



SCHOOL NEWS

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

2ND FEBRUARY 2018 - The Presentation of the Lord

ISSUE 16

THE BEGINNING OF FEBRUARY has a cluster of feast days that help to remind us that Spring is on its way.

FEBRUARY 1ST is the FEAST DAY OF ST BRIGID OF KILDARE, one of the patron saints of Ireland. She is particularly renowned for her gift of hospitality and welcome and her Feast Day is often used as an opportunity to 'sweep out' and bless the house with this prayer:

May Brigid bless the house wherein you dwell
Bless every fireside every wall and door
Bless every heart that beats beneath its roof
Bless every hand that toils to bring it joy
Bless every foot that walks its portals through
May Brigid bless the house that shelters you.



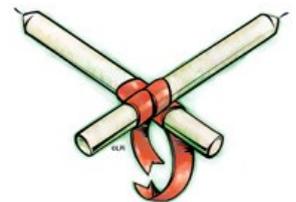
A new Brigid's Cross is then installed at the front door to bring Christ's blessing to all who visit.

FEBRUARY 2ND IS THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE



On this day, we remember when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to '*present him*' before God (Luke 2.22-40). At this time, two faithful people, Simeon and Anna, gave testimony as to who this child really was. Simeon said that Jesus would be '*a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel*'. His words make '*light*' the theme for worship at CANDLEMAS and it is the custom to bless all the candles in church. Sometimes candles are also taken home and used that night as a witness of faith.

FEBRUARY 3RD CELEBRATES ST BLAISE - St Blaise was a bishop in Turkey around the same time as our St Nicholas. It was a time of Christian persecution and once, when Blaise had been captured and was on his way to prison, a boy was brought to him in danger of choking from a fishbone stuck in his throat. Blaise prayed over him and he was cured. There is a long-standing tradition of blessing throats using two crossed and unlit candles. A blessing that could prove valuable to many a teacher!



These feast days are all valued parts of our rich, Catholic tradition and encourage us to be mindful of the '*holy in the everyday*' and to enrich our daily lives with symbols, prayers and blessings.

Mairie Gelling, School Chaplain

Here's what's
happening!

DON'T MISS OUT!

NEXT WEEK ...



Wednesday 7th – Friday 9th February
7.00pm School Hall
Get your tickets today on Parentpay!



LAUNCHING LITERACY FOCUS WEEKS

THIS WEEK marks the start of our half-termly literacy foci. Each half-term, students will engage with a different strategy, in order to enhance their literacy skills across the curriculum.

We begin with *"Perfectly Punctuated"*. Students will receive feedback on a piece of written work, by way of whole-school marking codes. They will then count up and correct as many spelling and punctuation errors as they can. Finally, students will peer-assess each other's work. The aim is to write as accurately as possible – ideally, to *"perfectly punctuate"*. Students who achieve this impressive feat will hone their accuracy by advising their peers.

There are more whole-school literacy strategies to follow, including inter-form quizzes and cross-curricular displays, all aimed at making our students' already high standards of spoken and written expression even better.

Students will soon see that, around school, Mr Wallace has produced some colourful posters, warning us all of the perils of poor punctuation!



"To be literate is to gain a voice and to participate meaningfully and assertively in decisions that affect one's life."

Y Kassam

SPORTS



** RESULTS **

U18 BOYS COUNTY CUP FOOTBALL

St Nicholas vs Kings School, Chester
!! WON 2-1!!

(Goals scored by Kallam Boyle, 12 Bernadette)
 to progress into the Semi Finals!

GIRLS CHESHIRE CUP FOOTBALL

St Nicholas vs Neston High School
!! WON 4-3!!

through to the third round!



BASKETBALL

Year 9 vs Middlewich **!!WON 46-18!!**

Year 10 vs Middlewich **!!WON 40-37!!**

Tuesday 6th February

NETBALL PRACTICE - all years
 3.15 - 4.15 pm

Wednesday 7th February

NETBALL MATCH Years 8 - 11
 Away at Knutsford High School
 Depart 3.05pm approx

Thursday 8th February

NORTH WEST REGIONAL BOCCIA COMPETITION
 Greenbank Academy, Liverpool
 9am - 3pm

GIRLS RUGBY PRACTICE
 3.15 - 4.15pm

Friday 2nd February

GIRLS FOOTBALL PRACTICE
 3.15 - 4.15pm

FIXTURES and PRACTICE



Thank You!

YEAR 8 PARENTS' EVENING

I would like to give a big **THANK YOU** on behalf of our Staff Team for supporting our Year 8 Parents' Evening.

We had a **91%** turn out,

which was **FANTASTIC!** Parents' Evening at St Nicholas Catholic High School is always a positive experience and we are very proud of the supportive partnership we share with our parents and carers of the school. If you have any further questions, or didn't manage to attend the Evening, then please contact me in school to arrange an appointment.

Many thanks!

Mrs Pardoe (Head of Year 8)



Weekly attendance update

Period: 22/01 - 26/01/2018

	Bernadette	Camara	John-Paul	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa	Vincent DePaul	Ward	Year Total
Year 7	99.62%	93.33%	97.14%	97.78%	97.41%	97.50%	97.78%	NA	97.22%
Year 8	94.14%	97.24%	95.86%	96.07%	96.90%	97.86%	95.71%	NA	96.25%
Year 9	92.59%	96.54%	93.85%	93.79%	97.24%	97.14%	97.50%	95.36%	95.50%
Year 10	93.70%	99.63%	96.80%	93.93%	97.50%	97.93%	96.07%	100.00%	96.95%
Year 11	94.80%	97.60%	96.90%	95.45%	89.60%	97.20%	93.20%	90.40%	94.39%
Whole School	94.97%	96.87%	96.11%	95.41%	95.73%	97.53%	96.05%	95.25%	95.99%

"EVERYONE MATTERS, SO ATTENDANCE MATTERS."

UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

Last term, 17 students in Years 12 and 13 took part in the UKMT SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE. They had 60 minutes to answer 25 varied multiple choice mathematical problems. About 6% of students nationally sit the paper, and high scorers are awarded certificates to recognise their success, with top scorers invited to participate in follow-on competitions.

Students at St Nicholas' were particularly successful, with 12 being awarded a certificate. There were notable performances from Thomas Campbell, Lucas Fisher (Year 13) and Louis Adams (Year 12) who all finished in the top 10% nationally and achieved Gold certificates. Lucas and Louis qualified for the 'Senior Kangaroo' follow on round, with Lucas going on to achieve a Merit in that paper and Thomas qualified for the first round of the British Maths Olympiad. Only 1,000 students nationally are invited to sit that paper and Thomas finished in the top 25% and achieved a certificate of distinction.



Senior Team Maths Challenge



Watch this space for results from the **Intermediate Maths Challenge** for students in Years 9-11 which took place in School this week.

In the Art Department ...

YEAR 8 have been making shoes to memorialise the victims of The Holocaust, as a response to the images of the pile of shoes found in the warehouses of Auschwitz.





**WINE TASTING
EVENING**
FRIDAY 2ND MARCH
7.00 – 11.00 PM

Get your tickets for this FABULOUS FUN EVENT!

Jon Campbell of Define Food & Wine will be hosting this very popular evening for the third year running, including tutored tasting of quality wines, a fun wine quiz and tasty sharing platters. Wines will be available to purchase and enjoy on the evening and to order for collection from Define. Tickets are just **£15** per person and can be purchased via Parentpay. Further information is available on the PTFA section of the school website.

**CUT OFF DATE FOR TICKETS is Monday 28th February.
Numbers limited to 80 tickets maximum.**

THIS ESSENTIAL COURSE for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 (also open to adults), will run on Saturday 17th March from 9.30 am until 4.30 pm. The course leads to the **CEIH Emergency First Aid at Work** qualification and the certificate is valid for three years. The cost of the course is **£65** per person. Further information and an application form are available on the PTFA section of the website.



Big Heart Ball



**DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATE TO GET YOUR TICKETS FOR OUR SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR!
Tickets now available to purchase via Parentpay—get yours before half term to take advantage of the £5 discount!**

Venue: The stunning Vale Royal Abbey and grounds

Date: Friday 15th June 2018, 7pm until 1am

Tickets: **£45** per person (if purchased before February half term)

Welcome Reception *Fabulous 3 course meal and coffee*

Disco and dancing *Amazing auction and raffle* *Fun and laughter*

Designated charity ChAPS (Cheshire Autism Practical Support).

Further information is available on the PTFA section of the website.

DOES YOUR EMPLOYER RUN A MATCH/MATCHED FUNDING SCHEME?

Matched Funding can make a huge difference to the amount we raise at any event. The level of your involvement is up to you - we have lots of areas where you could help, especially with our up-coming Ball. Every additional pound raised has the potential to improve our children's day-to-day learning and social experience at St Nicholas'. If you feel able to help in any way, big or small, please email: kim@copley.co.uk

