St. Julie's Catholic High School

Newsletter

Tim Alderman
Headteacher

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter. Advent is a time of preparation and we spend a lot of time helping the students to understand just what it is we are preparing for. As a Catholic school of course we are preparing students to celebrate the birth of Jesus and what that means to us in our daily lives in terms of our actions, our words and our thoughts. But we are also preparing our students to take their place in society and be confident articulate young women, who make a significant contribution to the community both in and out of school. By preparing our students fully, with a broad and balanced range of opportunities supported by a purposeful Catholic education, we know we are doing what St Julie asked of us which was to *"Teach them what it is necessary for life".*

Can I wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

The stars are out... and shining brightly

Remarkable Rhetoric

On Monday 11th November, St. Julie's took part in the Rotary Club of Liverpool's Public Speaking Competition. Isabella Gibbons from Year 8 represented the school and, we are delighted to say, she was the overall winner.

Competitors had to deliver a five minute speech on the topic of Liverpool. She was confident and articulate and the judges praised her eloquence and research skills. Students from several other local schools attended although Isabella was one of the youngest!

Public speaking is an excellent way to build confidence and develop essential communication skills which employers value highly. As Isabella said in her speech, *"as Liverpudlians, we do love to talk"* so look out for more successful speech makers in future as we continue to harness our students many talents!

Our students have had the chance to showcase their talents in the performing arts with a week of packed houses for the 2013 Christmas Production - 'The Wizard Of Oz' with **1000 tickets sold!** The four-night run started with a special preview showing for students from some of our local Primary Schools, some of whom we will be welcoming back in the new year to participate in follow up workshops in Dance and Drama based on aspects of the performance that they saw.

We're Off To See The Wizard!

Outstanding teaching at St. Julie's

This term our Expressive Arts Department were asked to deliver an 'outstanding teaching' workshop for a group of Hope University PGCE students.

The students were shown a range of outstanding teaching methods in the two hour workshop presented by Miss Roberts and Miss Douglas, both former students of St. Julie's.

One tutor who observed the session described it as *'a thoroughly engaging session which captivated the students'.* Head teacher Mr. Alderman said *'we have an amazing array of incredibly talented students at St. Julie's and it is no small way as a result of the hugely creative and gifted teachers who are adept at unlocking the students' potential.'*

We're delighted to report that the University have already booked for next year, further bolstering the professional development opportunities offered by St. Julie's for teachers.

Congratulations to North West cross country champion!

Our Junior Cross Country team have had a fantastic season this year, including a brilliant result in the North West Regional Final for English Schools that saw Faye Ireland in Year 8 crowned

North West champion, and the team qualify for the National Final on the 30th November in Southend on Sea.

At the national final, Faye raced hard to prove herself the third fastest runner in the country. The team were sadly beset by a nasty injury to a runner minutes before the start, but special mention must go to the heroic team spirit of Rebekah Casey in Year 7 who sought medical attention for her wound and went on to run the race anyway.

Congratulations to the whole team for a fantastic performance throughout the year!

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

St. Julie's hosts Oxbridge workshop for year 11

This term we accepted a request from Oxford and Cambridge Universities to host a "What Next?" workshop for year 11 students. We invited students from SFX, Calderstones, St Francis of Assisi Academy and Bluecoat to attend. Representatives from both Oxford and Cambridge Universities spoke to the pupils about University life, the application process and future opportunities.

Maddy Lawrence-Jones from Magdalene College, Oxford, ran the workshop alongside Alice Wilby from St Peter's, our Oxford Link College. These workshops were a chance for Year 11s to hear about Oxford and Cambridge, as well as receive advice on A-Level and Career choices.

The event was extremely well received by both pupils and staff, with email addresses being exchanged at the end due to the enthusiasm and interest from the young people.

Year 8 rocket through STEM event

A team of six year 8 students have taken part in a Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths event held by the Institute of Engineering and Technology alongside 4 other schools.

Students met a range of logistical challenges in constructing a rocket and transporter vehicle, all in accordance

St. Julie's welcomes back Baroness Newlove

We were delighted to welcome Baroness Newlove back into our school for a visit as part of the 'Peers in Schools' programme.

The programme aims to engage young people with the political and parliamentary process by allowing members of the House of Lords to visit schools and talk to students.

After a reception with members of the School Council Baroness Newlove spoke to an audience of 200 members of our Sixth Form and Year 11 students, talking engagingly about her work in the House, her family life, and her wider work on combating anti-social behaviour.

Following the talk, students had an opportunity to ask questions regarding any aspect of the work of the House of Lords. The Baroness said *"I love coming to St. Julie's and am looking forward to my next visit."*

Primary Students Rise to Yule Challenge

Students representing nine primary schools demonstrated their creative kitchen skills in our annual Yule Log decorating competition!

Our teaching kitchens were a hive of activity as twenty students, ably assisted by some of our Sixth Form Hospitality Students, realised their creative cake designs in icing and sponge! Once the cakes were complete our two judges, Mr Alderman and Cllr. Malcolm Kelly, faced the challenging task of choosing a winner.

The standard was incredibly high and so we congratulate all students who took part, but the biggest cheer goes to our winner Maisie from Our Lady's Bishop Eton. We hope all of the staff and students visiting us enjoyed the competition as much as we did!

Pictures at an exhibition

Congratulations to our Year 12 BTEC Graphics students who have had their work exhibited as part of the 'Hidden Liverpool' Photography Competition.

Students were encouraged to capture digital images of Liverpool's empty or abandoned buildings. There were over two hundred entries to the competition that were judged by representatives from Liverpool Vision, Open Eye Gallery, Hope street Hotel, Seven Streets and Liverpool Placed.

Congratulations go to Alex and Sophie, pictured here with Mr Radburn, who were placed second and fourth respectively and to all St Julie's students who entered.

Woolton Centenary

On 9th November after the unveiling of the Woolton Centenary Plaque, a miniature copy was presented by local architect Tony Griffiths to the Lord Mayor Councillor Gary Millar from the People of Woolton and Gateacre to the City of Liverpool.

The miniature copy is to be permanently displayed in the Town Hall, and the Residents Association invited representatives of St Julie's to attend the celebration in the Town Hall on Monday 25th September.

Senior Prefects, Molly Cotton and Sophia Brennan, attended due to their connection with the village and the school's involvement with recent centenary celebrations. Both girls live in the village and attended St Mary's Primary School.