



# SCHOOL NEWS

## ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

18TH APRIL 2019

ISSUE 26—2018/19

### HOLY WEEK & EASTER

It is a great pleasure to welcome the students back to the dramatic feast of Holy Week. The journey of Jesus from the jubilant procession of Palm Sunday through to the drama and tragedy of Good Friday is one that we take every year and yet, every year can be very different. This year we have seen the disaster affecting Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, a symbol of faith that has called to people from all around the world; including some of our own students who visited recently. Our prayer focus in reception now includes an art piece featuring the famous façade. The fire has stopped people, some quite literally, in their tracks and brought prayer and worship into public spaces, as tragedies often do. On the same day, at Liverpool's football ground and around the city, people stopped to offer prayers and remembrance for a catastrophe that happened 30 years ago.

We find time for what is important. In school, during Lent, we have made time for reflection, prayer and personal acts of reconciliation. We have celebrated Ash Wednesday, Lenten Masses and services in the chapel as well as during Sacred Space in our form groups. Our Holy Week assemblies this week have been led by Mr Woods. Our parishes will be continuing the journey through the Mass of the Last Supper, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and the triumph of Easter Sunday. Details of their Masses and services can be found on their websites, shown below; a happy and holy Easter to you all.

St John Vianney <https://www.stjohnvianney.co.uk>

St Joseph's <https://stjosephs-winsford.org.uk>

St Luke's <https://www.stlukesparish.org.uk>

St Mary's <https://www.stmarysparishmiddlewich.org.uk>

St Vincent de Paul <http://www.stvincentsknutsford.org>

CARITAS, the charity that we are supporting this year is made up of volunteers and charity workers who are living out the same gospel values that our school aims to follow. Our charity events will continue, up until the end of April. Thank you for all your contributions so far to support the work of CARITAS. The donated Easter Eggs were delivered to the Foodbank last week so that they can be distributed in time for Easter.

### Shrewsbury Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The brochure and details of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes have been sent out by Parentpay and are available as hard copies in school. If your child would like to be part of this year's pilgrimage, please follow the guidance on the Parentpay letter. Volunteers do have to complete additional forms and attend training and formative sessions so booking forms must be returned by **26<sup>th</sup> April 2019**.

This is for students in Year 11 and Sixth Form who will help support our sick pilgrims during their time in Lourdes. The dates of the pilgrimage are 25<sup>th</sup> July to 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019. Students must be at least 16 years of age on the date of departure. If you would like more information please contact me [m.gelling@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:m.gelling@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk).

### Blessing for Easter

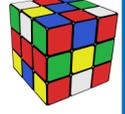
"Jesus's resurrection is the beginning of God's new project not to snatch people away from earth to heaven but to colonize earth with the life of heaven. That, after all, is what the Lord's Prayer is about." N T Wright

*Mairie Gelling,  
School Chaplain*





## RUBIKS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - CHESTER OPEN



During the Spring Break, 4 students from Year 7 (Spencer Adamson, James Cookson, Cian Garrard and Ash Rose) took part in the Chester Open Cubing Championship.

Its a very serious competition; passports or other forms of ID are required to verify the competitor, and the cube(s) have to be inspected to ensure they are within the rules. There was a hairy moment where one cube was deemed 'illegal' due to a missing square, but thankfully an alternative was sourced!

Categories include the traditional 3x3 cube made famous by Rubiks, 2x2, 4x4, 5x5, pyraminx (Pyramid), solving blindfolded and even solving with your feet, amongst others.

Once the introduction to competing was over the competition began. Your cube is scrambled and placed into a box, it's then passed to a judge whilst your name is called. Once the competitor and judge are both ready, the box is lifted giving the competitor the first glimpse at their scrambled cube. Competitors have up to 15 seconds inspection time before they begin their solve. This process is repeated 5 times and although the 'best' time is recorded, the average is taken once the best and worst times are discounted.

On Day 1 Spencer, James and Cian took part in the 2x2 Cube and got some fantastic times (their best times were 7.47s, 12.44s and 9.77s respectively.) On the second day they were joined by Ash and they all took part in the 3x3 (best times were Spencer 42.17s, James 43.86s, Ash 44.88s and Cian 41.02s.)

After they had competed, they anxiously awaited the league table. During this time Ash even got to have a go at judging which he said was more stressful than actually solving, as you have to ensure fair play and accurately record the times. Unfortunately the competition was fierce and none of the boys got through to the second round, but some have only been 'cubing' since just before Christmas. We are very proud of them and will be competing again in the future.

If anyone wants to have a go, they can come to the club in R2 on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday lunch, or speak to Mr Martin, Mrs Rose or Mr Wickham.



Period: 25.3.19 - 29.3.19

### Weekly attendance update

%	Bernadette	Camera	John-Paul	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa	Vincent DePaul	Ward	Year Total
Year 7	98	95	100	99	100	99	94	96	97
Year 8	89	99	95	100	98	98	96		96
Year 9	96	97	97	98	90	98	96		96
Year 10	94	97	95	92	95	97	95	98	96
Year 11	99	96	97	96	98	90	98	93	96
Whole School	94	97	97	97	96	98	95	98	96

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

*"Everyone Matters, so Attendance Matters."*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH – SILVER EXPEDITION, PEAK DISTRICT



Between 30<sup>th</sup> March – 1<sup>st</sup> April the Silver Duke of Edinburgh groups went out on their training expedition in the Peak District.

On day one, the students walked around Kinder Scout and navigated their way down Jacobs Ladder and along the Pennine Way. It was here where the students learnt about the right to roam and the mass trespass.

On day two, the students walked up Win Hill which gave stunning views over Ladybower Reservoir. Here the students showed fantastic navigation skills, determination and resilience.

On the final day, the students completed a ridge walk tour with a beautiful vantage point at Mam Tor. All students showed resilience, determination, leadership and team work skills.



### Date Reminder:

Silver expedition and Gold practice expedition is 31<sup>st</sup> May – 2<sup>nd</sup> June in Snowdonia



## Music News

On Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March, the school choir went to Shrewsbury to take part in the Music For Youth competition. The choir left school at about 10am and travelled to Shrewsbury where the competition was taking place. We were performing *Ubi Caritas*, which we performed last year and *Bohemian Rhapsody*. At the event, there were many amazing performers, ranging from youth orchestras to steel pan bands. The performances were being judged by two music mentors and they gave feedback to each group at the end, along with a certificate; we also got a copy of the written feedback a few days after the event. We were very happy after our performance and took on board all the feedback we received. The feedback was very positive with a few pointers on how to improve our performance. We don't know whether we have been put through to the next stage of the competition but we are still happy with our performance and there was some tough competition. Overall, it was a really fun day and an amazing experience.

Livvy Morris, Year 8



## Cheshire Hike

A number of pupils from St Nicholas successfully completed the 53<sup>rd</sup> Cheshire Hike during the weekend of the 13<sup>th</sup> March covering 26 miles over the two days and camping overnight. It is a wonderful achievement, for some their first hike. They were all exhausted but were exuberant at having taken part.

Olivia Halloran – 7 Bernadette

Eleanor Ma – 7 Vincent De Paul

Molly Cassidy – 8 Kolbe (See Below)

Sheila Frampton Rawling – 8 Vincent de Paul (See Below)

Lucas Webb – 9 Romero

Jacob Foster - 11 Romero



# PTFA NEWS

We look forward to welcoming you to our **Annual Wine Tasting Evening on Friday 17th May at 7.30 pm**. Entrance, including generous sharing platters, tasting of a minimum of 8 quality wines, fun quiz, an opportunity to buy wine on the night and to place orders *and* fantastic company, is **just £18 per person**. Tickets are available via Parentpay and limited to a **maximum number of 80**.

Get yours now before they disappear!

Those outside the school community with no access to Parentpay can use Eventbrite - please see the PTFA Facebook page for more details.



Are you an employee of MBNA or do you know someone who is?

MBNA are offering grants for schools under the MBNA Inspiring Education Programme. The grants are up to the value of £8,000 over a year for new or extended extra-curricular activities. Please get in touch if you can access this grant. You don't need to be a parent of a pupil at the school but you do need to nominate the school. This sort of funding makes a real difference to the students of St Nicholas.

Please contact: [ptfa@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:ptfa@st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk).

Our next meeting will be on the **29th April at 6.15pm** in school. The meeting is just an hour and we appreciate the effort involved in people coming into school. The funds raised by the PTFA do improve our children's school experience.

If you cannot make this meeting but would like to get involved, 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 **07551 009783**.

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