



More News



Pilgrimage to Lourdes

May 2016



HCPT 36 + 714 LOURDES 2016

Photo: DURAND

During Easter there was the annual HCPT Group 714 pilgrimage to Lourdes in France. A combination of 6th form students, former students, parents, friends and staff came together “called to serve” the children that the HCPT charity sponsor, and support them on the week pilgrimage. Our group works alongside HCPT in two ways, firstly as the youth or central service group 714, and secondly as the family group 36. During the week the students attended Mass on Easter Sunday; celebrated Mass in the most magnificent outdoor cathedral in Gavarnie; joined other groups from the North East Region to celebrate Mass; as well as enjoying many very special liturgies. They took part in Torchlight Pro-

cessions, helped to lead the Blessed Sacrament Procession, led younger students round the Bernadette Story, walked the Stations of the Cross and visited the grotto whenever possible. They ran Hosanna House for a full day entertaining children in arts, crafts, music, sport and dance. Our students also helped run a play-base in Lourdes; led animation at the baths and were thrilled to be able to spend quality time looking after and putting smiles on the faces of the young children from our family groups.

For our students it was a life changing opportunity and experience. Sophia Allen (Year 12) writes, “Before I began my Lourdes journey, I didn’t quite know what to expect. I knew I would be looking after young children and I knew it held the potential to bring me closer to God. However, words can’t begin to explain the true experience of peace, joy and religion that has touched my heart on this pilgrimage to Lourdes. It is genuinely frustrating how you can’t put the experience into words, spoken or written. I have learned so much, about Bernadette and Christianity as a whole. My first night in Lourdes, when I saw the Grotto for the first time was truly amazing. I felt at peace with the world and myself. It was at that moment I knew I was going to have the best week of my life. There is no feeling like making a child smile, laugh or even take them away from sadness for a while, and I will miss every single one of them. I feel I have changed for the better and now won’t take things for granted. No picture can capture the beauty of this wonderful place which in seven days has transformed me. I can’t wait to return”.



Year 10 trip to Iceland

"Boarding the plane at Newcastle Airport only made me more eager to get to Iceland. After a full morning of travelling we arrived half asleep at the Blue Lagoon, but the excitement (and the smell of sulphur) soon woke us up! The weather chilled our faces, but the rest of us was heated by this astonishing geothermal pool. We then met our lovely tour guide, Lief, and piled onto our tour bus to discover the country like true intrepid explorers.

Day two promised a 'Golden Circle Tour' and even tomato-tasting! We visited waterfalls, glaciers, geysers, craters and the boundary where two tectonics plates meet, as well as Icelandic horses. My Geography eyes lit up! My favourite stop was the 'Gulfoss Waterfall', nothing could prepare me for what I saw; such stunning beauty that until then I thought existed only in dreams. We were so fortunate to have this once in a lifetime opportunity to travel to Iceland with the school. Visiting the only country in the world with a 0% carbon footprint was phenomenal! Breathing in the clean air, seeing a vast array of stars and taking in the outstanding natural beauty of the snow-covered mountains was an experience I would recommend to anyone. Iceland was an awe-inspiring experience and having it with my friends was truly magical! I was reminded why we must protect such places. Until next time Iceland, the land of dreams, the country of wonders". By Rosie Rice, Amber Macoscar and Sophie Walton.



6th Form Amnesty Group

The activists have been busy campaigning on a variety of issues this academic year. They began the year by writing letters to campaign against the illegal sales of arms. At Christmas they worked with all Year 7 Tutor Groups to make cards containing messages of support for victims of human rights abuse around the world. More recently, they have flash-mobbed assemblies in order to raise awareness about the importance of the Human Rights Act to every individual.

GCSE at Seahouses



"The weather was perfect as we spent the day taking car park surveys, sketching the coastal landscape and putting on our detective heads, as we interrogated bustling businesses about how tourism affects them. Many of us indulged our taste buds at the renowned Coxons Ice cream parlour, whilst others quizzed tourists and local people". By Sophie Walton, Amber Macoscar and Rosie Rice.

Council Corner

The council are working hard at the moment to reintroduce recycling into school to make the school more eco-friendly and care for the environment.



Prize Winner

Congratulations to Stella Pozzi (year 7) who is a Junior Maths Challenge Winner. There were nearly a thousand entries this year and only 24 prizes were awarded!



Year 9 Bake Off



15 Year 9 language students entered a bake off competition where they

made 'Schwarzwälder Kirschtorte' (Black Forest Gateau) and prepared a video with German commentary. This was shown at a presentation day at Sunderland University. Competing with schools across the North East, we were thrilled to be placed third.

Royal Duties



In the last newsletter we told you about Liam McConville in Year 13, who had been selected to be one of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant's Cadets in Tyne and Wear. Well, here is Liam carrying out his first royal duty with HRH Princess Anne when she visited the National Glass Centre in Sunderland this month to help launch an ambassador programme ahead of the Tall Ships Races in 2018.

Sports Relief

Year 12 and 13 students took part in the Sports Relief mile in fancy dress. They all donated money to wear their best sports themed outfits, and all money collected was added to the whole school's donation of £1433.23 which was shared between Sports Relief and CAFOD.



Students from Year 9 to 13 also took part in a gruelling triathlon for the charity with some fantastic results.

It was a very close result, as you can see, but congratulations go to; Sophie Brandon - individual winner - 28 mins 12 secs, Matthew Morley - second - 28 mins 14 secs and Madeleine Brandon - third - 28 mins 48 secs, and to Year 10 who were the team winners.

Mock Trial



Some Year 9 students took part in a Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition regional heat in May, where the participation from all of the students was excellent. We don't find out where each individual team is placed but the judges said that the contest was so close it was very difficult to choose.

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400 Years of the Bard

We had Shakespeare day in the library this month for the lower school. Competitions, quizzes and treasure hunts took place on a Shakespeare theme to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the his death. This was all organised by the girls of the Year 7 Friday Book Club.



Music News

The year 11 BTEC Music group organised an Acoustic Evening in April. It was the first time students performed in the dining hall and it proved to be a real success. A group of year 11 students provided refreshments with the proceeds going to the Cambodia 2017 trip. Stephanie Hodgson, Eloise Wallace and Sam Rea organised, played and invited the year 10 students to perform as well as friends in year 11;

Emily Louise Cain, Christelle Gatchalian, Rachel Emmerson, Sophie Gilmore and Jordan Ransom.



Rocket Science Update

11 students have sowed 200 seeds, 100 of which have been on the Space Station, but we don't know which. The students are watering, measuring and recording percentages that have germinated, grown true leaves, and numbers of leaves. The final recording is 24th May, and then all the data will be sent off to the UK



Space Agency, although it may be September before we know which seeds were in space.



The Back Page

Football

The Sixth Form Football team have soared to great heights this season. They were promoted at the end of last season to the top division and despite being newcomers to this division they chased the perennial winners—Monkseaton, with each game played. Monkseaton went on to win the league, but it is an incredible achievement for our boys to finish the season in second place! The team are captained by Ben Shaw, who is also the Under 19 Northumberland County Team Captain, and the very well deserved award of “Player of the Season” was given to Andrew Collins.



Cricket

Boys from year 7-10 were involved in a “Chance to Compete” Hardball Cricket competition at Backworth Cricket Club this month. The year 9/10 team (Sam Byerley, Will Wigham, James Peart, Matthew Hughes, Jack McCumisky, Dan Weir, Ollie Thompson and Brendan Buchanon) won the whole Chance to Shine competition and are through to the regional event which is usually held at York Cricket club.

Dance

In May there was a fantastic 'Celebration of Dance' performance. Performing Arts and PE students showcased work



from the past few months. It was a great opportunity to show off all their hard work and commitment.

Athletics

Year 9 and 10 Boys team (Sol Bell, Jack Beverley, Dan Dryden, Ano Matsvimbo, Jack McNally and Charlie Barlow) won the indoor athletics at Temple Park in South Shields which means that they now represent Tyne and Wear in the County Finals.



Performing Arts



In March, year 11 and 13 Performing Arts Dance students went on the first trip to London together. They went to the Victoria Palace Theatre to see Billy Elliot and the next day, to Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Dance which is one of Britain's leading Dance schools where they were given a tour and observed a year 2 BA Honours Contemporary Dance class. This coincidentally, involved one of our own ex students Holly Swan! They were able to take part in a Contemporary technique and creative dance class, both of which were challenging but great fun and our students performed superbly.

Remember that
you can see all the latest PE news on Twitter: @STM_PE

