

December 2015



Welcome to our December Newsletter

You will recall from the November newsletter that the students were preparing for the end of

term Advent Services. The aim was to beat last year's record of 100 boxes full of food for the Hope+ Food Bank being brought up as part of the gift giving during the Advent Services. Ahead of the Advent Services, Year 9 students decided to do some additional charitable fundraising and raised over £400 for the Food Bank. We were delighted to use this money in a Trolley Dash at Tesco to buy all the essential requirements listed by the Hope+ Food Bank. Therefore, it will come as no surprise to hear that the students of St Julie's exceeded all expectations in providing well over 100 boxes full of food, toiletries and other essential items for families in need this Christmas.

End of term brought a very festive atmosphere and a lot of energy, which was clearly demonstrated each night to packed audiences for the school production of "ANNIE". Staff and students worked incredibly hard this term, culminating in six shows in three days to a total audience of 1,500 people! My sincere thanks and congratulations go to the Performing Arts Faculty and all who supported this event.

You will see that there has been some considerable interest in the school by Council leaders as you read through the articles in this newsletter. This is in anticipation of the start of the new build for St Julie's which is due to commence in the New Year. This is a very exciting time in our 165 year history which has seen the school move from Mount Pleasant to Woolton Hall, then to current buildings, and very soon into brand new facilities which you can see on our website.

As we look forward with hope to 2016 and reflect on the call by Pope Francis for a "Year of Mercy", can I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and a peaceful break with your families.

Best wishes.

Tim Alderman
Headteacher

Packed Houses for Annie!



Months of dedicated hard work have come to wonderful fruition as our Christmas Production of Annie has opened to packed houses.

The first show was to invited guests from our local primary schools who hugely enjoyed the dynamic performance, drawing on all the skills of our talented cast, technicians and live band. The show is always a highlight of the festive calendar and we'd like to give a hearty well done to everyone involved.

We were delighted to welcome Assistant Mayor Cllr Nick Small and Deputy Mayor Ann O'Byrne to our school on Wednesday 25th November. The purpose of the visit was to highlight the good work happening at St. Julie's promoting business links and partnerships within the local and wider community.

Cllr Nick Small and Deputy Mayor Ann O'Byrne were very impressed by the confidence of our students and their ability to discuss, listen and debate in a very mature and informed manner. Part of the question and answer sessions enabled students to ask key questions about the future of Liverpool, business developments and the importance of working more collaboratively with key people and organisations across the city.



St. Julie's welcomes Cllr Nick Small and Deputy Mayor Ann O'Byrne



Sixth Form Fancy Dress

Our Sixth Form students have once again raised the bar in their inventiveness for the annual fancy dress contest.

This year's entrants were particularly rich in home-made costumes and the effort put in was remarkable. It was closely contested, but special congratulations go to our winners: from Year 12, the air cabin crew and from Year 13 the Suffragettes, who were inspired by elections in Saudi Arabia which included women voting and standing as candidates.



Young and not so young together!

Young and not-so-young together!

Every year, a group of former pupils of Notre Dame, Mount Pleasant gather at the Sisters of Notre Dame Convent on Woolton Road to pray together and especially to remember those who have died.

This year this event was held on Wednesday, 18th November and some Y8 pupils joined Mr. Anderson, our chaplain, to help lead the singing of hymns which included the very moving "Abide with me".

Our pupils were terrific! Sarah, Nicola, Zoe, Jade, Maisie and Emma sang wholeheartedly and were absolutely charming with the ladies of the

congregation – many of whom were in their eighties. One of the ladies commented that looking at the girls was "just like looking at ourselves - only 70 years ago!"

Some of these ladies have great stories to tell, particularly when you consider that they were going to Notre Dame in the City Centre during the blitz in the Second World War.

It really was lovely to see the generations come together, united by a Notre Dame education and the smiling saint who started it all – St. Julie!



Debating with Liverpool Leader

We were delighted to welcome Mr Fitzgerald, CEO for Liverpool City Council, to St. Julie's this month.

The purpose of the visit was to discuss business links, the growth economies of Liverpool, opportunities for young people and the new building plans for St. Julie's. Mr Fitzgerald met with representatives from the 1804 Society and School Council.

Students asked a range of questions about the various opportunities/provision available to them in the city and addressed key issues they face as teenagers. There was an excellent and thoughtful debate regarding developing home grown talent and most importantly keeping highly qualified people in the city of Liverpool.



Year 9 Language Leaders

Some of our talented Year 9 linguists have been using their skills to deliver Spanish lessons to Year 4 students at Much Woolton Primary School.

The lessons were weeks in preparation, and that paid off magnificently as the students conquered their nerves to deliver some really engaging lessons!



Gen Verde Raise The Roof!

This term we lifted the roof of the sports hall with a tremendous concert from international touring group, Gen Verde, accompanied by some hugely talented performers from St. Julie's, on the Liverpool date of their 'On The Other Side' UK Tour.

Following a series of workshops our students gave five fantastic performances, in groups of drama, body percussion, choral, hip-hop dance and pop/rock dance, all of which were warmly received by the audience.

Before the show, we were honoured by a visit from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon who was very keen to see how preparations were going.

As well as warm praise for the performance, Archbishop Malcolm was keen to celebrate the international dimension: "I'm glad I was able to come and wish you well, and to hope that this whole experience will open your minds, and enable you to meet other people from different parts of the world with a different attitude."

Communication with our guests certainly didn't cause difficulties, as reflected in the quality of the superb performances.

Our thanks go to all of the performers, and of course the many people involved in preparing and staging such a major production!



Congratulations to Santa Dashers

Congratulations to Molly and Maia in Year 8 who completed the Santa Dash on Sunday and raised £560 for the Teenage Cancer Trust. The dash was run for the 11th time this year, and follows a 5km route around the City Centre. Congratulations also to our generous fundraisers and everyone else who took part.



Adding Value to the Sixth Form Experience

St Julie's Catholic Sixth Form is flying high in the key 'Value Added' performance measure used by the Department for Education to make judgements about the quality of provision post-16.

The Value Added measure indicates how well our students performed in their Level 3 subjects (A Levels and Level 3 BTEC courses) in comparison to all students nationally of similar prior attainment.

Our 2014/15 scores of +0.11 for A Level, +0.64 for Level 3 BTEC and +0.14 for Applied A Levels show that students in St Julie's Catholic Sixth Form make better progress than their peers in other Sixth Forms, across all qualification types.

This is a reflection of the hard work of our students, the support offered by their subject teachers and the positive atmosphere for learning that flows through our Sixth Form.

