



# SCHOOL NEWS

## ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

1ST FEBRUARY 2019

ISSUE 18—2018/19

### Holocaust Memorial Day



HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1



*Mairie Gelling,  
School Chaplain*

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi Persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. Thanks to the witnesses of survivors and contemporary sources, this is a time when we try to learn the lessons of the past and recognise that genocide does not come from nowhere. As we had seen in the Anne Frank exhibition, it is a steady process of discrimination, racism and hatred. Even in the UK we must be aware that discrimination and exclusion has not ended. There is still much to do to create a safer future.

Each year thousands of activities take place for HMD, bringing people from all backgrounds together to learn lessons from the past. We were involved in the creation of our Peace Garden a few years ago and this week every form group has been able to reflect on the effects of exclusion on children, adults and families. The website contains a number of clips and other information that you may like to look at - <https://www.hmd.org.uk/>

### BRIGID AND CANDLEMAS

Today, 1<sup>st</sup> February is the Feast of St Brigid, one of our Celtic saints and the patron of hospitality. This is another opportunity to bless our homes and perhaps make a Brigid's Cross (or dust one off if you already have one). This is a link to making one with pipecleaners if rushes are a bit difficult to find:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-St-Brigid%27s-Cross-with-Pipe-Cleaners>

Here is her blessing;

*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.*

Saturday is Candlemas. Candlemas marks the presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World. By tradition, you could have left your Christmas decorations up until now – but no longer! There is also a weather prediction for this time “*If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, Winter will have another fight. If Candlemas Day brings cloud and rain, Winter won't come again.*”

This is also the time when the Church blesses the candles for the year and often distributes some for parishioners to light in their homes as a witness that Jesus is the Light of our World.

## YEAR 8 RETREAT DAY

On the Retreat Day, each group of two forms got to participate in five different activities: talking about the school community, watching Soulbox, team games, decorating gingerbread men and a talk from three people training to be Priests.

We chose groups and discussed with our peers which photos best represent aspects of our school and the way we learn and interact with each other. I think it was good that we got a chance to acknowledge the parts of school we appreciate and it made people feel more positive about the school.

The next activity was watching a performance from a Christian pop music band. We had the opportunity to share our opinions and learn about identity as well as thinking about questions like “Where did we come from?”.

We decorated gingerbread men in our form groups which gave people the opportunity to socialise and get to know the people they didn’t know as well. When doing the teamwork games, we had chance to practise our cooperation and leadership skills in a fun way and have a little friendly competition.

Finally, we had a talk from four men training to be Priests, who spoke to us about two people, who had been given the title of ‘Blessed’ by the Church. The talk was directed towards young people to inspire them to follow their example, by reminding us of important Christian messages and attitudes.

Overall, the St Nicholas Year 8 Retreat Day was a great chance to have a break from our regular school routine to learn about important topics that will help us later in life.

*Ella McGuinness—8 John Paul*



**Period: 21.1.19 - 25.1.19**

### Weekly attendance update

%	Bernadette	Camera	John-Paul	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa	Vincent DePaul	Ward	Year Total
Year 7	97	99	100	100	98	98	96	99	98
Year 8	96	92	96	100	98	98	99		96
Year 9	96	91	97	96	95	95	98		96
Year 10	96	96	95	96	99	97	99	99	97
Year 11	95	98	98	97	97	98	98	95	95
Whole School	96	94	97	98	97	97	98	99	97

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

*“Everyone Matters, so Attendance Matters.”*

# Sports Page

Day	Date		Fixture / Practice	Venue	Start Time	Pick up
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb		Department Meeting & A Level EAPI Assesment (Year 13)			
Tues	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Girls	Rugby Practice	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Boys	Year 9 Basketball v Hartford	Away	3.30pm	5.00pm
		Boys	Year 10 Basketball v Hartford	Home	3.30pm	5.00pm
		Boys	Year 12 & 13 Football v Knutsford County Cup ¼ Final	Away	2.00pm	4.30pm
		Girls	Year 7A & B, 8 & 9 Netball v Knutsford	Away	3.15pm	5.30pm
Thurs	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mixed	Regional BOCCIA Finals - Liverpool	Away	9.00am	3.15pm
		Boys	U13 Boys Indoor Cricket Tournament @ UCAN	Away	1.00pm	3.00pm
		Girls	Indoor Cricket Practice	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
		Boys	Year 11 Basketball v Hartford	Home	3.30pm	5.00pm
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	All	Run Club	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm
		Girls	Indoor Football Club	Home	3.15pm	4.15pm

## ELLA FORBES (WHIZZ KIDS)

Based on their performance and the fact that the past five years have seen the Whizz Kids move from Juvenile to Basic Novice to Advanced Novice to Junior B level. British Ice Skating (BIS), the Ice Skating National Body formerly known as NISA, have invited the Whizz Kids to attend the **'ISU Synchronized Skating Development Training Seminar for Junior Age Skaters and their Coaches' in Finland 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2019**, as Great Britain's representatives. BIS will be funding the whole trip and Ella has been chosen as one of the lucky participants. Ella has skated 'under age' the past three seasons, and next year she will finally be 'in age'; if the Club can find two more skaters with the right age & skating levels, the Whizz Kids will hopefully move up to the full ISU Junior Category. The Whizz Kids have already been asked to perform at the World Junior Championship Opening Ceremony in 2020. The Whizz Kids came second, winning them a silver medal, and achieving a PB in their Short: 31.27, a PB in their Long: 52.90, culminating in an overall PB of: 84.17.



**The following St Nicholas Fixtures were cancelled this week due to bad weather & will be rescheduled:**



Girls U15 Hockey Tournament @ The Grange

Girls U16 Cheshire football vs Lymn

Boys Basketball Year 10 & 11 vs Middlewich

Boys Year 8 County Cup Quarter Final vs Congleton



## WINE TASTING EVENING

The Wine Tasting Evening has been rearranged, a new date will be advised soon, as well as details on how to purchase tickets.

The next PTFA meeting will be on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 6.15pm**. We understand it is inconvenient and difficult for people to make the journey to the school in the early evening. However, it would be really appreciated if you could make the effort to join in, particularly some new Year 7 parents. The funds that are raised by the PTFA do improve our children's school experience.

If you cannot make the meeting but could potentially come to a less formal meeting, to meet other parents, make new friends and connections, or if you can help out on social occasions, then please email Lisa Davies, the Treasurer at [lisaandlenny@hotmail.com](mailto:lisaandlenny@hotmail.com) or call **07551009783**.

If you have any ideas for an event that could be organised to raise funds for the school, please let me know.

