Dear Parents,
Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter in this new academic year.
I am delighted to report that the last academic year was concluded with news of great success in terms of both A Level and GCSE examinations:

**GCSE**
- 83% of students achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Mathematics, which are now measured at points 4-9. This figure was 4% higher than in 2016, which was itself 4% higher than in the previous year.
- 87% of students reached a 4 or higher in Mathematics and 95% were similarly successful in English.
- A quarter of all grades were A*, A, or 7-9 in the case of English and Mathematics.

**A Level**
- 56% of grades were A*-B, up 7% on 2016.
- 83% of grades were A*-C, up 7% on 2016.
- 100% of grades were A*-E, up 2% on last year.
- As at GCSE, a quarter of all grades were A* or A.
- The average point score for students and for individual A Level entries rose again, remaining well above national figures.

We were delighted to see so many students achieving such outstanding academic success, and thank all our parents for their support. We know that this success is a result of home and school working in partnership: long may it continue.

Of course, St Bernard’s has long prided itself on the education of the whole person, and not just academic improvement. I hope you gain a further sense of that work in the pages that follow.

Yours Faithfully,

Mr A Sharpe
Head Teacher
Spiritual & Moral

New Head Student Team

Head Student Team & Mr Sharpe

Head Student: Isobel Harforth, 12/2
Deputies: Emma Dodson, 12/4 and Nikita Lee, 12/4

GCSE RESULTS
COMMONWEALTH GIRLS’ EDUCATION FUND

By Margaret Adebayo, Charis Tetteh and Joanna Edvi of 8M

On the 19th September, Year 8 met Mr Harper, who is a trustee at a charity called CGEF (Commonwealth Girls Education Fund). He talked about the charity and how, many girls cannot afford to go to school, however they really want to go. He showed us a website that we could go on to look at more information. He also talked to us about how our fundraising can benefit just two girls for ten years!

Last year, 7M raised £661.00 due to the Non-School Uniform event held in February and overall St Bernard’s has raised a total of £3,420,000. This academic year 8M will be responsible for the annual event. Mr Harper showed the forms in Year 8 a short clip, explaining how these special girls’ lives have changed since going through the program. Ladi, a girl of Nigerian origin, supported by the CGEF after her father died and her mother could not pay for her school fees, forcing her to leave her education and work for the family farm, has been a beneficiary of the scheme. The likelihood is that she would have entered a forced-marriage at the age of 13 and would now have been a mother.

The fact that we live in a free country with vast opportunities really benefits all of us as young women and men; for others across the world receiving an opportunity is a once in a lifetime experience. As a school, I hope that we will be able to support all who are less privileged in our neighbourhood, our country and our world.

Mr Harper spoke about the circumstances of less fortunate girls in other countries, including the country that my parents came from; Nigeria. I found out that many families are unable to afford to send all of their children to school, so they only send their sons. It really made me appreciate my education and my parents because if they had not moved here then I would not have the present opportunities I enjoy.

In the past, I did not donate money to charities because I did not think I had enough to make a difference, but now I have learnt that “you can never give too little”.

JACK PETCHEY NEWS

By Mr Walls, Assistant Head Teacher

Congratulations go to Rida Ahsan, from 10M, the winner of the Jack Petchey Award for September, and recognised for her creative and inspiring entry into the Curriculum Extension Challenge at the end of the last academic year.
The Sixth Form Committee who judged the hotly contested competition were unanimous in their decision. Rida’s competition entry focused on the influence of the South African celebrity chef, Siba Mtongana, and she created her own version of a tropical pavlova. Rida’s grant will be used towards the coming Sixth Form Leadership Conference.

The Jack Petchey Award
By Kinga Augustowska 11C

Jack Petchey Award is an amazing award to receive, but you may ask what is the Jack Petchey award and also who is Sir Jack Petchey?

Firstly, Sir Jack Petchey was born in 1925, into a poor working family. He left school with no qualifications when he was 13. Sir Jack joined the Navy’s Fleet Air Arm in 1943 during the Second World War. He applied for Officer training but was unsuccessful. On discharge from the Navy he began working as a clerk for the Solicitor’s Law Stationary Society. When he applied for management training there he was told he would never make a businessman! Sir Jack didn't want to give up! He set up his own car hire business. He worked long and hard, overcoming adversity and going on to become a multi-millionaire through his various business ventures, which have spanned from motor car dealing and garages to property, travel and investment. By the 1990's, he was one of the most successful in Britain.

Secondly, the Jack Petchey Foundation work with almost 2,000 schools, colleges and youth organisations throughout London and Essex who run the scheme, which contributes millions of pounds each year. The scheme is a reward and recognition initiative, which enables schools and youth organisations to celebrate the achievements of their young people as well as receive additional funding. Sir Jack wants to encourage young achievers to achieve and do their very best. Inspire, Motive and Achieve are the watchwords.

Lastly, in my opinion it is an incredible award. You can even vote for other students. All you have to do is write the student’s name, why you think they should receive the award and your name. Where to put it you ask? The box for the nominations is in the Library as you go in the entrance. You should vote because it can give someone an amazing opportunity but also don’t forget that someone can vote for you! So keep achieving, work hard, help others and do the best that you can!

There is a famous saying by Sir Jack Petchey, "If you think you can, you can." So believe in yourself and do it!

If you have any questions about the Jack Petchey Foundation feel free to ask me, I’ll be more than happy to answer them for you.

Keep Achieving!
Sacrament of Confirmation at St. George’s
By Fr Brett Adams
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 (01702 292726) or email the office (stgeorgesrcchurch@btinternet.com) to register your interest. If you have any questions please speak directly with Fr Brett Adams.

Sacrament of Confirmation at St. Teresa’s
By Fr Gerry Drummond
If you are in Year 9 or above it is now time to start thinking about whether you are being called to make this Sacrament. If the answer is YES then candidates are asked to email Fr Gerry (frgerry@talktalk.net) by the end of September. Our first meeting for parents (and candidates) will take place on the 8th October after 10.30 Mass. If you would like any further information please feel free to call Fr Gerry for a chat.
Wishing you every blessing
rochford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Social & Cultural
Gold DoE Expedition – July 2017
This year’s expedition saw 21 students and 7 staff set off for 9 days of walking up and down hills in all weathers.
We started off with 3 days walking in the Yorkshire Dales. Our time included some long and even longer walks over the Dales, training in navigation, emergency procedures and safe water crossing and a night walk. After this we moved over to our campsite at the side of Bassenthwaite Lake, where training continued until the routes for the 3 teams were finalised and the groups set off for 4 days walking around Derwent Water, Skiddaw, Thirlmere and Ullswater.
All the girls returned safely and full of their adventures. At the end of their expedition they are asked to submit a presentation account, with pictures and 2 students have already submitted these. In conclusion, Emily ‘Blue Hat’ writes:

‘I think that my Gold DoE will remain my most loved and hated experience simultaneously. We had ups and downs but as a team we got through it together. In all honesty I would do DoE again. It was 100% the best experience of my life and I will never forget it. Every time I look back on Gold DoE I will think of ‘Something Positive’ (the team’s name).

The DoE Team starts recruiting for next summer’s Gold Expedition from 2 October with the first meeting on 12 October 2017. If you want to know more please ask Mrs Clancy or see her to sign up for a life changing experience.

**MAN BOOKER SHORTLIST**

*By Mrs Middlemast-Neill, Librarian*

The Man Booker shortlist for this year includes the following:

“4321” by Paul Auster
“Autumn” by Ali Smith
“Elmet” by Fiona Mozley
“Exit West” by Mohsin Hamid
“History of Wolves” by Emily Fridlund
“Lincoln in the Bardo” by George Saunders
As usual, The Book People are selling the collection at a substantial discount (£39.99, free p&p). The link is below, if you want to order them:

https://www.thebookpeople.co.uk/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/qs_product_tbp?productId=867345&storeId=10001&catalogId=10051&langId=100&searchTerm=man+booker

I will be ordering a set for the library and will let you know as soon as they are available for you to borrow.

Oxford University Open Day trip
By Ioan-Irenue Fartan, 13-3

On 15th September, I was delighted to be part of the open day dedicated to Medieval and Modern Languages at Oxford University. Together, with French students from year 12 & 13, we had the opportunity to explore how it feels like to study at Oxford University, one of the most prestigious in the world. The trip was mesmerising and reassuring to realise that hard work and persistence gain reward. Firstly, we spoke to different lecturers who answered our individual queries and offered valuable and informative advice: Modern Greek, Italian, French, Spanish & Russian linguists represented.

Then, a formal presentation followed about applying to Oxford, the content of the different courses offered and the outstanding quality of individual tutoring offered to undergraduates. The group were given a flavour of what life can be like at Oxford University when two students spoke about their experiences at two different colleges, their year abroad and their plans for the future. The visit was a wonderful and memorable experience.
DEPRIVATION & AFFLUENCE IN KENSINGTON, LONDON

By Tilly Jennings, 12-4

The Year 12 Geographers recently took their first trip of the academic year to Kensington, London. The aim of our trip was to study the deprivation and economic divide between the northern and southern side of Kensington Borough.

Our starting point was Kensal Green cemetery, built in 1833 and originally situated in the countryside. Today the cemetery is part of the urban landscape, though still remains one of the most expensive in England, with people like Freddie Mercury, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and the children of George III buried there. After leaving the cemetery, we began to walk through Kensal Green where we started conducting surveys and gathering information on the characteristics of each distinct area. An important aspect was using questionnaires to ascertain what the local inhabitants thought about their own residential areas, like those in St. Charles ward (now known as Delgarno). After this, we analysed the deprivation and conditions across a few select wards in the borough, in order to develop a comparative academic approach.

Our walk started in the more deprived areas of Kensington and finished in the more affluent area of Portobello. As we got to the top of Portobello Road, we saw lots of antique shops, some higher-end retailers and restaurants, something that we did not see at the start of our walk. The survey results and the observations attest to the economic divide across the borough; indeed, when walking up Portobello Road and looking at the surrounding houses it was clear to see this difference.

The trip will be invaluable to our future studies and as we investigate the central themes in greater depth.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 2 October</td>
<td>8X Band Geography Trip to Natural History Museum</td>
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<td>Wednesday 4 October</td>
<td>8Y Band Geography Trip to Natural History Museum</td>
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<td>Thursday 5 October-</td>
<td>Departs 1.00pm Silver DofE Practice Expedition</td>
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<td>Sunday 8 October</td>
<td>Returns 2.00pm</td>
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<td>Friday 6 October</td>
<td>CAFOD Family Fast Day</td>
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<td>Saturday 7 October</td>
<td>11.30am Old Girl’s Association: Mass to celebrate the life of former pupil and head teacher, Sister Mary Stephen. (All Welcome)</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 October</td>
<td>8.45am– 3.30pm University of Cambridge STEM Conference</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 October</td>
<td>Visit to the International Day of the Girl Celebration</td>
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<td>Wednesday 11 October</td>
<td>6.00pm– 8.00pm Parent Information Evening for Ski Trip</td>
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<td>Friday 13 October</td>
<td>Year 10 Art Visit to Kew Gardens</td>
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<td>Monday 16– Tuesday 17 October</td>
<td>Year 13 Students Perform Road Safety Play at Local Primary Schools</td>
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<td>Tuesday 17 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am Year 6 Open Morning</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am Year 6 Open Morning</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18—Thursday 19 October</td>
<td>Interhouse Drama and Benchball Competitions</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18 October</td>
<td>4.00pm– 6.30pm Year 7 and 12 Parents to Meet Form Tutors</td>
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<td>Thursday 19 October</td>
<td>9.30am– 11.00am Year 6 Open Morning</td>
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<td>Friday 20 October</td>
<td>Cross-Country Relay Competition at Thorpe Hall</td>
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<td>Friday 20 October</td>
<td>Year 11 Leadership Conference</td>
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<td>Friday 20 October</td>
<td>Last Day of Half Term</td>
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<td>Monday 30 October</td>
<td>Students return</td>
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<td>Tuesday 7 November</td>
<td>Senior Mathematics Challenge</td>
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<td>Wednesday 8 November</td>
<td>Borough Cross-County Competition</td>
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<td>Thursday 9 November</td>
<td>Remembrance Service in School</td>
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