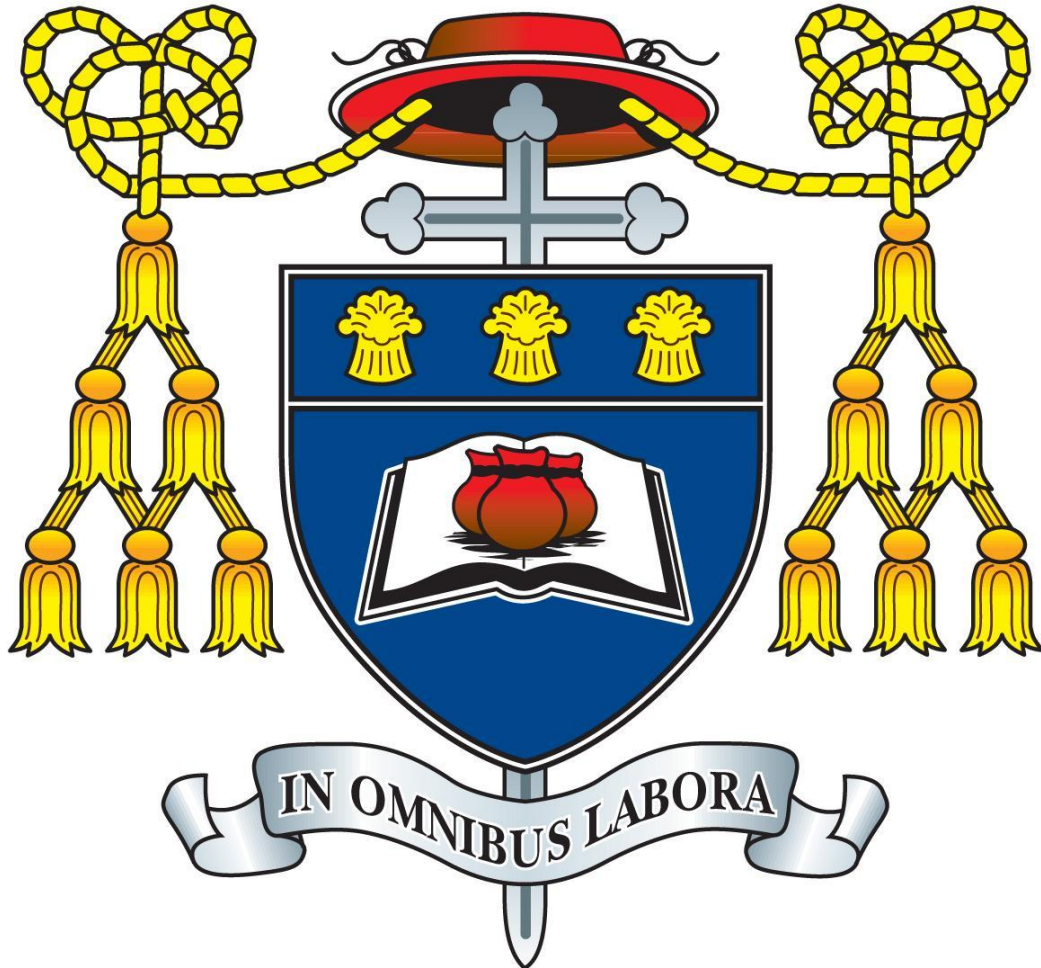


# St Nicholas Catholic High School



Head's Newsletter  
Easter 2007

### *Holiday Programme*

In my last letter I published the holiday dates for 2007/2008. There is a slight adjustment to the previous list in order to accommodate Staff Professional Development Days. Parents are asked to note that the students are on holiday on the following dates:

Wednesday 7 November 2007

Thursday 20 March 2008

Monday 7 April 2008

Tuesday 8 April 2008

### *Past Students*

Congratulations to David Gore, BA Hons, Geography at Newcastle University

### *Key Stage 3 SAT Results – Year 9 Summer 2006*

The DfES recently published the SATs results and readers of the Chronicle were able to learn that St Nicholas students achieved the highest average points score and the highest Contextual Value Added Score (from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3) in the County of Cheshire. The students and the staff in the Science, Mathematics and English departments deserve a great deal of credit on this outstanding achievement. Many congratulations.

### *Liverpool Mathematical Society – Open Challenge 2006*

This is a regional competition open to all the top mathematicians in schools up to the age of 19. Our own Samuel Chawner, Lower Sixth, won first prize, which is an outstanding achievement. Absolutely brilliant, Samuel.

### *Merseyside Young Analyst Competition at University of Liverpool*

Twenty-eight schools and Sixth Form Colleges competed in this annual, regional advanced Chemistry competition and who won? None other than our own outstanding Sixth Form Chemists; Andrew Toolis, Samuel Chawner and Robert Alford. Superb. The boys each won a £50.00 cheque, £250.00 for the school and a trophy which has a prestigious history. The boys now go on to represent the region in the national final at the University of East Anglia in June. Good luck gentlemen.

We've done it! We are an Eco-School with three consecutive Green Flags. On 22 February 2007 we were informed that we had won our fourth consecutive flag which means we now have the award permanently. This is an outstanding achievement and our thanks are due to the students and staff who have promoted our "green

credentials” during the challenging vetting process which has taken place from one year to the next.

### *School Liturgy*

On Ash Wednesday, Mass was celebrated at noon by Fr Munroe, and those present were able to receive ashes.

Our Penitential Services are underway and they are providing an opportunity for quiet reflection. To date the students have responded extremely well. This year our Laboratory Technicians have constructed a magnificent fountain as the centre-piece of the hall and its symbolic meaning is explained to the students by our Chaplain during her introduction to the service. As part of the service the students follow the events of Holy Week by means of a PowerPoint presentation. A group of young men from the Sixth Form, John Rizkallah, Andrew Toolis, Chris Jarvis, Frank Nield and Joe McCourt, devised a sound track for each of the slides which provided a unique experience.

### *Parish Liturgy*

Our Penitential Service is being celebrated within the Parish context at St Wilfrid’s Church, Witton Street on 28 March 2007 at 7.30pm.

### *New Build*

The Sportshall and classroom block continue to make good progress and current estimates place completion at the end of April 2007.

Congratulations to our team of five Year 10 students who represented their school in the regional Stock Market Challenge Day. Out of twenty teams from across the region they achieved a magnificent second place.

### *Equipment for Lessons*

On occasions some of our students are arriving at lessons without the basic equipment necessary. It is vitally important to their progress that they are ready to engage in their lessons as quickly as possible. This list below is printed as a reminder of what they need to bring to school:

Black or Blue ball point pen  
(and a spare)  
Coloured pencils/Fine fibre tips  
Compass  
Calculator  
Rough notebook/jotter

Pencil  
Pencil eraser  
Pencil sharpener  
Ruler 12”/30cm  
Protractor  
Set Square

Tipex/liquid paper is not allowed in school and must not be used in any schoolwork.

An overall or apron is required for Technology lessons.

Text books and specialised equipment will be issued on loan and students will be required to pay for any loss or damage to property.

### *Congratulations*

Jack Jordan-Bell; Jack is a member of the highest ranked junior tennis team in the South and Mid-Cheshire Senior Winter leagues.

### *Drivers on the School Campus*

I have been in contact with the Headteachers at both Greenbank and St Wilfrid's Schools. In order to minimise the risk to all members of the community, anyone seen driving and using a mobile phone on the schools' roads/car parks, will have their registration details/time/date passed on to the Police Community Support Officer. Parking: please avoid making life difficult for local residents, I do receive numerous complaints about their concerns regarding how vehicles are parked whilst waiting to pick up students..

Congratulations to Samuel Ray, Form 8P, who achieved his Level 5 Snowsports Award.

### *Charities*

The school has forwarded £1,500 to CAFOD, £2,000 to the Diocesan Good Shepherd Fund and £2,350 to the Roald Dahl Foundation and Sargent Cancer Care for Children, via the Readathon, which was organised by the English Department; many thanks to all who made these ventures a success.

### *Catenian Public Speaking Competition*

Thank you and well done to Nicola Underhill, Lower VI, on her excellent speech, entitled "It's good to talk".

### *Habitat for Humanity*

As you may remember, a group of thirteen Sixth Formers made the journey to South-East India with Mr & Mrs Firkins. They all returned safely having had the "experience of a life-time". Here's what some of them had to say:

“I was delighted to have made so many new friends and witnessed so many smiles during my Habitat experience! I was given a rare and exciting insight into the Indian culture, and will take back memories that I’ll treasure forever! My favourite part was meeting the local community and the children – everyone was so accommodating and welcoming! Thanks”

“Holistically a perfect visit/experience.

- Excellent cultural interaction with local community
- Actually built homes, every part
- As leader the pleasure of witnessing our student group develop into more aware, more caring, more rounded individuals, who will never be the same again, was the unexpected bonus of the visit”

“This trip exceeded all my expectations. Our involvement in the build was great, nobody wanted to stop at the end of the day. The interaction with the village was very rewarding, they made us feel so welcome. I feel I got more back than I gave”

“My personal highlights of the trip were visiting the villages and meeting the villagers we were building for, and visiting the local school and orphanage. We were made to feel very welcome and our host Charley was brilliant and made sure we experienced the Indian culture, as well as always looking after us”

### *Year 8 Rugby Squad*

Central Cheshire Open Competition winners.

Forwards:

Prop:	Joe Maddocks (Captain)
Hooker:	Tom Sheridan
Prop:	Elliot Hitch
2 <sup>nd</sup> Row:	Cameron Mercer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Row:	Harry Hodgson
Flanker:	James Plant
No 8:	Alex Nash (Vice Captain)
Flanker:	Ryan Kitt

Backs:

Scrum Half:	Adam King
Fly Half:	Stephen Smith
Inside Centre:	Andrew Jackson
Outside Centre:	Liam Gavin
Wing:	Matthew Griffiths
Wing:	Alex Ford
Full Back:	Joe Williams

Sub:	Cian Southern
Sub:	Will Igoe
Sub:	Sean Tierney
Sub:	Reece Barratt

### *CAFOD Week At St Nicholas*

This year in St Nicholas Catholic High School and College, we supported Cafod, through the motto of “Living Simply”. Year 7 did paper chains to symbolise joining the world as one. Years 8 and 9 contributed by giving a donation to buy stickers to place on their collage of the world. All these chains and posters were displayed in classrooms around the school. A “feast and famine” was experienced by Year 10, which gave them the opportunity to demonstrate the willpower necessary to fast during lunch. Year 11 collected loose change in large tubes, all going to the Cafod cause. The Lower Sixth designed posters with a clear message on how to “live simply” and therefore make poverty history once and for all. Some Lower Sixth students faced the challenge of fasting for 24 hours and then made donations to the appeal. Overall pupils really pulled together on a range of activities and spent time in form considering the motto to “live simply” and how everyone matters in our world family.

Written by: Michael Stankiewicz

### *National Business and Enterprise Conference – Chester*

Congratulations to the students who represented the school at the presentation, “A virtual visit in St Nicholas”, at the conference:

Conor Dean  
Cier Dickson  
Conor Hancock  
Mary Hunt  
Rachel Jones  
Helen O’Brien  
Ian Shannon  
George Thorp  
Emma Simpson  
Rosemary Leach

### *Form Group Fast*

Miss Longman’s Lower Sixth Group really took the CAFOD motto of “Live Simply” to heart. They spent Family Fast Day living on soup and water. They raised £206.00 for our CAFOD appeal. Well done.

### *PrintIT Competition*

Rachel Jones gained a Certificate of Merit in the PrintIT competition. This is a national competition based around Fairtrade and Printing, focusing on Social Enterprise. Well done.

### *History Department*

On 7 February we were once again delighted to welcome a survivor of the Holocaust to school. We found the experience moving and thought provoking and certainly consider the experience one we will never forget.

Rachel Burgess and Amy Morgan, Year 9

School History Scene brought their plays, 'Time Tunnel' and 'Doomed Youth' to school on 6 March.

'Doomed Youth' told the stories of men and women in the First World War. We learnt about recruitment into the armed forces as well as the roles of women during the war. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the performance. Catherine Sturman, Year 9

'Time Tunnel' was an amazing and riveting play about life in the Middle Ages. Some of it was rather gory, like the horrific plague, but I certainly learned a lot from the experience. Daisy Collingwood, Year 7

Year 11 went to Stockport to see 'Hitler on Trial' and listen to an 'Exam Busting' session, also organised by School History Scene. The play kept the audience captivated with its variety of characters and humorous dialogue although it also focused on the causes of the Second World War. In the end the audience, acting as jurors, decided whether Hitler was guilty of crimes against peace and whether he was solely responsible for the outbreak of the Second World War. Niall Ellis-Patterson, Year 11

### *Netball Mid Cheshire Tournament*

The following girls won the Mid Cheshire Tournament, beating the Grange 5-4 in the final. The girls played the competition against ten schools from Mid Cheshire.

Year 7:

GK	Dominique Hitchin
GD	Elleena Devaney
WD	Laura Giblin
C	Lucy Bailey
WA	Rosie Leah
GA	Becky Turrell
GS	Rachel Flemming

### *Staff Leaving*

Mrs S Lauckner, Head of Sixth Form, is moving to a Deputy headship on Merseyside after Easter. We wish her every success in her new role across the Mersey. Mrs R Shaw begins on maternity leave during the Easter holiday and we hope that all goes well for her.

*Stock Market Challenge Day Organised by M&S Money*

Congratulations to our School Team which came second out of over twenty schools:

Rebecca Cutbill

David Zimmer

Hannah Lawler

Alex Hunns

Tom Lindsay