

Head's Newsletter

St Nicholas Catholic High School

A Business and Enterprise College

From the Head

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you enjoy reading the latest newsletter. It is a good reflection on the great variety of activities that are undertaken here at St. Nicholas Catholic High School. Since my arrival I have been impressed with the commitment of the staff to engage the students outside of the normal school day and the enthusiasm of the students in the way they have joined in those activities.

I have been equally impressed by the welcome that has been afforded to me as the new Headteacher by all associated with the school - students, staff, governors and parents. It has made my job a great deal easier and I am grateful to everybody for it. There have been many high points already and I am looking forward to working in the school for many years to come.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Holy and Happy Christmas. Try

and take the opportunity to rest where you can and prepare for all the challenges that the New Year will bring.

Kieran Kelly
Headteacher

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Liturgy and Chaplaincy

We are fortunate in continuing to be visited regularly by our Priests who provide both weekly Masses and other wider forms of support. It has been particularly uplifting to witness the attitude and response of our Year 10 and 11 students as they have attended class Masses on Wednesday mornings. They have been so respectful and responsive. We have had special Assemblies also, for themes including

Remembrance, Black History and the Feast of St Nicholas. In November we hosted the Confirmation Mass for several of the parishes and this proved to be a very joyful event with a great sense of community. Thanks to those parents who encourage the practice of the faith in their children, not always an easy task for parent or child!

Hampers: thanks to all who gave so generously for the hamper appeal. Many

families and individuals will feel a little more loved this Christmas as a result. Special thanks also to Mrs Agnew, the staff and students for all their hard work and to the Manager of Hartford Co-op for their very kind contributions.

Happy and Holy
Christmas to all!

Many thanks

Mr J R Wilbraham
Head of RE and on behalf of
the Chaplaincy

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School Calendar

LRC News

The LRC has been extremely busy this term. During September and October we issued over 1400 books and had in the region of 13300 visits from students and staff.

Every Year 7 and Year 12 student was invited to attend a library induction.

Activities have ranged from the Year 7 Reading Games, the 'Cheshire Author of the Year' book awards and the termly St Nicholas 'Book Event'.

Many students and staff have continued to collect The Times 'Books for Schools' tokens. The deadline for

sending them into The Times is Friday 18th December. If you have any lying around at home please make sure they reach us before Wednesday 16th December.

Miss J Davies
Librarian



Congratulations to:-

Jordan Young (13T) who was awarded both the *Dick Fonts Trophy and the Young Player of the Year Award* at the Cheshire Lawn Tennis Junior Championships. The trophy is presented by the championships committee in recognition of a good attitude and all round sportsmanship in tennis.

Rhys Nevin (7L) who has qualified for the *“Callaway World Junior Golf Championships.”* Rhys is one of only two qualifiers from the UK and Eire; the event will take place in San Diego in July 2010.

Joseph Rimmer (13T) who was crowned *Cheshire West and Chester’s Young Volunteer of the Year.* Joseph received the coveted accolade for his role as an inclusive sports facilitator and support worker at Northwich Multi-Sports Club in Winnington. Joe also volunteers for the riding for the disabled Association Club, the Children’s Adventure Farm Trust and Moss Wood animal hospital in Knutsford

The following cross country runners who were selected to run in the County Championships:

Year 7 Girls: Jessica Salameh *Team came 4th out of 9*
Boys: Hayden Healey, George Frost, Kyle Maddock, Lewis Brown, George Thornley *Team came 2nd out of 8*

Years 8 & 9 Girls: Emma Pyatt, Louise Towers, Jessica Kelly, Marion Head *Team came 2nd out of 9*
Boys: James Ikin, Luke McEnaney, Russell Jones *Team came 2nd out of 8*

Years 10 & 11 Girls: Fiona Weir, Rebecca Sample, Lucy Rosa, Rebecca Jones *Team came 2nd out of 9*
Boys: Lewis Healey, Andrew Apanasionok, Sam Keeney, Andrew Zimmer, Josh Boyce *Team were Mid Cheshire Champions*

The following Sixth Form students who achieved certificates in the **National Senior Maths Challenge Competition:**
Gold Certificate and Best in School

Mary Hunt

Silver Certificates

Sarah Edwards, Eleanor Taig,
John Chawner, Timothy Bullen,
Christina Man

Bronze Certificate

Michael Smith

The following Year 9 Pupils who took part in the **Rotary Club Public Speaking Competition:**

Liam Adamson, Yasmin Caine, Hannah Milne, Matthew Timms,
Rachael Tweedy and Jessica Foster

The students formed two teams, who spoke on Teenagers Today and Animal Cruelty. Both teams did extremely well and gained valuable experience for future events.

The following sixth form students who took part in the **Bar Council’s National Mock Trial Competition** in Birmingham at the end of November. They put up a hugely impressive performance and made it through to the final on the day but were beaten by Kesteven and Grantham Girls’ School, former Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher’s old school.

Patrick Melody	Tom Flamini	Sophie Crooks
Alistair Norman	Eda Ertugrul	Bethany Hatton
Hannah Paver	Fiona Fitzhugh	Claudia Price
James Elliot	Rhian Wynne	Ben Dodd
Lucy Hadrill	Ishbel Johnson	Amy Furlong
Siobhan Webb		

Mr T Kilkenny
English Teacher & Lead Teacher for Gifted and Talented

UNISERVITY UPDATE

To access the school Uniservity site, go to the web address www.school-portal.co.uk then instead of selecting the school name from the list, select the Lc2.uniservity.com link to find schools in Cheshire.

Mrs C Snowdon
Subject Leader - ICT



Music Department

In November, twenty pupils provided musical entertainment at a civic dinner at the Middlewich Civic Hall. Present were local dignitaries and PE teachers from Cheshire. Special guests included PE teachers from Denmark, Norway, the Czech Republic and Slovenia. Our musicians entertained the 100 guests before and during the dinner.

Christmas is always a very busy time, and this year is no exception. The concert schedule includes:

Saturday 5th December	St Wilfrid's, Northwich
Saturday 12 th December	St Mary's, Sandbach
Tuesday 15 th December	School
Wednesday 16 th December	St Vincent's, Knutsford

The choir will also be singing at the wedding of a former pupil in St Mary's, Middlewich, on the 12th December.

The School Christmas Concert once again takes place on the last Tuesday of the term. The concert begins at 7.30pm and usually runs until 8.45pm. There is no charge for entry. Refreshments will be served after the concert.

Mr M Jones
Subject Leader – Music

West Side Story December 9, 10 & 11

This year's school production was the award winning musical West Side Story. All the students involved, both cast and back-stage crew, worked extremely hard to put on a truly spectacular and enjoyable nights entertainment of which they can be justifiably proud.

The forty strong cast gave us an evening packed with drama, dance and song featuring a plethora of familiar tunes to engage the audience. Bernstein and Sondheim's music and lyrics for West Side Story are widely regarded as one of the hardest scores to sing. As if that wasn't challenge enough, Miss Chatt used some of Jerome Robbins' original choreography. No easy task all in all, but our students rose magnificently to the challenge and the result was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for everyone. It was sometimes difficult to believe we were not in the West End!

Well done and a big thank you to all the staff and students involved for their hard work in producing such a superb and professional show.

Mrs J Goodwin
PA to Mr Kelly

KS3 Enterprise Group – Disco

The KS3 Enterprise group, led by Grace Faint, are going strong. The group have now diversified from the stationary shop into events. The group were asked by Mrs Watt to provide some fun activities at the Lower School Disco on the 3rd December. The students decided to sell glow in the dark bracelets, do a lucky dip and a Twister game. All the lower school disco goers had a go on all the games and the group made £40. Well done to Grace, Charlotte and Naomi Evans, Jonathan Murray-Blachnicki, Rosie Dunbar and Jamie-Lee Taylor who ran the games, as well as the other members of the group who did some work behind the scenes.

Miss C Davidson
Business Education

School Garden

Feed the Birds They Need Your Help!

The ECO garden is still attracting a variety of birds; the nuthatch, kingfisher, buzzard and great spotted woodpecker are some of the more interesting species to land in the magical garden. During the year students and staff were treated to live video action of blue tits nesting in a box. Students were treated to seeing the birds been fed constantly and by the time they left the nest hardly been able to fit in the box.

We need your help. Obviously, the tables and feeders need to be supplied with food especially at this time of year. We would appreciate any donations, food for the birds or any old feeders (especially anti-squirrel ones) because food supplies are running low. It is hoped to add some new features this year but more importantly we need feed for the birds on a weekly basis. **If every student could donate a bag of food, that would be sufficient to feed them for a year.**

Many thanks

Mr J Brown
Teacher of ICT & Citizenship



Year 9 Enterprise Day

On Friday 20th November all the Year 9 students took part in a fantastic Enterprise Day. The students were put into teams of ten and their task was to create a new outfit from old clothes. The day started brilliantly with a group of Year 10's showing an example of how it could be done. Once the students were introduced to the concept they went to their respective rooms to begin creating their masterpieces. Each group had a theme: The 80's, hippies, pop stars, denim, the Oscars, pirates, urban, punk, black and white and superheroes.

The students worked together all day. They showed fantastic initiative, creativity and team work, all really important skills. Every single student got involved, whether it was making the outfit, writing the speech, or choreographing the dance.

Period 5 was the catwalk show. The students had selected the music and the show began. Each group had produced amazing outfits, from what had been very boring old clothes. We had full length ball gowns, pirate outfits that looked like they could have featured in Pirates of the Caribbean, and trousers that were straight from Cheryl Cole's latest video. As well as that the performances were fantastic. Nike, a hippy themed group, had produced posters and peace signs that they waved as their model strutted up and down the catwalk. G Star, one of the groups who were making superhero costumes, did not need music. This was because they had a play that featured a battle between two superheroes, narrated by three of the group.

The imagination that was shown in the catwalk show was great. All the groups scored high marks, but there could only be one winner. This was Topman. They were an urban themed group who had made boring shirts, jeans and tights into clothes that Dizze Rascal would have been proud to wear. The winning team consisted of: Aaron Bradley, Treymane Martin, Charles Broad, Joshua Davison, Connor Gillett, Scott Capel, James Simpson, Frazer Simpson, Ruairi Stewart, Shaun Howarth

They each won a £10 Amazon voucher. Happy shopping boys!!!

This day had two objectives. One was for students to use important skills that are transferable within school and the workplace, and the other was a social enterprise objective. The students paid £1 each to wear non-uniform for the day. This raised £200 to go to Hope House.

As well as this, for every great idea or enterprise skill a student showed, they were awarded a raffle ticket. These raffle tickets were then drawn at the end of the day so that a student could win a prize. More importantly though the raffle tickets raised £200 to lend through Kiva.

Kiva is the world's first person-to-person micro-lending website, empowering individuals to lend to unique entrepreneurs around the globe. We will be lending this money which will be paid back and can then be used to lend to someone else year after year. As a school we will be helping people to help themselves.

Thank you to all the students who took part - they were incredibly well behaved. Thank you to the Sixth Form and staff helpers. They were enthusiastic and imaginative too!! Thank you to everyone who donated clothes and materials and a massive thank you to the site staff.

Miss C Davidson
Business Education

Physics Trip to CERN

Eleven o'clock Sunday morning and 20 sixth formers and staff are waiting at Liverpool Airport. At 5 past eleven the group leader arrives with the Boarding Passes *Sorry folks I did say 'about' 11.* The flight arrived in Geneva a few minutes early and we had plenty of time in the evening to familiarise ourselves with the City of Geneva.

Monday morning started with a tour of the Palais des Nations (home of the United Nations) where Will Cummings impressed our guide with his knowledge. He still claims he had not been swotting before the trip. A dash across Geneva and we just had time to have lunch in the CERN Cafeteria surrounded by Scientists all buzzing with excitement - why? In the afternoon we had a talk by a scientist, followed by a visit to one of the big experiments where we saw the first results from the Big Experiment, produced just after midnight the night before. That's why the scientists were so excited! In the evening students found out it was not easy to get a cheap tea in Geneva, but possible to eat well....then back to bed.

Tuesday morning started with a visit to the excavations under the Cathedral in Geneva, which go back to before the time of Christ, then back to the airport and home, tired and better educated!

Mr A Hawton
Teacher of Science (Physics)



Global Enterprise Week

The Modern Languages department hosted Global Enterprise week from the 16th -20th November. The theme of Enterprise week was **ONE WORLD** (working together to make it better) and we kicked started the action packed week with several assemblies on the Monday, to celebrate each others' talents and to promote diversity with many of our students from different year groups taking an active part.

My sincere thanks and appreciation go to my entire Year 7 French group (7A) who created and acted out little sketches about tolerance for the assemblies. Similarly I would like to thank Kate Atkins, Amber Rowlands, Jess Foster and Charlie Fox (in Year 9) for the fantastic Salsa dancing that started the assemblies and finally last but certainly not least, I would like to thank Rosie Millar (Year 11) who sang beautifully in the assemblies and in French!!!!.

The assemblies were then followed by a fantastic theatre show conducted in French by Dan Roro, who entertained all the Year 7 and 8 students with miming, unicycling and other French humour. The first day of the Enterprise week was a fun but thought provoking day!

Following on from the previously hectic day, on Tuesday we were then able to benefit from two other workshops that had been organised by the department for Enterprise week, again involving many pupils from a variety of year groups.

One was a workshop for Year 10 language pupils- this was a Foreign Language Master Class run by Young Enterprise. In this workshop, groups had to work together to organise a pitch for a conference and liaise as much as possible with hoteliers in French, Spanish or German and then give a presentation about their quote to the judges. Judging from the faces of many of our students and in discussion with them they had a good time and had a chance to use their language skills in a real life situation.

Similarly many of our pupils in Years 7 to 9 took part in a Mandarin or Japanese taster session to give them an insight into these languages. The sessions were led by Jia, our Chinese teacher and Chieko, a Japanese lecturer from the University of Manchester. Our pupils learnt basic words in both of the languages, took part in some origami and learned how to write some of the Japanese symbols. Again the pupils seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience and hopefully this may have encouraged some of them to broaden their horizons in the future!!!!

On the Wednesday, we were extremely fortunate to welcome into our school some colleagues who work for Eurocamp, who came into our school to talk to the students about how and why languages are so important in the world of work nowadays. The members of staff from Eurocamp who gave the talks were absolutely brilliant and had links with our school either being parents of pupils who currently study here or past pupils themselves, it was lovely to see how our past pupils are doing now and how they are benefitting from their language skills. (My sincere thanks go out to all of these people for their hard work and for making it so entertaining!)

Through this talk many of our pupils heard how the world of work and businesses desperately need language skills to be able to effectively compete in the global market place and they also heard about the fun that could be had by dabbling with a little language- many of them also received prizes and free gifts which they should be able to take on holiday with them next year!!!

All in all Enterprise week was a very successful and enjoyable experience for all of our pupils and I hope that they will take the message with them, that in today's global world everybody is different and this is a good thing and that by having the ability to accept difference and by being tolerant of others, they are making themselves more employable in the future- not to mention the benefits and the fun that they can have if they learn a language!!!!

I would also like to wish the Year 8 pupils (80 of them and all the kind staff who have volunteered their precious time) going on our French Christmas trip to Lille a Bon Voyage - I hope that they will have a fabulous time whilst practising as much of their French as possible.

And to the rest of you staying behind 'Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année'

Mrs S Goodwin
Subject Leader - MFL

Parish Christmas Mass Times

Saint Mary's Middlewich

Christmas

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 6pm Carols - 6.30pm Mass

Christmas Eve Carols - 11.45pm - Midnight Mass

Saint Margaret's Holmes Chapel

Christmas

Christmas Day - 9am Mass

Saint Bede's Weaverham

Christmas

Christmas Eve - 8pm carols with 8.30pm Vigil Mass

Christmas Day - 11am Mass

Our Lady of Fatima Barnton

Christmas

Christmas Eve - 8pm carols with 8.30pm Mass

Christmas Day - 9am Mass

God of Joy

God of Joy

Remind us to rejoice

Wrapped up in our Christmas gifts

Tied down in our debts

We tend to forget

God of peace,

Remind us of your calm

In our anxieties

And in our haste

We have forgotten

God of all

Remind us of the true light of Christmas

Of your gift shared in my own wants

Saint Cuthbert's Mouldsworth

Christmas

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 7.30pm

Christmas Day - 9am

Saint Thomas a Becket Tarporley

Christmas

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 5.30pm

Carols - 11.30pm - midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 11am

Saint Wilfrid's Northwich

Christmas

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass - 6.00pm

Carols from 11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day - 9.30am & 11am Mass

Saint Vincent De Paul Knutsford

Christmas

Christmas Eve Carols - 8.30pm

Vigil Mass - 9.00pm

Christmas Day - 9am and 11am

Saint Joseph's Winsford

Christmas

Children's - 5.00pm

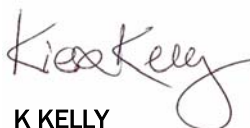
Vigil Mass - 8.00pm

Christmas Day - 10am

The school closes on Friday 18 December for the Christmas Holidays and re-opens on Monday 4 January 2010.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this term and I hope that you will enjoy a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



K KELLY
Headteacher

St Nicholas Catholic High School

Holiday Programme 2010 - 2011

Holiday	School Closes	School Opens
Summer 2010		Teachers: Tuesday 31 August INSET Students: Wednesday 1 September
Autumn Half Term 2010	Friday 22 October	Teachers: Monday 1 November INSET Students: Tuesday 2 November
Christmas 2010/11	Friday 17 December	Monday 3 January 2010
Spring Half Term 2011	Friday 11 February	Monday 21 February
Spring Holiday 2011	Friday 1 April	Monday 18 April
Bank Holidays	Friday 22 April Monday 25 April Monday 2 May	} Easter Holiday
Summer Half Term 2011	Friday 27 May	Monday 6 June
Summer 2011	Friday 22 July	

Further Inset: to be confirmed

Please note that the school will be taking 2 weeks as Spring Holiday before Easter in 2011 and will then only take a long weekend for Easter itself. The matter has been discussed with the feeder schools but you should check with them yourself for their exact holidays.