



# SCHOOL NEWS

ST NICHOLAS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

NOVEMBER 10TH 2017

ISSUE 6

## A note from Mairie ... your School Chaplain



NOVEMBER is the time for REMEMBRANCE. This week we have been remembering the sacrifices made across the years by our Armed Forces during times of conflict. In our assemblies Mr Whipp talked about the recent Battlefields trip and the impact that that has had on the students and staff as they stood in the fields of World War One. In form time, during *Sacred Space* we have watched the recent clips by the Royal British Legion where they compare the stories of World War II service men and women with the veterans of today. You can see these and other clips on their website at <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/>. We also took time to reflect, remember and record members of our own families who have been involved in conflict by writing their names on fabric poppies which have been formed into a prayer focus. This is now in the assembly hall and will



POPPIES IN THE  
SCHOOL HALL

remain there for the rest of this month to honour those who have given so much. On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November, some of our students and staff will be part of the Northwich Remembrance Parade and we know that other students will be attending as scouts, cadets and members of other uniformed groups. It is a great honour to be part of the local community as we acknowledge this day. At the same time can I recommend an on-line exhibition called 'The Danger Tree' that was created by an artist called Scarlet Raven, to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Somme. There are animations embedded in the paintings which can be 'activated' by using an App called *Blippar* and are quite moving and atmospheric (you can just view the animations alongside the paintings as well).

*Mairie Gelling, School Chaplain*

## YEAR 9 RETREAT

We are very fortunate to have the **Brightline** band, from **The Message Trust**, with us again for this year's Year 9 retreat day in school. The band is made up of young people who are willing to share their faith experience through their music and in personal witness. The focus of the day is 'WONDER' and takes the time to remind us that we are '*fearfully and wonderfully made*' and that the universe that surrounds us is wonderful (Psalm 139). The young people are encouraged to deepen their perception of the interior and exterior world. They are also invited to take up the challenge of the Science vs Faith debate and to 'think about thinking'. We hope that this will have a real impact both today and for the future.



## Shrewsbury Youth Mission Team

The Diocese of Shrewsbury has recently launched its Youth Mission Team who will be focussing on resources and events to support the young people of the Diocese. Your parish may have already had a visit from Catherine, Dave or Sophie, the team members. Catherine, the director of the team came into St Nicholas' a few weeks ago to talk about hopes and plans for the future. There are a number of ways on social media to 'follow' the team – search '*Shrewsbury\_YMT*' – and information will be sent out to schools and parishes regarding their work across the Diocese.



# What's Happening

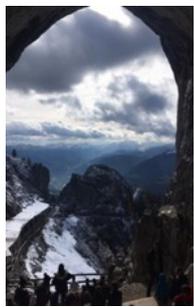
We would again like to thank you for your support of the Mini-Market experience. We are pleased to announce that the total amount raised was a fantastic **£3,000!** This will be shared between our nominated charities - CAFOD; When you Wish Upon a Star; Bradley Lowery Foundation; Little Princess and Kidscan.

Thank You!



## NOTES from SALZBURG ...

**OUR MUSIC TOUR TO AUSTRIA** was alive with the sound of music from the 24 hour coach journey to our acapella performance in the Ice Caves!! Following a good meal on our arrival and a welcomed good night's sleep we had a short morning rehearsal before setting off for a guided tour of Salzburg. Due to the high winds and lashing rain our walking tour was slightly curtailed but this didn't prevent us from giving an impromptu acapella performance in front of Mozart's statue! We then performed in Mirabel gardens despite the rain, because of course the show must go on!



Our second day was perhaps the most exciting as following quite a strenuous walk and what seemed like a vertical cable car ride we reached the Ice Caves, the world's biggest explored labyrinth of ice caves with a length of almost 30 miles. As we headed into the caves for our 1 ¼ hour tour, lamps were handed out and we made our first stop at the Posselt Hall, with the magnificent Posselt Tower stalagmite. We then saw the Great Ice Embankment, a massive formation rising up to over 75 feet and stalactites in Hymir's Castle which created the so called ice organ. Some of our group were also entertained by Niall, Miles and Fr Simon's endless stream of puns! From there we ventured on to Helbrunn Palace where the highlight of the afternoon was how to avoid being soaked by all the trick fountains! Sunday was our busiest performance day and we were warmly welcomed at Mass in Mondsee where the wedding scene from the Sound of Music had been filmed. We sang the hymns during Mass and were congratulated by members of the congregation who commented on the enthusiasm and high standard of singing of our group. Following a short recital we made our way to Strobl for our final concert and were really pleased that we had taken the decision to move the concert into a beautiful Baroque Church in the heart of the village rather than battle with the elements again! The concert was a huge success and we returned for our last night of relaxation, fun and games before we headed home early the next morning.

## TRACKING and MONITORING: Years 10 -13

This was sent via FROG before half term. All Tracking and Monitoring will be sent out via this method. To access this please login to the parent portal via the school website homepage using your username and password. Scroll along the main menu at the top of the screen and select Linked Documents. If you have not requested your username and password then you can do this by completing the 'Parent Portal Acceptable Usage' form, which can be downloaded from the 'Whole School Letters' section of the School website. Once completed, return the form to the School Office and your login details will be issued.

## Weekly attendance update

Period: 23/10/2017 to 27/10/2017

	Bernadette	Camara	John-Paul	Kolbe	Romero	Teresa	Vincent DePaul	Ward	Year Total
Year 7	100.00%	95.52%	95.86%	98.93%	99.64%	96.79%	96.43%	NA	97.60%
Year 8	98.67%	93.67%	95.33%	95.86%	97.00%	97.24%	97.59%	NA	96.48%
Year 9	94.07%	89.26%	96.79%	89.67%	98.00%	91.03%	97.93%	97.93%	94.34%
Year 10	93.21%	96.43%	93.33%	95.86%	95.17%	98.00%	92.76%	96.40%	95.15%
Year 11	91.92%	95.00%	97.00%	95.22%	89.62%	97.31%	94.62%	96.54%	94.65%
Whole School	95.58%	93.97%	95.66%	95.11%	95.89%	96.07%	95.86%	96.96%	95.64%

"EVERYONE MATTERS, SO ATTENDANCE MATTERS."

26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

*"On the first full day of our trip, we visited one of the remaining British trenches from the First World War in Sanctuary Wood, Belgium. We experienced the complicated layout of a traditional British trench and the materials used to build them. When following the paths of the trenches we came across many dugouts, bunkers and a trench tunnel. For 30 minutes we experienced what life may have been like for the soldiers for months, along with the poor conditions of mud and the constant smell of sewage. We also went into the trench museum and looked at many photos of the horrors of WW1, as well as the weapons used during the war. We learnt about what life was truly like in the trenches and how the soldiers had to survive. It was a very thought provoking experience and gave a small insight into how tragic the war really was."*

WRITTEN BY  
CHARLOTTE LANGTON 9 TERESA & RACHEL PULLAN 9 TERESA

*"On the second full day of our Battlefields trip, we visited lots of different locations connected to the Battle of the Somme including some cemeteries run by the CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission). One of these was the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing of the Somme which is a 45m high monument to commemorate all the soldiers that gave up their tomorrow for our today. There are 72,000 names of soldiers on the memorial who died fighting at the Somme but have no known grave and their bodies might not have been found. It really helped us to understand how many men must have been involved and died in the fighting. We also visited Delville Wood which was also known to the soldiers as Devil's Wood. Delville Wood is also a part of the CWGC. It is a large wood where the Scottish and South African soldiers tried to push the Germans out of it in 1916 during the Battle of the Somme. After a week of fighting there was only one tree that remained of the wood and thousands of men had died. It also has a cemetery where you can find the names or graves of soldiers who fought there. We laid down crosses and poppies with different messages on to remember the soldiers, including Albert Gill who was awarded the Victoria Cross."*

WRITTEN BY  
ETHAN REES 9 CAMARA & LIAM COLGAN 9 KOLBE



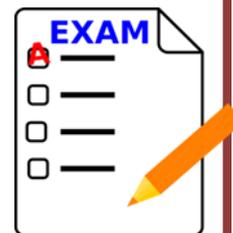
SAVE THE DATE

COMING UP

# YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Taking place  
Monday 13th November - Tuesday 21st November

Arrive promptly and be prepared with all the necessary equipment and remember **NO MOBILE PHONES!**



## It's all happening with ...

# SPORTS



**CONGRATUALATIONS** to Ella Forbes 8 John Paul and Kiera Smith 10 Vincent de Paul who won Gold medals with their ice skating team, *The Whizz Kids*, this week at the Lee Valley Synchronised Ice Skating Competition and achieved a personal best of 71.31. Last year, they competed at Advanced Novice level but this year they have been promoted to Junior B Level and have to skate both a short and long programme. *The Whizz Kids* are part of a team of 16 skaters, aged between 12 and 18. Their next competition is the Winter Cup in Belgium later on this month.



## FINAL POSITIONS FOR OUR YEAR 7 - 11 FOOTBALL TEAMS

In the Vale Royal Football Leagues:

- Year 7 = Winners
- Year 8 = 4th
- Year 9 = 3rd
- Year 10 = Winners
- Year 11 = Winners



### PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXTRA CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

	<u>Lunch time activities</u> 12.35 - 1.15pm	<u>After School Girls</u> 3.20 - 4.20pm	<u>After School Boys</u> 3.20 - 4.20pm
<b>MONDAY</b>	FOOTBALL	STAFF MEETING	STAFF MEETING
<b>TUESDAY</b>	6th Form Badminton	Netball Fixtures/Practice Years 7-11	Cup Football Fixtures (Years 7,8 &10)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	KS3 DODGEBALL	Netball Fixtures/Practice Years 7-11	KS3 Football Practice (Possible Cup Fixtures) KS4 Basketball
<b>THURSDAY</b>	KS3 Basketball	Handball Practice/Fixtures KS4	Cup Football Fixtures (Years 9 &11)
<b>FRIDAY</b>	KS4 Handball	Ski Fit Circuits—all years Running Club (Years 7-11)	Running Club (Years 7-11)

All Fixtures and practices are subject to weather conditions

As from **Monday 13th-Tuesday 21st November**, ALL sporting activities will take place **OUTDOORS** as Year 11 Mock Exams will be taking place indoors. So please be prepared with the appropriate PE kit for your lessons!



A sincere thank you to those who have already cast your votes for this project to provide a **Public Access Defibrillator** at St Nicholas. WE STILL NEED YOUR VOTES PLEASE! Whether we get the funding or not will depend on how many votes our project receives and, in this round, it is the projects that receive most votes that will win! You can cast 10 votes from every email address you use. Aviva did initially experience some problems with the link for voting, however this has been resolved. Please take five minutes to register and cast your votes and to share with friends and family via social media: <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-4596>

## PTFA AGM

Just a reminder that our AGM will take place this coming **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November from 6pm** in school (room next to staff room). All welcome. The AGM will be followed by a short PTFA meeting. This year our *treasured* Treasurer, Maureen Ferguson, will be stepping down and we are looking for someone to step up into her shoes – there is no requirement to be an Accountant just to be organised and have a reasonable head for figures. Maureen will, of course, be available to give guidance as the new Treasurer settles in. Our Treasurer is also a Trustee of our PTFA Charity. An outline of the Treasurer's Role can be found in the PTFA section of the school website.



**ALL STALLS SOLD OUT!!** Our annual Christmas Market takes place 23<sup>rd</sup> November from 5.30 – 8.00 pm. This year's market will be even bigger and better than ever with lots of shopping opportunities for unique and attractive gifts – PTFA will even be offering a gift-wrapping service. Chime will be providing delicious fresh pizzas (small and standard sizes to suit varying appetites) and we will be serving mulled wine and other refreshments. St Luke's Hospice will be there with their Big Red Bus bringing along Santa and his Elves for the young and young at heart. Cost per visit to Santa will be £3.50. We look forward to seeing you and your families there. We won't insist on seeing a ticket on the night but if you could please register for your FREE tickets via Eventbrite it will give us an idea of numbers attending: <https://www.eventbrite.com/d/united-kingdom--united-kingdom/hartford-christmas-market/?mode=search>

## Grand Christmas Raffle

And here it is, the news you have been waiting for! Our first **Grand Christmas Raffle** is ready for the off! We have some fabulous prizes for you at a cost of £1 per ticket (available via parent pay).

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize** is an incredible 7 day **EUROCAMP** holiday for a family of 2 adults and up to 4 children under 17 (terms and conditions apply, see full details in the PTFA section of the school website).

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize** is a luxury Christmas Hamper and

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize** is £50 cash. Please support us in this new endeavour, if every family in school simply bought one ticket per student we could raise over £1200 for PTFA funds and make a huge difference to our children's school experience.



## The Big Heart Ball

The highlight of our PTFA social calendar will be our **Big Heart Ball**, taking place on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at Vale Royal Abbey**. Tickets for this not-to-be-missed event will go on sale next week – watch this space for more information! The evening will start with a reception at 7.00 pm followed by an evening of fantastic food, fabulous company and flirtatious dancing! Finish time is 1am. Tickets are limited to **just 140** and are sure to be much sought after. They will be sold on a strictly first come, first served basis. Further information coming your way in next week's newsletter.....