courage and strength to continue to be tolerant. We pray also that Arianna Grande finds peace and comfort in the fact that she has done everything possible to ease the suffering of others and that the tragedy was no reflection on her.

We pray too for all the people involved in the Westminster and London Bridge attacks that they find comfort and have no fear in standing side by side with others and what is right.

We thank the brave men and women who have saved many lives; police, firefighters, doctors, ambulance crews and many more. Thank you for their selfless actions.

We also thank you for the communities that have come together, people of all faiths and none, who represent the best of us. We pray that more everyone will come together to make the world a place of peace and righteousness.

Amen

YEAR 3 DEANERY DAY
By Mrs Abel, Head of RE

On Friday 7th July, we welcomed 300 of our Deanery children for our annual ‘Year 3 Day’. This year the theme was ‘The Year of Grace’. The children took part in many activities, including bread making, PE, Drama and making fish out of clay. There was even a biblical woodland on the playground!
The day concluded with Mass in the afternoon, celebrated by Fr. Gerry Drummond. Each school was then presented with a canvas from St. Bernard’s for display in their own classrooms to remember the day.

A number of the Year 3 students acted as roving reporters, using iPads to capture the activities that took place during the morning.

I would like to thank children and staff from our Deanery Primary Schools for taking part in this day so enthusiastically, and also to our own staff, Year 9 and Year 12 students who lead and helped with many of the activities during the day.

**CITIZENSHIP AWARD**

The Accelerated Reader Programme starts in Year 7 and is designed to support the literacy needs of students. We all know that developing a love for reading is crucial in terms of opening up new worlds, energizing creativity and feeding our imaginations. The students below should be congratulated for earnestly trying to develop their talents and have demonstrated that learning is, indeed, cool! This idea of honing talents and overcoming difficulties offers an important lesson to all members of the school community. We are Children of God and have a responsibility to fashion the talents God has invested in us for the good of all. Here are the students’ book reviews.
NON-FICTION BOOK REVIEWS
By Mrs Wonnacott’s Year 7 Accelerated Readers

The Night Sky (Howard Schneider) by Erin Rothwell, 7R

The book is all about the make-up of stars and the space phenomena we see in the night sky. The book guides you on how to spot the most astonishing lights of the night sky, to become an “expert at spotting and stargazing”. The book was definitely challenging, but a thoroughly enjoyable read. It used a great choice of pictures and illustrations to help the reader understand more clearly the space phenomena. I also found that the book used a variety of persuasive language which encouraged me to go stargazing and learn more about the night sky. How many know, for instance, that 10,000 tonnes of material from meteors, most of it all dust, fall to earth every day?

Your Digestive System (Melanie Waldron) by Benita Basil, 7A

The book is full of fascinating (and gross!) facts and figures about the digestive system, telling us about our organs and what they do for us. It tells us about our hormones, glands, villi, taste buds, bacteria and teeth. For instance, there are over 5 million villi lining the small intestines, each about 1mm in length. If you joined them end to end they would stretch over 400 kms. I would recommend this book to those who are interested in the human body and biology.

Football for Girls (Marianne Spacey) by Hannah Payne, 7M

If you are interested in football or you want to take it up, then this book is for you. A former Arsenal and England player, Marianne Spacey, is the author and teaches the basic rules, skills and techniques of the game. Then, finally, she offers amazing tactics to trick and confuse opponents. The book is very clear and the pictures help the reader visualize the action.

I am Malala (Malala Yousafzai with Patricia McCormick) by Hannah Barnett, 7C

Malala is about a girl called Malala Yousafzai who lived in Pakistan. She loved to go to school and fought for her rights against the Taliban, who were against girls’ education. The Taliban shot Malala on her school bus on her way home. She recovered, with the help of British surgeons, and now lives in Birmingham where she proudly goes to school. She has never given up fighting for girls’ education and has won many awards. Malala is a great book. It is inspirational and I think all girls should read it. The pictures inside show that Malala is just an ordinary girl in an ordinary Pakistani family, but also how severe were her injuries after the shooting.
Ocean (Carol Kaufmann) by Rebecca Haxhiaj, 7R

This is a non-fiction book which aims to educate children on ocean life, how they live and what they look like. Open the book and the reader is transported into the magic of an underwater kingdom. The text fully engages the reader with its vivid descriptions, enhanced by the use of language techniques such as rhetorical questions, onomatopoeia, imperative verbs, alliteration and sibilance, which makes the different creatures easier to imagine. Kaufmann introduces each animal and enchants the reader with captivating imagery and details, followed by a mini essay which informs the reader on important facts including size, diet, habitat and behaviour. Photicircular images accompany the information, ripping with movement, to provide a visual aid which fascinates the reader.

Social & Cultural

ART RECOGNITION

By Mr Galton, Head of Art

Recently, eight pieces of work were sent off to the National Student Art Exhibition, four of which have been selected, with the other four being highly commended. The four selected students used different mediums to convey their ideas, including acrylic, acrylic on wood, mixed media and clay sculpture. Details of the work being selected is as follows:

- The Theory of Motherhood by Emmanuella McGhee, Year 13
- Japanese Triptych Part 2 by Isobel Hibbard, Year 13
- Festivals by Micah Gardner, Year 13
- Fish by Rose Collis, Year 11

Congratulations to all the students for their hard work which has been responsible for this level of success.

CONFIRMATION AT ST.GEORGE’S, SHOEBURYNESS

Will you be in Year 10 or above from September onwards and live in St. George’s Parish, Shoeburyness? If so, we would like to invite you to put your name forward for Confirmation next year. At present we are only trying to get an idea of numbers; details of the programme will follow when we know the date of Bishop Alan’s visit in 2018. Please telephone or email the office to register your interest (01702 292726/stgeorgesrcchurch@btinternet.com). If you have any questions please speak directly with Fr Brett Adams.
The students below have all taken examinations in Musical Theatre Singing, achieving the following rewards:

Year 7: Bethany Dench & Hannah Payne: Grade 3 Distinction
Year 7: Paris McGhee & Ella Parascandolo: Grade 3 Merit
Year 8: Elizabeth Blower: Grade 4 Distinction
Year 8: Catherine James: Grade 4 Merit
Year 9: Tilly Slack: Grade 4 Distinction
Year 9: Joyce James: Grade 4 Merit
Year 9: Caitlyn Walton & Megan McKenna: Grade 5 Merit
Year 10: Amelia Frampton: Grade 4 Distinction
Year 10: Cliona Tanner-Smith: Grade 5 Merit
Year 10: Leonie Davidson & Joanna Gaudini: Grade 6 Merit
Year 11: Katie Vann: Grade 6 Merit

Congratulations to all these students for their hard work and success.

MAKING AN IMPRESSION

By Elizabeth Whittle, 8M

As part of the year 8 art curriculum we are studying Impressionism. To help understand the work of artists like Monet, Manet, Pissarro and Morisot and their processes, Year 8 went on a field trip during their art lessons. As part of this we paired up and with pastels we practiced drawing a seascape in little boxes in our sketchbooks. We were given ten minutes to sketch in the first box before we swapped books with our partners and gave them feedback. Using the feedback we then drew a second small picture before setting off to the seafront to draw a larger image of the sea.
My partner, Amelia, and I found a convenient tree to sit under and draw in an impressionist style. It was great fun and fantastic to work from what is in front of you rather than just an image. I felt like a real impressionist!

TEACHERS VS STUDENTS BENCHBALL
By Ashley Croft, Year 12

On Monday 26 June the student vs teachers’ benchball event launched the RAG fest for 2017. The student team consisted of sixth formers: Ashley Croft, Paige Ayres, Katie Palmer, Olivia Keenan, Segun Amisu, Ashlyn Abraham, Grace Shaw-Williams, Rebecca Korboe & Vongai Chinomona. They had to compete against an all-star teaching line-up: Mrs O’Shaughnessy, Miss McGlashon, Miss Carter, Mr Waughman, Mr Clancy, Miss Clancy, Miss Jackson, Mrs Bell & Miss Smith. It was a close match, however, the teacher team managed an overall win of 5-3. A big thank you goes to all students who helped with the organisation, and running of the event.

BBC VISIT
By Alice Eve, Year 13

On Friday 14 July four of us Year 13 students had the opportunity to visit BBC TV, Portland Place, London. Highlights included being on the set for the BBC World 1 o’clock news, sitting at the desk of the BBC Business news area and running through a genuine news play, complete with control of electronic editing, autocue and presenters. Our guide, BBC director Richard Murrell, was incredible and gave us an exclusive, behind the scenes tour of Britain’s iconic broadcasting corporation. He introduced us to many people of great esteem, demonstrating how successful individuals operate in this industry. All members of staff at the BBC were generous with their time and knowledge, and the working environment we witnessed was one of cohesion, teamwork and creativity, all working together to achieve a common goal. We were fortunate enough, at the end of the day, to be Mr Murrell’s guests at the BAFTA ‘members – only’ club; it was an excellent way to conclude the informative and inspirational day.

ST. BERNARD’S ROCK AT VILLAGE GREEN
By Miss Bragg, Music Department

On Friday 7 July the Rock Band performed at Village Green: The Next Generation in Chalkwell Park. They performed three of their hits – ‘Hanging on the Telephone’, ‘Chasing Cars’, and ‘That’s What You Get’ on the Perform Stage to great applause from the other local primary and secondary schools in attendance. It was a great opportunity for them to showcase all the hard work from the year to the wider community. The five-piece group, consisting of Autumn Davis, Sarah-Jane Walter and Segun Amisu in Year 12, and Jamie Ahmed and Jimmy Foy in Year 13, commanded the stage and dedicated their final song to Mrs Maltby.
Over the course of the day, the group also had the chance to take part in various workshops being run by local organisations, including an activity run by the Scouts. Later on in the day it was announced that they were the fastest group to complete all of the challenges!

The Rock Band were also supported by several Year 10 students who were there on work experience with various primary schools, who drew in crowds to watch them.

---

**MUSIC FOR A SUMMER EVENING**

By Mr Walls, Assistant Head Teacher

What a joy it was to celebrate the talents of the musicians of St. Bernard’s at the Music for a Summer Evening, with those present treated to an eclectic range of musical styles. The effervescent Mrs Maltby took control of the proceedings, ensuring that the choir were “Puttin’ on the Ritz”, before Harry Hollands, from Year 13, trumpeted the virtues of his “Grandfather’s Clock” and the orchestra used their magic to conjure up visions of ‘Harry, Hermione and Ron’. After this, the Year 9 Vocal Group transcended the spectacle through the “Silver Shadows” and the Clarinet Group swayed and swung “With the Saints”. You could almost imagine St. Bernard and St. Benedict tapping their feet in the heavens.
Alice Eve then moved everyone to tears when considering she was “Almost There”, offering a musical tribute to her time at the school, before the Flautists tempered the atmosphere with their rendition of the sea-shanty “Drunken Sailor”. Harnessing the talents of Bette Midler, the choir then offered their fragrant “Rose” for the assembled audience, before Daniel Payne brought echoes of Ringo Starr and Keith Moon to the proceedings, reminding us to “Mind the Gaps”. After this brilliant performance the orchestra showed us how to ‘do the fandango’ without pleading for ‘Mama’ and the Saxophonists, led by Miss Bragg, were enjoying the night so much they thought “It must be love”.

At this point, the Year 10 Vocal Group entered the arena to “Stand by Me” when it then became obvious that there was ‘a cunning plan’ as the orchestra conjured up the ghost of Baldrick and “Blackadder”. “Hallelujah”, we all shouted, as the marvellous Tritones had some of us, of a particular age, thinking back to The Flying Pickets, or even, dare I say it, The King Singers. Ah, those now distant memories of weekend TV in the 1970s and 80s. Could things get better? Too right it could as the Rock Band strode majestically onto the stage, belting out “That’s what you Get” whilst “Hanging on the Telephone”. Thinking back to Alice’s “Almost There”, Josh Wallen echoed her sentiments, imploring us that “This is the Moment”, before, finally, the choir brought back the 1960s with their “Hairspray Medley”.

Mr Sharpe reminded us that such music has a huge impact, not least in bringing a community together. A huge thank you needs to go to all the musicians, students and accompanying staff, and especially the most talented Mrs Maltby. A big thank you also for all those who gave so generously in the retiring collection – it is much appreciated.
MUSIC FOR PLEASURE
By Sarah-Jane Walter

On the 28th June the whole orchestra, choir, instrumental groups, vocal groups and rock band all performed in the Bernadine Hall. This was my 6th year performing in this concert but this year felt different. Special, in a way. From the flutes to the guitars, singers to the violins, everything sounded just as it should have done. I was very fortunate to be a part of the choir, orchestra, rock band and vocal group and the atmosphere when performing in each of those separate groups were completely different but all wonderful.

The choir, following tradition, did another brilliant musical medley of Hairspray, along with ‘The Rose’ and everyone’s favourite ‘Putting on the Ritz’ whilst the orchestra played a complete contrast of pieces from ‘Black Adder’, ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ and to make the evening even more magical ‘Highlights from Harry Potter’.

The Music for a Summer Evening concert is such a special one to be involved in as a student of any age and there is also a different style of music suitable for every parent and audience member to enjoy! Thank you to Mrs Maltby for arranging the whole evening and everyone else involved for putting on, once again, a very special evening.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4 September</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
<td>Year 7 and Year 12 Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.15am</td>
<td>Year 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 Start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6 September</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>KS3 Parent Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7 September</td>
<td>All Day</td>
<td>School Photographs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12 September</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 12 Geography Trip to Kensington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w/c 18 September</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11 visit to Cadbury World</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 20 September</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>KS4 Parent Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 27 September</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>KS5 Parent Information Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 2 October</td>
<td></td>
<td>8X Band Geography Trip to Natural History Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 4 October</td>
<td></td>
<td>8Y Band Geography Trip to Natural History Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 October–</td>
<td></td>
<td>Silver DofE Practice Expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 8 October</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 7 October</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Old Girl’s Association: Mass to celebrate the life of former pupil and head teacher, Sister Mary Stephen. (All Welcome)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 October</td>
<td>8.45am– 3.30pm</td>
<td>University of Cambridge STEM Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11 October</td>
<td>6.00pm– 8.00pm</td>
<td>Parent Information Evening for Ski Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 13 October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 10 Art Visit to Kew Gardens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 17 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Open Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 18 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Open Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 19 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am</td>
<td>Year 6 Open Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11 Leadership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 20 October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Last Day of Half Term</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**St Bernard’s High School**

*Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS*

[www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk)