



# SCHOOL NEWS

## ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

7TH DECEMBER 2018

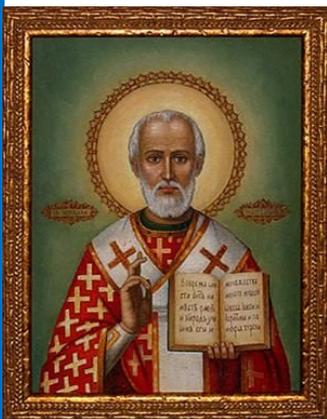
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### HAPPY FEAST DAY!

Our patron saint is considered one of the most important saints even of today. His story gives great guidance and inspiration in what it is to be a Christian. Nicholas was born during the third century in the village of Patara which is now recognised as on the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents, who raised him as a Christian, died while Nicholas was still young. Obeying Jesus' words to "sell what you own and give the money to the poor," Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. His faith led him to the priesthood and eventually to become Bishop of Myra. Myra was another coastal area and Bishop Nicholas became known for his concern for those in need including children, widows and sailors. He is the patron saint of all those in need.

At a time of great persecution, Bishop Nicholas suffered for his faith, was exiled and imprisoned. After his release he became even more compassionate and his story and his example crossed continents. One story tells how Nicholas heard of a poor man with three daughters. In those days, to be married, a woman needed a dowry. Without a dowry, a woman was unlikely to marry. This poor man's daughters were therefore destined to be sold into slavery. Mysteriously, on three different occasions, a bag of gold appeared in their home providing the needed dowries. The bags of gold, tossed through an open window, are said to have landed in stockings or shoes left before the fire to dry. This led to the custom of children hanging stockings or putting out shoes, eagerly awaiting gifts from Saint Nicholas. Our own school badge shows the three bags of gold as our commitment to continue the thoughtfulness and charity of St Nicholas.

Our Christmas hampers are part of that response as well as all the various charity events that we have already taken part in this year. Our St Nicholas assemblies have encouraged us to make small acts of kindness, to acknowledge people who help us and to commit ourselves to being true students of St Nicholas, not only through our academic success but through our personal commitment to living out the gospel, caring for others and loving our neighbour.



*Mairie Gelling,  
School Chaplain*



## A Level Biology Trip

On 26<sup>th</sup> November, a small group of A Level Biology students travelled to Manchester University and were lucky enough to visit a “Science Live!” biology session. We received lectures from various professionals in their specialist subjects and it was fascinating.

Amongst the most memorable talks were Robert Winston, Hannah Critchlow and Steve Jones. Winston delivered an interesting take on Human Progress and the ethics of testing, focusing around the somewhat controversial field of IVF and genetic modification. He noted that yes, human progress recently has been incredible but left us wondering how far we should be allowed to explore—especially in light of the Chinese twins with ‘immunity’ to HIV. To finish, he implored us (as scientists) to think about whether we are sacrificing the very ethics of science in order to get publicity and the consequences this could have in the future.

Did you know the human brain uses 20% of the human body’s energy each day? Hannah Critchlow captivated us with a talk on Demystifying The Human Brain which looked into dendritic spines and the possibility of opening up new sections of our minds.

Delivering two lectures was Steve Jones and his focus around homo sapiens, our adaptations and how we have evolved from other species. Using geographical, chemical and biological concepts, Jones left us curious and didn’t fail to make us laugh with his sense of humour.

Overall the day was incredibly intriguing and also helpful due to the two examiner sessions we received: these told us more about what examiners want from us in order to reach the highest grades. We all came away having learnt something new.

### *Bella Manfredi 12C*



**Robert Winston**



**Hannah Critchlow**



**Steve Jones**

**Period: 26.11.18 - 30.11.18**

### Weekly attendance update

%	Bernadette	Camera	John-Paul	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa	Vincent DePaul	Ward	Year Total
Year 7	98	100	98	97	98	97	98	98	98
Year 8	98	95	96	94	96	95	96		98
Year 9	97	97	100	94	96	97	98		97
Year 10	96	97	97	94	93	99	92	99	97
Year 11	96	96	90	96	97	92	93	93	94
Whole School	97	97	98	95	96	97	96	99	98

\*Data includes 96% of students in each form.

*“Everyone Matters, so Attendance Matters.”*

## MIKE AMESBURY VISIT

On Thursday the local MP Mike Amesbury gave up time during his day to pay the students of St Nicholas Catholic High school a visit. With the large Student Council assembled in waiting with questions and queries, he proceeded to answer the concerns of these young people. The questions varied from highly topical subjects such as the ever looming Brexit deal to more personal queries regarding his political inspirations.

Having been asked what inspired him to get involved in politics he stated with a smile that in life he wanted to make a difference, and to make a real positive impact on the world around him. In the modern world there is a preconception by some, that politicians are often riddled with ulterior motives and obsessed with power struggles, yet with a smile he explained the real human side to Politics, the compassion that fuels most MPs representing a constituency. In the process of doing this he made a conscious effort to encourage young people to get involved in politics speaking strongly about the necessity for a greater diversity within the House of Commons. Mike Amesbury spoke of how politics should be representative of the country with people from all genders, nationalities and ages having a seat in Parliament.

Whilst being quizzed on Brexit, he passionately spoke about how the role of an MP was not one of promoting self-interest but instead one of representation. He firmly believed that his role was to act on behalf of the people, and especially all people whether they voted leave or remain as he referred to the referendum result being as tight as it was in this constituency.

Not only being asked huge topical questions from the students, he was also asked more personal questions focussing on a local basis. These questions ranged from the provision of sports facilities for young people in the local area all the way to the situation with Mid Cheshire College. Without hesitation he gave answers on how the youth of Weaver Vale can get involved in extra curricular activities and the importance of them and he also spoke about the hard work he has put into finding a solution to the crisis at the college.

The students came out of the session with smiles and a new found enthusiasm for politics, not just on a national basis but on a local basis. Mike Amesbury also made a point to commend each and every student on the questions delivered describing them as “genuinely brilliant”.

Mr Woods was delighted that Mr Amesbury had, once again, found time in his busy schedule to visit St Nicholas Catholic High School.



### **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS BREAK**



**A REMINDER THAT THE SCHOOL  
WILL CLOSE TO STUDENTS AT 1PM ON FRIDAY 21ST  
DECEMBER AND WILL RE-OPEN AGAIN ON  
MONDAY 7TH JANUARY.**

# Sports Page

Day	Date		Fixture / Practice	Venue	Start Time	Pick up
Mon	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec					
Tues	11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Boys	Year 11 6-a-side Football v Hartford	AWAY	4.00pm	5.00pm
		Girls	Year 9 & 11 Netball v Leftwich	Home	3.30pm	5.00pm
Wed	12 <sup>th</sup> Dec					
		Girls	Netball Practice	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
Thurs	13 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Girls & Boys	Trampoline Competition (GCSE) @ Leftwich	Away	3.00pm	5.15pm
		Girls	Indoor Cricket Club	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
Fri	14 <sup>th</sup> Dec	All	Run Club	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
		Girls	U14 Cheshire Cup Football @ Ellesmere Port Catholic High	Away	12.35pm	5.15pm

## GIRLS U13 FOOTBALL

The U13 girls football team that played against Blacon in the first round of the Cheshire Cup.

We lost 3-1, however the girls put in a tremendous effort and the score does not reflect the standard of football played.

They were all outstanding and were very unlucky not to come out on top.



## ST NICHOLAS RESULTS

### Basketball

Year 9—St Nicholas 40-20 Weaverham

Year 11—St Nicholas 31-43 Weaverham



### Football

Vale Royal 6-a-side Champions—Played 8, won 7, drew 1.

Year 11 through to quarter finals of the Cheshire Cup after beating Weaverham 9-2.

U15 lost 3-1 to Hazel Grove in the County Cup.

### Netball

Year 8 lost to CHSL 6-0—Girl of the game: Rachel Middlebrook

Year 10 lost 12-10—Girl of the game: Isobelle Holland

We have a vacancy for a new Chair **with effect from our AGM on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**. The Charity Trustees would be happy to meet informally, over coffee or a glass of wine, with anyone who has any questions about the role (full details on the PTFA section of the website). Please contact our current Chair, Kim Griffiths [kim@copley.co.uk](mailto:kim@copley.co.uk) to arrange a no-obligation chat.

## Christmas Raffle

*Sales are going really well. Our grateful thanks to everyone who has bought tickets so far, we really appreciate your support. Ticket will be on sale until midnight on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December and the raffle will be drawn on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> December.*

**YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT!**



**First Prize is a 7 night Eurocamp family holiday**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize is beautiful Christmas Hamper (complete with wicker basket) and a magnum of Prosecco.**

**Third prize is £50 cash.**

**Tickets £1 each, available to via Parentpay.**

## Matched Funding

Are there any more wonderfully generous parents out there who work for companies that offer a Matched Funding scheme? If so, we would **LOVE** to hear from you. Not only is it a great way to get involved with school/PTFA on your own terms but you will also be making an enormous difference to our fund-raising capabilities. Whatever time you can spare, we will work with you to make the most of your generosity. Please contact [kim@copley.co.uk](mailto:kim@copley.co.uk) if you can help.

Please sign up to our Facebook page where we can keep you fully informed on what's going on with PTFA: [www.facebook.com/stnicksptfa](https://www.facebook.com/stnicksptfa)