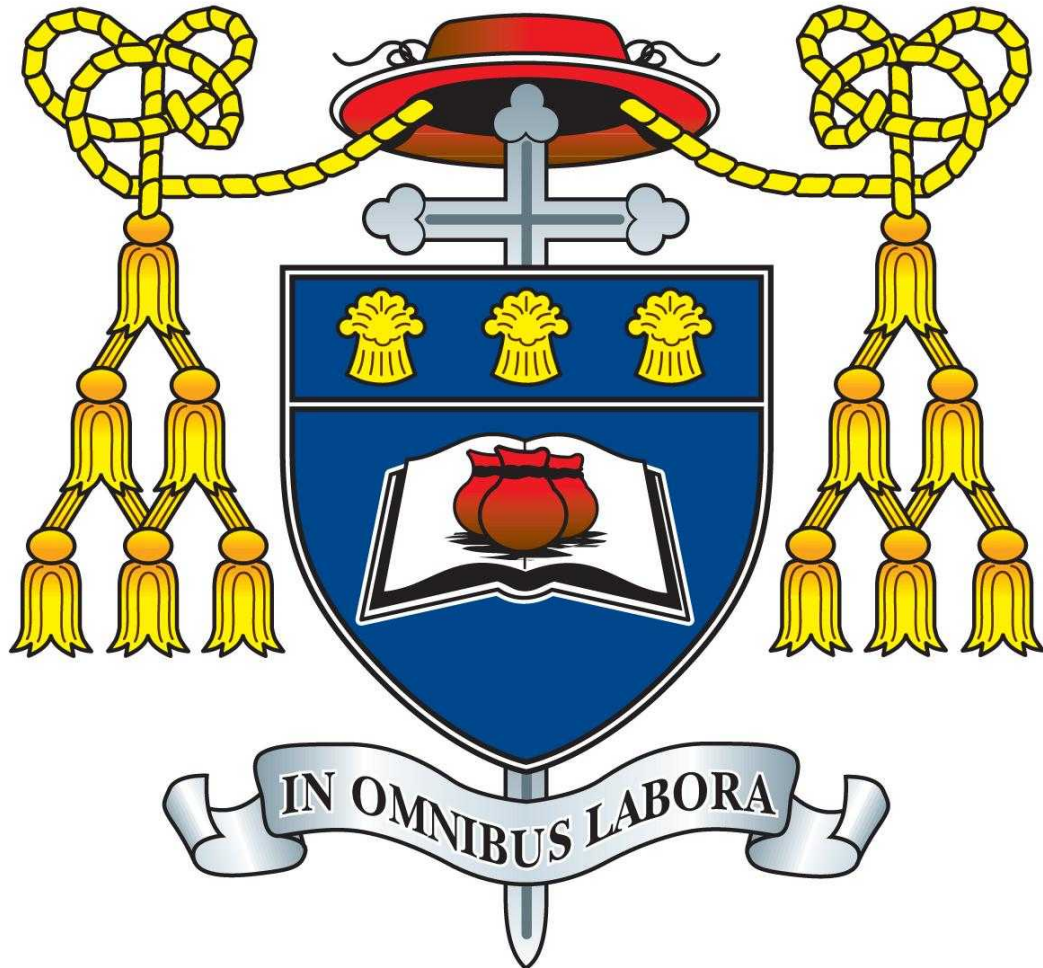


# St Nicholas Catholic High School



Head's Newsletter  
*July 2008*

*Michael Igoe 1990 – 2008 R.I.P.*

When Michael left St Nicholas Catholic High School in the summer of 2007, after his GCSE exams he left as a young man liked by everyone who had come into contact with him. A tall, handsome yet gentle person he had the most winning of smiles and a quiet charm and wit he never used against anyone. His sense of humour and sense of fun made him good to be with; he had nothing negative to say about anyone. Michael appeared the most relaxed person you could ever meet and yet when it mattered he would work long and hard in and out of school to achieve the goals that mattered to him. He knew a lot about how businesses work and he was pleased always to be able to bring to class his experiences and share them with his peers. He did well in his GCSEs and very well in those sports dear to his heart, particularly rowing. He knew his own mind and was determined to be as successful as his family wanted him to be. Michael will be sadly missed by the members of St Nicholas School and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

#### *India Trip & Lourdes Trip*

We wish all colleagues and students safe journeys and a rewarding experience in the service of others.

#### *Health & Safety Notice*

With effect from 1 July 2007 a **No Smoking Policy** has been in operation. The policy is for the premises which includes the grounds and buildings. ***Please do not smoke anywhere on the grounds or within the buildings.***

#### *Traffic Management*

- The maximum speed limit on the site is 10 mph.
- Please do not use a hand held mobile phone whilst driving.
- Do consider all pedestrians and other drivers when driving on the site.

Thank you for your co-operation.

*Holiday Programme 2008 – 2009: Students*

The school re-opens to students on Wednesday 3 September 2008 and the half-term finishes on Friday 24 October 2008.

*Dates for your Diary*

<b>September</b>	03	School re-opens
	10	Year 10 Induction Evening
		Governors' Building Sub-Committee 6.30 pm
	12	Photographer in school from 9.30 am. Years 11, 12, 13 groups and portraits am. Year 7 class and portraits pm. Friendship groups – lunchtime.
	16	Year 9 Normandy Trip Parents Information Evening 6.30 pm
	18	Governors' Curriculum Committee Meeting 6.30 pm
	24	Year 7 Welcome Mass 7.30 pm
<b>October</b>	08	Governors' Student Welfare Committee Meeting 6.30 pm
	12	Year 9 Normandy Trip departs
	16	Lower School Disco
		Governors' Staffing Committee Meeting 6.30 pm
	18	School Choir singing at a wedding
	21	Year 13 Parents' Evening
	24	Charities Mini-Market
		Charities Non-Uniform Day
		School Closes – Autumn Half-Term

*Design Technology*

Risk Assessments make it clear that students must attend lessons in the subject wearing footwear which must offer reasonable protection to the student i.e. sandals and shoes with very thin soles and uppers are inappropriate. Parental

support in ensuring that their son / daughter attends in appropriate footwear would be very much appreciated.

Congratulations to the following students who took part in the “Setpoint” technology challenge “Mini Mouse Race” held at the Jaguar factory at Halewood:

Georgia McAdam	}	Year 9
Christopher McNabb		
Clare McKay		
Jonathan Hardy		

During Year 7 Citizenship lessons students have been studying “Charities”. Four classes in Year 7 researched Charities and then voted on which one they should raise money for. To raise money the students gave up something each day and put the money they saved towards the selected Charity. The students were excellent and should be proud of their efforts.

7P	Jacob Marsland Appeal	£45
7Q	Mytosis Support Group	£50
7S	Sponsor a Dog	£52
7L	Donna Louise Trust	£44

*Mid Cheshire College – Best Student in the Group Award*

Patrick Melody	New Media
Patrick Collister	Construction

Rosannah Long 11M Achieved a pass grade in her Grade 5 Piano Exam – Well Done.

*Everyone Matters!*

The following sixth form students organised and took part in a concert at St Mary’s Church in Middlewich to raise funds for the Lourdes’ trip:

Kathryn Wellington  
Katie Hart  
Christopher Jones  
Nicola Underhill

Joe McCourt  
Helen Hunt  
Grace Edmunds  
Rachel Howarth

They raised over £400 in the course of one afternoon.

### *HPSS*

High Performing Specialist Schools Status; please see Appendix II for the letter confirming our new status as from 1 January 2009. This will mean that the school can have the opportunity to integrate a further specialisation into the provision for our students.

### *Synopsis of Europe Day Charity Walk*

In preparation for Europe day the students were given two weeks notice to prepare banners and displays for the day. Each form was asked to send two members to pick out the name of their assigned European country. The students and form tutors were then able to use each form period over those two weeks to work together to find out information about their country and produce a wall display. All the displays that were produced were informative, eye-catching and demonstrated that a lot of time and effort went into producing them. Hopefully they have raised awareness of the different countries in Europe. What was particularly nice to see on the day of the walk was the children noticing if their country's flag was there or not on the bunting that was put up around the school and if it was missing they told me how offensive it was not to be represented!! (I did say that they would see it elsewhere around the school if they looked!).

The forms were also given the task of preparing another display for the day itself to represent their country on the charity walk. The majority of forms rose to the occasion and produced fantastic visual displays such as paper chains, hats, grass skirts, banners, balloons and face paints. They looked fabulous. All year groups from 7 to 9 took part enthusiastically and the day went smoothly due to their efforts and good spirit. Another thing that was really encouraging to see was the chanting that could be heard going around the mile. The students were singing things like, "We love you Lithuania we do", etc and " We are Ireland", etc. so the barriers of xenophobia, and to appreciating difference, seem to have broken a little – which is fantastic.

So far we have a total exceeding £2,200 and the money is still coming in! (We are sending the proceeds to The Joshua Foundation which gives once in a lifetime opportunities for terminally ill children).

The children were marvellous and need to be commended for this and my special thanks go to Mrs Kinsey for putting displays up and Mr Humphries for overseeing “the mile” and the walk itself.

Mrs S Goodwin

### *The X Factor*

Students from Years 7 to 10 took part on Tuesday 8 July. We had thirty three students involved, who were brave enough to sing in front of a panel of judges, parents and students to raise money for the Neonatal Baby Unit at Leighton Hospital. All students took part in auditions, with the finalists being able to record their tracks on a CD courtesy of Orchard Recording Studios in Crewe. The CD's were on sale on the night for £7.50, with proceeds again going to the Neonatal Baby Unit. (CD's are still available to order if you like one please contact Mrs Suzanne Goodwin at school).

Judges for the night included Cheshire F.M. and Jon Newbould from Orchard Recording Studios and Allan Eves, a radio presenter from Cheshire F.M.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the experience at the recording studio and hearing the quality of the talent that these students have – the night promised to be superb. The final was everything that was expected, the students were amazing and sang their hearts out for the charity.

First prize, a half day session at Orchard Recording Studio, a visit to Cheshire F.M. (with some air time) and a voucher was awarded to Almost Indigo (Daniel McTasney and Myles Burke) for their energetic performance of “Same Jeans”. Daniel sang really well and Myles has fantastic acoustic skills guitar skills. Second prize was awarded to Sophie Bond, who was commended for being the best vocal performance and third prize was awarded to Lizzie Thomas for her excellent piano and vocal skills.

However, I want to thank all the students involved on the night because they have worked so hard and all have very special talents, which need to be celebrated.

Mrs S Goodwin

### *Well Done*

Swimming – Adam Frost 8M  
North Midlands championship – 9 Golds and 1 Bronze

Represented the Cheshire Junior Team in the Inter Counties Trophy.

Cheshire County Championship – 2 Silver, 3 Bronze and fifth in the overall points tally.

Manchester Open – Bronze Medal

### *Congratulations*

Ruth Sudlow has obtained a first class honours degree in English and Classics at St Andrews University.

Jennifer McAdam B.Sc. Honours from the University of Glasgow  
Chris Rosiak has obtained a first class honours degree in Financial Services from Manchester Metropolitan University

### *Uniform*

On the return after the summer break, we will be having a scrutiny of uniform. The Governors are quite clear regarding their policy (please see Appendix III) and the support which we have had from the majority of parents has been excellent.

Like it or not a school's reputation, in part, is enhanced or diminished by the way students dress and I don't believe anyone wishes to see a diminishing of our standards. Schools can send a student home (not an exclusion) to return dressed appropriately and when necessary we have done this and we will continue to do so.

There are two parts within the policy (Years 7–11) on which I seek parental support in particular. Some female students have attended wearing blouses, the collars are not appropriate for ties and therefore look untidy; the wearing of shirts would be appreciated. The second point refers to make up; if students are found to be wearing make up they will be required to remove it.

The policy itself has been attached to this letter and I offer a polite reminder that girls' trousers and skirts can only be obtained at the school shop.

St Nicholas School has achieved recognition in a book published by Crown House Publishing Limited. The book is called "We did it Here" and it has been edited by Brian Best. The chapter about our school is Chapter 5, "An Enterprising School" by Jarvis Hayes, who visited the school about eighteen months ago. He writes "I noticed the school's mission statement on the wall and everything started to unfold – it read "Everyone Matters". As I was to find out during the course of the day, this

mission was at the very heart of the school's success, integral to its religious doctrine but also absolutely critical to their belief in enterprise – the key focus of my visit.”

If anyone would like to borrow the book a copy can be made available from school.

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Joe Rimmer of Lower Sixth on being named as teenager of the month, in the local press, having been nominated by one of the teenagers he looks after. Joe volunteers for his local Riding for the Disabled Association club and also for the Children's Adventure Farm Trust; he assists voluntarily in running an art and craft club for children with disabilities and he is an assistant coach at Multi-sports Club.

Congratulations to Daniel McTasney, Myles Burke and Patrick Melody, Year 10. The Headteacher of their Work Experience School wrote the following about them: “They have been an absolute delight and I thought you should know. Believe me I don't say this about all our work experience – even though we do love having them! In fact this is the first time that I have ever felt compelled to write to the High School following an experience.”

Congratulations to Sarah Jones 9Q on her selection to represent Knutsford District Scouts at this year's “Speaker's Reception” at the House of Commons in London.

Congratulations to Richard Tranter and Natasha Stevens on their selection to represent Cheshire at the English Schools Athletics Association Championships to be held at Gateshead on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

Congratulations to David Zimmer, Olivia Newey, Natasha Stevens, Hannah Power, Ben Smith, Joe Gibney and Richard Tranter on their selection to represent Cheshire Schools A.A. at the Inter County Mason Trophy Meeting at Alexander Stadium, Birmingham.

Congratulations to Louise Towers who was the Cheshire Champion at 1500m and James Ikin who was 4<sup>th</sup> in Cheshire 1500m.

Congratulations to the combined Year 8 and 9 Girls Cricket team who won the Mid Cheshire League. Well done to: N Turner, R Leach, R Turrell, D Hitchin, L Bailey, Z Shaw, E Rose, B Dean, R Flemming.

Well done the Year 8 girls rounders team who won the Mid Cheshire tournament, and are now through to compete against the rest of Cheshire, this makes a total of 6 winning cups for the team.

Congratulations to all our athletes who represented Mid Cheshire in the County Championships.

Ben Smith	Andrew Apanasionok	Lewis Healey
Samuel Ray	Joe Maddocks	Joshua Johnson
Joe Gibney	Alice Jones	Richard Tranter
Tom King	David Zimmer	Joe Rimmer
Fiona Weir	Jessica Chen	Olivia Newey
Hannah Power	Natasha Stevens	Jessica Carswell
Rebecca Fecitt	Jordan Morris	

### *Rowing*

Congratulations to the following Year 7 rowers who have successfully completed the basic water skills training on the River Weaver, braving wind, rain and swans:

Zak Trigg, Luke McEneny, Oliver Brown, David Brown, Matthew Timm, Liam Adamson, Joe Doyle, Rian Gamble, Tom Munroe, Jordan Howarth, Petros Panayi, Lewis Hodges, Joe Ronald, Hannah Rossiter, Florence McAlister, Ashlene Hudson, Craig Milne, James Ikin, Tom Ikin, Evan Anacoura, Tom Griffiths, Sean Johnson, Sam Draffin, Ben McIntosh, Daniel Stewart.

Thanks to James and Andrew Morrison for their skilful coaching of the rookie crews and also to Mr Paul who for the past nine years has introduced numerous students to the Olympic sport of rowing.

### *ECDL*

ECDL qualifications have been achieved by the following:

UVI – Jennifer Lawton, Joseph Polshaw, Meghan Fowles, Lauren Robertson, Stephanie Pirrazzo

LVI – Philip Fox, Simon Morgan, William Nash, Lloyd Anacoura, Kathryn Andrews

Staff – Julia Brookes, Philippa Pearce

Anyone who has not received their certificate, please contact Mrs Snowdon.

### *LRC News*

Many thanks to Rory Jones from Greenbank Special School for all his help last month. Rory chose to do his work experience in the LRC and undertook a variety of tasks including shelving, processing, issuing and returning stock.

Also, many thanks to all those who attended Mrs Cowells "leaving do" on Friday. She has been our Teacher in Charge for eleven years and will be sorely missed. Both Miss Davies and Mrs Kinsey would like to take this opportunity to wish her all the very best for the future.

### *Vale Royal School Sports Partnership "Rock-it-ball" Festival 2008*

#### Winners: St Nicholas School

Ben Young	Tim Harrison	Shaun Harrison
Shaun O'Sullivan	Tom Carney	Vicky Salemah
Gemma Whyatt	Ashley Higgins	Simone Evans
Simon Plant	Craig Pringle	Jonathan Taylor
Tom King	Nick Bailey	Lucy Bailey
Joseph Gibney	Rebecca Fecitt	Amy Morgan
Sophie Hatton	Andy Jones	Jazin Greg ??
Chris Robertson	Lauren Thorburn	

### *SATS*

Due to the delay in the school receiving the results it is not possible to circulate the set groups for Year 9 students in preparation for Year 10. This applies to Mathematics, Science and English. The Subject Leaders for these subjects will produce the information as soon as possible in September. Equally we will undoubtedly experience delays in forwarding the results themselves to parents.

### *Retirements*

Mrs Jackie Mills has been one of our team of Laboratory Technicians for the last three years and although her work is out of the public eye, her role in enabling science lessons to be delivered effectively and efficiently has been of vital importance.

Mr Don Firkins has been our Business and Enterprise co-ordinator for five years; he came from a highly successful background in the world of business and commerce. During his time with us he had been instrumental in moving our Enterprise Agenda beyond what we thought possible, several years ago.

Ms Marie Jeanne-Michell has been one of our excellent Teaching Assistants for seven years, supporting individual students in overcoming the challenges which face them.

Mrs Cowell has been a teacher of science and an outstanding Year 7 tutor in the school, having worked here for fourteen years.

During that time Mrs Cowell has led the development of the Learning Resource Centre through a highly significant period of change.

Mrs Lee has worked at St. Nicholas for twenty eight years and for most of that time she has led the Art Department, as Head of Department. She has been instrumental in bringing students' Art Work out into the school and helping us all to appreciate their talent.

Mr Paul has not only taught Maths for thirty years at St. Nicholas, he has been involved in a wide range of school sports, not least rowing and hockey. Mr Paul is probably one of the few staff who is fitter than the vast majority of the student body.

The seventh member of staff retiring is Mr Jennings who has worked in St Nicholas School for thirty five years. That means he began working here in 1973. He has probably had every possible responsibility in school that a teacher could have, his only weakness as far as I can see, is a lifelong commitment to Everton football club, still I suppose someone has to support them.

We wish them all a very long and happy retirement.

### *Leavers*

Miss Maria Longman                      Subject Leader – Geography

Mrs N Azakli                                P.E.

Mrs E Preece                                Psychology

Mr M Roberts                                TEFL

We wish these colleagues every success in their new posts.

## *Liturgy*

The Year 11 Mass was celebrated by Fr Fintan (a priest from the Liverpool Diocese) who had been invited to the school. The congregation exceeded our expectations and we had to extend our seating provision to the Dining Hall. All the feedback received following the Mass was nothing less than the highest commendation for the manner in which the students themselves "owned" the Mass. It was a truly memorable occasion which I think will stay with all who attended for a very long time. Our thanks are due to the students and the staff who supported them and the parents, who attended in vast numbers.

Fr Dutton celebrated the Upper Sixth Leavers' Mass in school on Friday 23 May. The students prepared the liturgy with the music and, as was the case last year, it was so heartening to hear and see these young people engage in such a positive and reverential manner. This was a Mass which I will remember for the excellence of the response from the 130 young adults in attendance. Many people, students, staff and Fr Dutton helped to make the celebration very special.

A "Retirement" Mass has been planned for the 17 July at 7.30 p.m., here in the school. Several Clergy have agreed to concelebrate. The intention of the Mass is to offer thanksgiving for all the good work done by those staff who are retiring from the school at the end of this term.

## *SEAL*

### Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning

The DCSF has promoted SEAL in the Primary Sector and recently decided to move the initiative into Secondary Education. Cheshire sought volunteers from secondary schools which were prepared to engage in a pilot phase, the intention being that the sessions for students would begin in September 2008 for Year 7 students. Members of staff have already carried out a significant amount of work in preparation for September and we are seeking to establish ways and means of ensuring that the SEAL message penetrates the whole school during the next academic year.

A definition: Emotional Literacy is the ability of people to recognise, understand, handle and appropriately express their own emotions and to recognise, understand and respond appropriately to the expressed emotions of others.

## *School Day*

As from the 2 September we will be using the following timetable: -

08:45 a.m. Bell  
08:55 a.m. Tutorial  
09:30 a.m. Period 1  
10:30 a.m. Break  
10:50 a.m. Period 2  
11:50 a.m. Period 3  
12:50 p.m. Lunch

Please note that this does not have any impact on the start / end of school day timings.

### *Healthy Schools Sticker Competition*

On Year 5 Open Evening the Business Education department ran an exciting competition for all Year 5 students who were visiting St Nicholas Catholic High School. Lots of eager and imaginative Year 5's got involved and designed some amazing "Healthy School" stickers. These stickers needed to be suitable to use all around St Nicholas Catholic High School to promote the "Healthy Schools" status that we have. It was very difficult to pick an overall winner, the Year 5's had all worked so hard. In the end, after much deliberating, the winner was picked:

Jack Connor from St Wilfrids Primary School.

Well done Jack!! You have won a £10 gift voucher.

*Congratulations to:*

### Junior UK Maths Challenge – Year 8

Best in School and Gold Certificate – James Campbell

Gold Certificates: James Forsythe, Nicole Turner, Oliver Rogers, Annabel Rogers

Silver Certificates: Heather McNeill, William O'Toole, Brendan Corscadden, Hollie Bark, Adam Frost, Jonathan Moore, Helen Willway, Reece Parry, Anna Carruthers

Bronze Certificates: Ellen Williams, Roisin Galligan, Joseph Regan, Daniel Orzel, Alex Turpin, Ian McGhee

Junior Merseyside Maths Challenge – Years 7 & 8

Certificate of Merit: Craig Milne

Senior Merseyside Maths Challenge – Years 9 & 10

Consolation Prize: Clare McKay and Alexander Shakeshaft

*Global Student Forum 2008*

A well known saying goes, 'Actions speak louder than words'. Some would say that in order to get results, merely speaking about action is never enough. If we were to take the subject of war and conflict, the importance of immediate action can raise some difficult questions; *When* should we take action? *Should* we take action? And *what* constitutes a just war? People remain misinformed about the issues concerning these affairs. That is why it could be said that words may be more crucial than most people think. Raising public awareness through an open forum is very important, in fact it is the foundation stone of democracy, and the Global Student Forum 2008 (GSF 08) proved just that.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of June, eleven Year 12 students and three members of staff journeyed to London to represent St. Nicholas Sixth Form at the GSF conference. An estimated 600 students from across the country attended the event and were briefed about the effects of war in countries such as Uganda, Zimbabwe and Iraq. There was a particular focus on the devastating effects of war on children. We were shown how conflicts forced children to become child soldiers, often against their will. Poverty meant that many youngsters took to the streets, most living without their families. These distressing facts were illustrated through moving personal accounts, film and music all of which came from those who were directly involved in such situations. Compelling stories were told and everyone present felt the need to act. Guest speakers, such as a former child soldier called Ben Okafor, made a massive impact in shedding light on exactly how innocent children are affected and how they manage to live with the consequences on a day to day basis. Indeed, victims of war spoke persuasively to the people there present and urged them to act.

The conference was specifically designed to stimulate debate, for example, regarding the use of violence in our modern world. Professor Norman Kember (famous for being taken hostage in Baghdad from 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008 to 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2009 ) and Brigadier Roddy Porter represented different sides of the spectrum regarding the use of the conflict to achieve peace. Some delegates agreed with Kember's opinion that any form of violence is unnecessary and solves nothing, whereas others supported Porter's idea that sometimes violence is necessary. Also, opinions were raised on the need for weapons to promote peace.

The question was put to the audience: 'Do we need weapons to prevent war?' This promoted an interesting discussion that focused on world powers. Some of those present in the conference were able to highlight this important factor. Many students made an individual contribution, including our own Kevin Murphy! It would seem that we reached a consensus that using weapons as a deterrent might have negative effects, but until a better alternative is created then governments may not have any other choice.

GSF 08 was a truly effective way to inform young people about global issues and on what we have yet to do to make a difference. It is our intention that the St Nicholas GSF08 Team's actions will speak loudly for us, so watch this space!

By Therese Casanova L6D

### *English Department*

#### Year 7 Poetry Competition Winners – "The Olympics"

1st – Liam Adamson, 2<sup>nd</sup> – Louise Towers, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Sam Watson

Ben McIntosh, Lewis Hodges, Charlotte Evans, Eleanor McAdam, Jess Foster, Oliver Brown, Emma Pyatt, Patrick Stone, Rachel Ashton, Abbie Dimelow, Toby Turnbull, Sam Droffin, Jordan Howarth, Dominic McGough, Kyle McMahan, Emily Mann, Lorna Luckman, Richard Taig, Danielle Worrall, Hannah Milne, Jamie Milne, Jordan Pacitto, David Brown, Yasmin Caine, Stephen Lynch, Katie Ross, Zak Trigg, Arthur Wilkowski, Daniel Green, Mitchell Hough, Emily Ware, Ciaran Rooney, Georgina Fischer, Patryk Naurat, Lucy Billinge, Hannah Rossiter

#### Year 8 Mini-Sagas Competition Winners

1<sup>st</sup> – Clara Murray, 2<sup>nd</sup> – James Campbell, 3<sup>rd</sup> – Hannah Baker

Liam Kelly, Brogan Carroll, Cameron Dilworth, Daniel Orzel, Rosie Dalton, Emily Rosa, James Forsythe, Jonathan Moore, Daisy Collingwood, Andrew Zimmer, Joe D'Arcy, Matthew Heywood, Adam Frost, Courtney Dean, Hannah Semple, Gemma Heffernan, Sarai Kilshaw, Alice Morris, Helen Price, Matthew Nihill, Leanne Walkin, Shaun Carruthers, Jessica Phillips, Zoe Shaw, Dalian Wilson, Aiden Taylor, Joe Baker, Lucy Bryden, Kasia Kowalska, Tom Keaveny, Lucy Quaye, Davia Skowronska, Alice Hodges, Brendon Corsacadden, Beth Last, Heather McNeill, Anna Carruthers.

### *Business, Administration & Finance Diploma*

As part of the 14 – 19 Curriculum developments, Vale Royal will be offering the opportunity for all students to undertake a Business, Administration & Finance (BAF) Diploma as part of their option choices. St Nicholas is pleased to be the lead school for this new initiative and as a Business & Enterprise College; we believe that this new qualification, designed by employers, will enhance our existing provision. The Diploma mixes theory with practice to provide learners with an education that will enable students to work confidently, effectively and independently in life and the workplace. In order to do this, it is essential that we establish good relationships with businesses (local, national or international) who can work with us to maximise the learning outcomes of the students. If you or your business feel able to contribute in any way (experience, work placements, financially, resources) to make this new qualification a success or would like to discuss this opportunity further, we would love to hear from you. Thank you.

Mrs Angela Norman  
Assistant Headteacher

### *Eco Garden Update*

As you will be aware the school has an Eco garden which has been developed over a number of years. Luke Fletcher successfully completed his work experience placement at Tatton Park which led to the donation of 15 large logs by Mr Morris, Tatton Park.

A group of Year 10 students who are completing courses at Mid Cheshire and Reaseheath College in Horticulture, Construction and Engineering offered their hard work and expertise in safely installing them in the Eco Garden as additional seating.

Many thanks to Year 10 students; Patrick Collister, Shaun O'Sullivan, Jonathan Taylor and Ben Young for a very professional job.

### *Citizenship/Enterprise visit to London*

We were pleased to receive an invitation to take a group of students on a tour of Parliament. A group was selected based upon their hard work in Citizenship and then more hard work began!

In small groups the students investigated and budgeted various London attractions and as a whole group we agreed an itinerary for the day. Students then got to grips with the London transport system and planned a logical route around the chosen attractions making sure to check travel time and to choose a picnic venue.

Apart from a little bit of spray off the Thames, we had a dry day as predicted! The day started with a walk across London Bridge and around the Tower of London. Via a combination of the Tube and a lot of walking we saw the Gherkin Building, the London Eye, Downing Street, Westminster Abbey and Buckingham Palace.

The highlight of the day was definitely the visit to Parliament. After a short session on the workings of Parliament, where students impressed the guide with their prior knowledge, students had a debate on raising the school leaving age to 18 following the rules of the House of Commons. We were then joined by Mike Hall, MP, who faced some tricky questions from the students. This included a discussion on the cost of transport to Faith Schools during which he commended the School's actions and gave the students advice on what they should do next to continue the campaign.

We were then taken on a tour of Parliament; we missed out on seeing a debate in the main chamber of the House of Commons but instead we had the rare privilege of being allowed inside. Although we were not allowed to sit down some of the students did take the opportunity to touch the Prime Ministers usual seat! We then saw a debate on a new Pension Bill in the House of Lords where we saw Sir Robert Winston. This was followed by a tour of the buildings and details of its history.

Due to usual issues with Virgin trains the students were pleased to travel both directions in first class! Mrs Houghton and Mr Brown received many compliments on the students conduct and they would like to thank the students for a great day; they were a real credit to the school.

Students Comments:

“One of the best day trips I’ve ever been on” – Mark Allen

“I really enjoyed the day and would like to go again” - Katie Metge

“I enjoyed looking at the different attractions of London” – Oliver Taylor

“It was a mad packed day, but an amazing and fund experience” – Aoife Powell

### *International Activities*

Please remember all are welcome to join the Going Global Club and we meet on Thursday lunchtimes at 1.15 pm in G2. This year we have focused on encouraging international activities in school. We have led presentations, had debates on global issues, have organised international visits (e.g. – Fr Philo from our link school in India) and even had an international lunch! At this event we sampled food and drinks from around the world and Mrs Grice gave us an interesting talk on life in Botswana. Due to these and many other activities across school we have achieved the foundation and intermediate awards of the International Schools Award. Next year we are going for the full ISA!!!!

We are currently planning future events including an audit of what international activities departments are doing, plus more projects with our link schools. There is also the opportunity to develop links with other schools around the world and work on projects with the Eco club. So 'Be the change' and come along and join in.

Thank you, The Going Global Club.

### *Geography is Going Places*

#### Iceland 2008 (GCSE)

What can we say! None stop, all action, once in a lifetime, WOW!!! It all started once we arrived in Iceland with a swim in the blue lagoon, a natural geothermal hot spring. What a way to start! From there the 5 days included getting soaked by the spray from volcanic geysers, climbing to the beautiful Gullfoss (Golden Falls) waterfall, walking around the active volcano crater Kerio and visiting the Thingvellir National Park where the North American and Eurasian plates are pulling apart each year. This is the only place in the world where you can see the Mid Atlantic ridge above sea level and this was only day 2. What next!

Onwards and upwards! From there we went to Seljalandsfoss where we walked behind a very impressive waterfall, similar in style to the world's highest, Angel falls. We then had the choice to walk through a narrow gorge. The glacial water was so clear and FREEZING. It was great fun though. From there we travelled up on snowgroomers onto the Myrdalsjokull Icecap to learn about Katla the underlying and second most active volcano in Iceland. It was fantastic to be able to board down a real glacier and the views over the southern shore beaches were amazing. That night we saw the truly beautiful and very rare 'Northern Lights'. They were amazing - the highlight of the trip! That's where we started day 4. The black volcanic beaches, coastal stacks and basalt columns were unique. The Icelandic landscape is so unusual and we think that is what makes it so special. The last day arrived and we all wanted to stay although we had seen so much in only 5 days. What can we say about the Whale Watching. Just ask Miss Longman!!! A quick dash into the fast developing capital Reykjavik before we made our way home. Like we said at the beginning, non stop, all action, once in a lifetime. WOW!!!

The year 10 Geographers

#### *India 2008* (A Level)

This summer an expedition to Northern India is taking place. 18 Year 12 and 13 students along with Miss Kelly, Miss Longman and Dr Martin (a parent) will be

heading for the Himalayas for 5 days of trekking, bushcraft and survival led by our very own Ray Mears, Captain Saurabh. Captain Saurabh was a pilot in the Indian Air Force for many years before going on to train and lead mountainous expeditions; not least to the top of Everest itself whilst enjoying the physical Geography of the Himalayas we will also be visiting a hilltop school at 8,000 feet. From there it is back to New Delhi for 5 days to work alongside Fr Ravi in his school and rescue shelter. Here we will be working on a project with young children and we aim to develop further links for our schools international work. We will round off our whistle stop tour of Northern India with a visit to the world famous, Taj Mahal.

We will let you know about our adventures in the next edition.

### *Food Technology*

#### “Active Kids Get Cooking” – Bronze Awards

All our Year 8 students have participated on the “Active Kids Get Cooking” Bronze Award this term, which is being run in conjunction with the DCSF, Sainsbury’s, The British Nutrition Foundation and DATA. There was tremendous interest shown by our students, some fantastic food products were created and they were truly mouth-watering!

The majority of our Year 8 students have achieved their Bronze Award; the following achieved the Bronze Award with merit:

Jessica Alexander	Ben Atkins	Hollie Bark
Leah Boone	Josh Boyce	Lucy Bryden
Adam Bysouth	James Campbell	Brogan Carroll
Anna Carruthers	Eve Chan	James Clarke
Daisy Collingwood	Charlotte Collins	Brendan Corscadden
Devon Coverdale	Jack Coverdale	Emma Darby
Kathryn Dunbobbin	Samantha Elliott	Elizabeth Erskine
Helen Fahy	Rachel Fleming	Joshua Fletcher-Curran
James Forsythe	Rosie Galligan	Lauren Garvey
Patrick Geoghegan Shaw	Laura Giblin	Georgia Hamnett
Simeon Head	Lewis Healey	Gemma Heffernan
Matthew Heywood	Dominique Hitchen	Alice Hodges
Callum Hudson	Daniel Kelly	Sarai Kilshaw
Elizabeth Last	Rosemary Leach	Charles Malapitan
Fiona McCormack	Fiona McEwan	Ian McGhee
Bethany McHugh	Alice Morris	Clara Murray
Daniel Orzel	Reece Parry	Anne Lucy Pickering
Thomas Price	Amy Quinn	Benjamin Read
Jazmin Rimmer	Lucy Roberts	Annabel Rogers
Danielle Rooney	Emily Rosa	Hannah Semple
Georgina Shepherd	Daria Skowronska	Katie Smith

Imogen Traynor-Barry  
Jodi Ventre  
Kimberley Williamson  
Andrew Zimmer

Nicole Turner  
Jessica Wallace  
Helen Willway

Rebecca Turrell  
Ellen Williams  
Kai Yip

### *Eco news!*

Well done to 7R who have been involved in a variety of Eco activities this year. The paper recycling has been a massive success and the audit of lights to see which departments are not turning lights off when rooms are not in use has raised awareness around the school. Georgina Fisher has worked incredibly hard to design her own spreadsheet and input all the information collected.

The Eco club have attended an informative Eco Conference at Aintree Racecourse and have returned with many ideas for next year. They have also organised an Eco Assembly to make Year 7 more aware of the need to all try and do our bit to save energy.

### *Competition!*

Design a logo to be used within school to represent Eco matters. The logo should be clear and simple so that it can be used on letters, posters and PowerPoint's. There will be a great prize available to the winning entry so get busy over the summer!

The deadline for entries is Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September and should be handed in to Miss Kelly.