



# More News



## Lourdes with Year 8

December 2015



During half term 21 students from Year 8 travelled to Lourdes. This pilgrimage was to be a first in many ways. Travelling outside the normal set pilgrimage times, the group (alongside two Year 12 young leaders and five members of staff) were going to become the first ever school staying at Hosanna House, the HCPT owned house in the village of Bartes just outside Lourdes. Mr Merchant, used the model dioramas at the entrance to the domain to tell the children the story of Bernadette and the visitations, followed by visits to the saint's house, the Bolly Mill and the cachot. The four day pilgrimage also consisted of the torchlight procession, during which there was a torrential downpour! The RE department had decided to follow the footsteps of Brother Michael, who started HCPT sixty years ago, the pilgrimage was to be a mixture of religious and social experiences so they also visited a local farm, where children had the opportunity to milk cows, and it was also a backdrop for a lovely liturgy based on the Good Shepherd. Everyone agreed that it had been a special week!

## Shoe Box Appeal



A big thank you to all students who got involved and brought in items for this year's Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Our school was able to donate a whopping 117 boxes to the project which will see disadvantaged children across the world receive a gift this Christmas.



The project were really impressed with the work of students and staff, especially the fact that we were able to fundraise over £350 to fund all of the postage for our boxes! Some students also got the chance to visit the Shoebox Warehouse where they heard what happens next to the boxes after they leave our school and go on their journey across the world!



## Lest we forget

In the last issue we told you about the work of John Paul II Award students, who spent the run up to Remembrance Day finely crafting special felt poppies, and then selling them to staff and students in school. Altogether, they raised £250 for the Royal British Legion. The whole school also spent two minutes in silence and came together in prayer for those who have served in armed conflict.



# Year 11 University Visit

Students in Year 11 spent a November morning at Newcastle University finding out about Marine Science and Technology. Mr Ballard accompanied the students as they gained knowledge of the careers and courses on offer post 16 in and around the marine environment sector.



# Parish Christmas Party



Every year we hold a party in the Hall for the elderly and vulnerable from the local area. We invite them to a festive afternoon of refreshments and entertainment, which includes singing, dancing, quizzes and some food—baked by staff and students. For many people invited this event is their Christmas and we like to make it as special for them as we can, and this year was no exception. Held by the Year 10 Health and Social Care students, there was music from the lower school choir, as well as some 6th Form singers and dancers. As you can see from the photo, a great time was had by all, and the students enjoyed it as much as the guests.

# Music News



November was a busy month for our talented musicians. STM students played and supported Father John McElhone at the ecumenical anniversary 'Songs of Praise' at Our Lady and Saint Aidan's Church, and we hosted a fantastic Soloists Evening in school.

# Pink Day 2015



Our amazing Sixth Form threw themselves into the annual Pink Day with great enthusiasm. There was a sea of pink as students, and staff, dressed in pink for the day, and baked a huge number of cakes that were sold during break and lunchtimes. In addition to this there were raffles and quizzes. A grand total of £1275 was raised for Breast Cancer charities, our highest amount ever.



We were also lucky enough to have two professionally made cakes to raffle. One from @AMason cakes, and the other from a previous student Aldrich Archillas who has applied to be on the next Great British Bake off — so you may see him on TV soon.



# Junior Masterchef



Two year 10 students entered the competition to make a 2 course celebratory meal for under £5. They chose the celebration of Christmas and made sticky pork and sticky toffee pudding and custard. They also spoke to a head chef!

# Yr 7 Ampleforth

In November, 30 year 7 students attended a retreat to Ampleforth Abbey to explore the life of the Benedictine monks. The retreat was led by Fr. Bede who revealed to students the traditions of the monastic lifestyle and led them in prayer and reflection. Students were also privileged enough to join the monks in the choir within the abbey for Compline, the last prayers of the day and ended the retreat by preparing a mass which was led by Fr. Bede.



# Auschwitz



Year 13 students Georgia Forester, Rachel Hale, Emma May and Andrew Miller completed the 'Lessons from Auschwitz' programme where they visited the

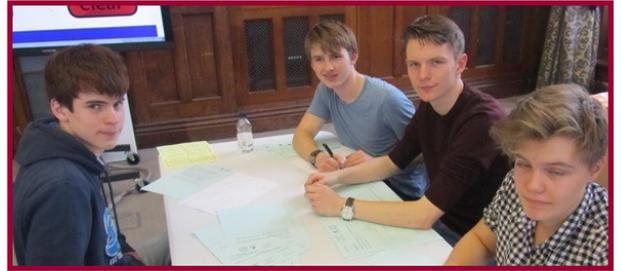
camp. They stated that it, "allowed us to re-humanise the 1.1 million Jews that were killed at Auschwitz. Seeing pre-War Jewish life was particularly interesting; it showed us that these people aren't just numbers, aren't just pictures, they had a life, family, job and house like us. We cannot just see them as a number we have to keep the idea that they are real people. Following on from our visit, we will be taking part in the Holocaust Memorial Day with Year 9 in the Spring term when we will aim to remind them of the people who died and how we must never allow discrimination again."

# Yr7 Vindolanda



Year 7 students were taught a lesson in a Roman classroom learning about Roman legionaries, how to fire a Syrian bow and arrow, and listened to an archaeologist talking about the Roman finds.

# Marvellous Maths



Four 6th Form students took part in the Senior Maths Challenge at Ridley Hall at Northumbria in November and just missed out on a top ten place. Nathan Mould also competed in the British Mathematical Olympiad, and Francesco Bello and Jonathan Coulson in the Senior Kangaroo.

# Clothes Show Live



Students from Years 9-13 attended the Clothes Show event this month and one student was even scouted by Select Models who represent Agyness Deyn.

# Council Corner

The School Council were thrilled to have a lunchtime session with local MP Mary Glindon. Mary, whose constituency is North Tyneside, spoke to the students about democracy and the work she does as a Member of Parliament.





# The Back Page

## Football



We were very proud to send 2 teams to compete in the North Tyneside Girls 5 a side tournament at the soccer dome, North Shields. Both teams played extremely well but the A team won every single game and won the tournament with a 3-1 win over Valley Gardens in the final.

The A squad was Amelia Patterson, Stella Pozzi, Ruth Clark, Uchi Ojiako, Jenna Higgs, Lois Greenslade, Anna Littlewood.

Stella Pozzi was player of the tournament with 7 goals in total and a hat trick in the final!

The girls go onto represent North Tyneside in the County finals in January.



## Kickboxing, Judo & Karate



Emma Walker 11E and Jamie Walker 70 competed in the recent Karate & Kickboxing world championships in Florida. Jamie won 2 silver medals in the boys under 10 points and continuous competition. Emma won a gold medal (and is therefore World Champion) in the 13-15 year old girls points competition! And, Liam Banks (Year 11) recently competed in a national Judo competition and finished 3rd in the under 16 66-73kg category.

## Cross Country & Athletics

St Thomas More students had great success in the North Tyneside Cross Country Championships! 20 students have qualified to represent North Tyneside and the Northumberland Championships in January! Well Done athletes



Year 7 and 8 students competed in the North Tyneside Sports Hall Athletics Championships this half term. There were some fantastic individual and team performances.

St Thomas More PE Department are leading the way with the Youth Sports Trust Girls Active Initiative. Girls activators have been selected and they will start their training this half term. Watch this space.....

## Badminton

In the Catholic Partnership competition we managed to finish 1st in both of the year 8 competitions and 2nd in both of the year 9 competitions, which meant that overall we won both the boys and the girls competitions and all of our students were awarded either gold or silver medals.



Remember that you can see all the latest PE news on Twitter: @STM\_PE

