

## Welcome Back!

Welcome to the last edition of the KS3 newsletter for this academic year.

What a year it has been! Thanks again to the hard work and dedication of our exceptional staff, there have been so many fantastic opportunities for our students to take advantage of. When I look back at the year I'm immensely proud of all the students who have worked very hard throughout the year and certainly shaped our school community for the better. They have been on numerous trips, both residential and day trips, and conducted themselves impeccably earning deserved praise from members of the public. They have taken part in lots of competitions (internally and externally), raised thousands of pounds for local and international charities and also donated lots of valuable items for women and children trapped in war torn Syria. Your children are truly a credit to you and the school.

Academically, this year has seen the introduction of a new assessment tracking system and end of year exams – all of which are aiding us to ensure that we can work together to secure the best outcomes for your child.

I'd also like to say a huge thank you to you, the parents, for supporting the school this year. You've attended a myriad of events at school this year; parents' evenings, meetings at school, focus group meetings, parent information evenings to name a few! Many thanks for your continued support – as I have said previously, and will continue to say – it is only through working together that we can achieve the best for your child. Please accept my sincere thanks for all you do for the school.

As ever, last half term was packed full of exciting opportunities for our students across many subject areas and many are named and have their achievements recognised in this newsletter. Our big events last half term were undoubtedly the Masterchef competition and also the Barcelona Trip!

We also teamed up with two of our feeder primary schools (St Osmund's School and Christ the King) to release our Pentecost balloons of hope on the last Friday of the term.

## Achievement Point Raffle Winners!

Each week in KS3, each form has its own weekly competition where the top point achieving girl and boy for the week each win a chocolate bar! These 2 winners from each form then qualify for the weekly raffle to win a £10 shopping voucher.

Last half term's lucky winners were:

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Tyler Lee       | 9M |
| Dawid Kowalczyk | 7V |
| Terzie Gibbons  | 8T |
| Emily Davison   | 9F |
| David Hanna     | 7M |

Well done to all winners and keep getting those achievement points!

\*vouchers to be presented to all winners next week.

## Confirmation Congratulations

**A big congratulations to the following pupils who were confirmed by Bishop Declan last week at St Osmund's church. Our prayers are with you as you grow in your faith.**



|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Catrina Borges  | 9F  |
| Amelia Scott    | 9V  |
| Maisie Ramsay   | 9V  |
| Alice Covill    | 9M  |
| Megan Gartland  | 11V |
| Nina Dyson      | 9V  |
| Gabriela Borges | 10F |

## Subject News

### English

Year 7 produced some excellent Shakespeare projects as they began their studies of either *The Tempest* or *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Fantastic ideas ranged from cake and Lego versions of the Globe to 'Shakespeare-ropoly'! The students very much enjoyed the process and are now full of fantastic facts about Shakespeare and his work.



Year 7 have been working on projects in connection of their study of Shakespeare's '*The Tempest*' and have produced all manner of magical artefacts. Seen here is Reon Toms with his ( architecturally pretty accurate) version of the Globe Theatre in cake form. Also shown is Isabel Humphreys with her mask of Caliban and modelling Zuzanna Mlodzianowska's costume design for Prospero's cape. There will be a display of some of the projects in the glass cabinets in the foyer but of course not Reon's delicious cake, as that has been eaten... Well done Year 7!

Mrs. Cullis

### Visit from St Monica Catholic Grammar School

35 Slovakian pupils from the city of Presov visited our school for the day and shadowed our pupils in classes. This gave them a fantastic opportunity to compare the Slovakian education system with our system here. Mr Blaho-Schlogl (Head of RE) welcomed Mr Pavol Petrovsky (Head of St Monica) and three other teachers from the school on Tuesday 25th April. To begin the day all met with Mrs Ridley to talk about our respective schools and also the possibility of future cooperation between our schools, which are similar in size and share the same Catholic ethos. We were delighted to have our visitors at the whole KS3 assembly in the hall, where they delivered an inspiring presentation to get to know Slovakia, its cultural heritage as well as their school – all of which was very enlightening! In the future our hope is to make a similar trip to Slovakia next academic year – we'll keep everyone informed about our international links with this school with hope that many will sign up for a trip to see St Monica's Grammar School in Slovakia.

## Masterchef 2017

### The Heats

The heats of this year's Masterchef competition have been in full swing and have produced some fantastic and delicious dishes. Several year 8s competed to decide who would represent their year group and the two students who were chosen to go to the final were Vincent and Morgan. The year 7 heats were packed, both with both competitors and flavour. The eventual winners were Kane, Rebecca, Brian and Heidi. It was amazing to see such variety of ingredients and recipes from all students cooked to such a high standard. Thanks must be given to all those teachers who gave up their time to assist with judging such wonderful dishes. Pictures of the finalist's with their qualifying dishes are shown below.



All 6 finalists will now be competing for the chance for their dishes to be chosen as the winning dish on Tuesday 13th June. The best dish, chosen by Mrs Ridley, Mrs Gilson and Mr Sibley will be made for all St Joseph students in the canteen with the help of the chef who wins on the 28th June. All finalists will be given a prize for their efforts and hopefully will continue this enthusiasm by cooking more at home and even deciding to take food preparation and nutrition as a GCSE option.

### STOP PRESS!! WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to the following:

1st place and winner of St Joseph's Masterchef 2017, Heidi Meynell

2nd place, Morgan McKeown

3rd place, Vincent Brain.

## Rising Hopes

If you glanced across the Laverstock Downs on Friday 26th May you'd have seen a very colourful sight! Not only would you have seen the natural beauty of the green hills and fields, the brilliant blue of the sky and the yellow rapeseed crops, but you'd also have seen a plethora of coloured balloons floating up into the sky! To mark the Christian celebration of Pentecost where the disciples' hope was revived following the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, students from St Joseph's School, St Osmund's and Christ the King sent messages of hope attached to balloons out to the world.

During the week leading up to the balloon release, students from each form group came up with messages of hope that they wanted to send out. The form groups then voted on the message that would be attached to their balloon and sent out into the sky on the Friday afternoon to literally go wherever the wind decided.

On the reverse of each message of hope was a note asking the recipient of the message to email the school. In total, there were 35 balloons released – one from each form and also seven balloons each from St Osmund's and Christ the King. So far the school has received six emails back from a variety of locations in Gloucestershire!



## Barcelona Trip

I enjoyed the Barcelona trip a lot. My favourite parts were the hostel, going to Portaventura, seeing the cathedral and visiting Nou Camp!

I think that the teachers did a great job on the trip and made it more enjoyable than it already was.

I think the trip was worth all the money as I got to fully experience Spain and it's culture. I think the days we spent in the hostel were comfortable and relaxing. Although the air-conditioning didn't work it was still nice place.

I also think that the evening meals were very nice and prevented you from starving the next day.

Tom Wood 8M



## What's Happening

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Monday 12th – 16th June | KS3 Exam Week   |
| Sunday 25th –30th June  | Pencelli Trip   |
| Wednesday 28th June     | E-Safety Day  |
| Thursday 29th June      | Year 5 Taster Day                                       |
| Wednesday 5th July      | Year 6 Induction Day and Evening                        |
| Tuesday 11th July       | Reward Day  |
| Wednesday 12th July     | Year 7 Trip to Marwell Zoo<br>Year 9 Graduation Evening |
| Tuesday 18th July       | Sports Day  |