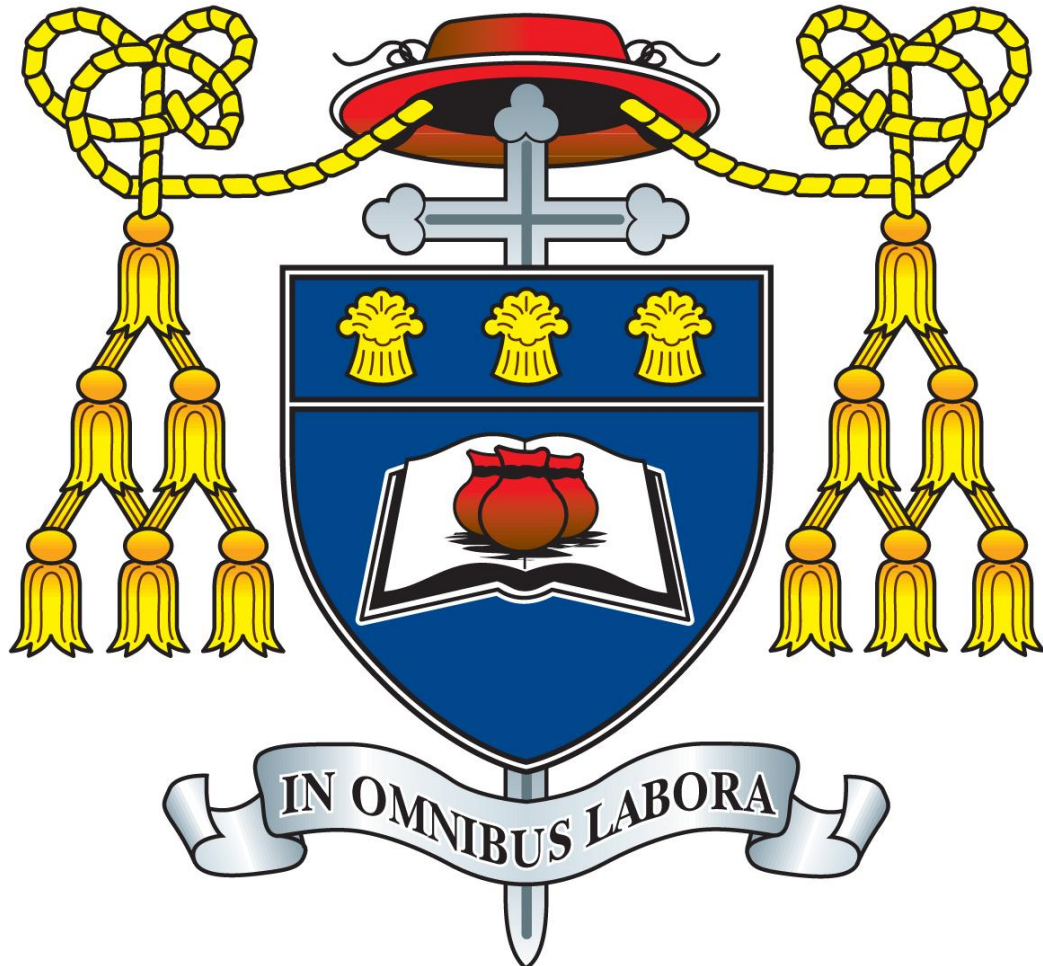


St Nicholas Catholic High School



Head's Newsletter
March 2009

Headship Appointment

The Governors are pleased to announce that Mr Kieran Kelly has been appointed to the Headship as from 1 September and we all wish him every success in his new post.

Examinations

The examinations period begins soon after we return from Easter and will go on until mid-June. We remember our students taking examinations in our prayers and offer them best wishes for the future.

School Liturgy

Wednesday Mass continues to be a notable success and Fr. Munroe has been coming into school at 8.30 am on Thursdays and more latterly Tuesdays, to lead morning prayers for those who can attend.

Fr Carney celebrated Mass on Ash Wednesday in the School Hall and Fr Munroe kindly agreed to dispense more Ashes later that same morning.

As we approach Easter, Penitential Services are being held in school for each year group, plus Easter-themed assemblies are being arranged for the last week of term.

Our annual CAFOD collection reached just short of £1,000 and the donations will be forwarded as soon as possible by the Charities Committee.

Staff News

Dr Fothergill will be taking maternity leave from Easter onwards and we send her and her husband every good wish. Miss E Preece will be returning to the school to cover Dr Fothergill's leave, in partnership with Miss Jennifer Courtney.

Holidays

The school closes for Easter on Wednesday 1 April and re-opens on Monday 20 April.

Specialist School Trust

The school was nominated by the Trust to attend a celebration dinner at the Royal College of Physicians in recognition of its high performance in the 2008 GCSE results.

School Behaviour Policy

Please see Appendix I for a copy of the policy.

Mock Trial Competition

The following Year 9 students took part in the Magistrates' Mock Trial Competition at Manchester Magistrates' Court:

Prosecution

Fiona McEwen Rachel Fleming

Lawyer 1: Daisy Collingwood Lawyer 2: Arjun Uppal

Defence

Poppy Heap Lucy Roberts

Lawyer 1: Rosie Galligan Lawyer 2: Simeon Head

Legal Adviser: Ian McGhee

Magistrates: Reece Parry Oliver Rogers Alex Clewlow

Usher: Matthew Heywood

Congratulations to everyone involved.

READ International

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who donated books to the READ International appeal earlier in the year. The books were picked up last Thursday and there were literally hundreds of them; almost 500 in total.

The students who picked them up were very thankful and told me that there were more than all of the other schools they had been to that day combined, so well done everybody.

Thank you.

Mr R Jones

Congratulations to

The following Upper Sixth Students on passing their Open University Examinations:

Maya Reid	Grace Martin	Simon Morgan	Paul Roberts
Matthew Evans	John McGough	Lloyd Anacoura	Anna Quinn

Roddy More

Scott Prince who was elected to the National Youth Parliament to represent West Cheshire, 16,000 votes were cast and Scott came out on top.

Sportsmark

The DCSF has written to the school to inform us that the school has been awarded Sportsmark for the academic year 2008 / 2009. This is reviewed on an annual basis by those responsible for the National Schools Sport Strategy.

Term Time Holidays

All requests for the authorisation of such absences from school should be forward to Mrs B Daniels, Assistant Headteacher.

The Local Authority has asked that we remind parents of the process employed in schools and the following paragraph is an extract from that guidance:

“We would like to take the following opportunity to explain to all parents the law regarding holidays taken during term time; that unless there are exceptional circumstances most requests will be turned down. If parents still decide to take their children out of school for a holiday, then we have no choice but to mark the absence as an unauthorised absence. It should be realised that ten unauthorised sessions of absence, i.e. five days could lead to the involvement of the Education Welfare Service and the issuing of a Fixed Penalty Notice, the cost of which £50 is paid within 28 days and £100 if it is paid after 28 days but before 42 days. If the Fixed Penalty Notice is not paid legal action will be taken by the Local Authority. These Fixed Penalty Notices have been introduced as part of the Government’s drive to improve attendance.”

Music

St Nicholas Flute Quartet – Mary Hunt, Caroline Martin, Emily Garner and Grace Smith – won First Place in the Instrumental Ensemble Class at the Heaton Mersey Music Festival on 14 March 2009.

ECO

We have been successful in achieving re-designation as an Eco School after our recent assessment. The school has been awarded its fifth Green Flag Award for outstanding achievement in sustainable development education and management and continuously improving the environmental performance of the school and the wider community.

The Assessor made the following comments with regards to his visit to the school:

- Students with vision and abundance of ideas to maintain their school's status as a well respected Eco School.
- The school reaches out to all members of its community in embracing the Eco-schools Programme. Environmental awareness finds expression in all areas of the curriculum linking the all important practical activities with in-depth academic studies.
- The active support of the Headteacher, staff, parents and outside agencies ensure that the students can thrive as caretaker of their school and global communities.

Well done to the whole Eco Club and in particular the following pupils who were involved on the assessment day: Georgina Fisher, Jade Dean, Matthew Wright, Luke McEnaney, Jamie Keegan, Charlotte Evans, Naomi Evans and Anna Carruthers. The Assessor was so impressed by how well informed, enthusiastic and committed they all were.

Miss F Kelly

International News



CAFOD Week 2008

During CAFOD week (March 2nd–8th) St. Nicholas joined with CAFOD and schools all over England and Wales to raise money for communities in both urban and rural Brazil. Many children in these communities face a range of problems in their lives – mainly poverty and the impact of environmental destruction and violence. Carnival time (just before Lent) provides respite from these hardships but also the

opportunity for local people to promote positive messages about how their communities can change. The CAFOD week assemblies were led by the Going Global Club and during the week each form raised money for projects supporting both urban and rural communities in Brazil.



Below is a picture of 12 year old Pedro who is one of the many children who will be helped in urban Brazil. Pedro is an enthusiastic member of a CAFOD-funded youth project, which aims to promote a culture of peace and citizenship. The project gives children and young people the chance to get involved in positive alternative interests – from learning music and dance to joining an eco-action group. These photos show a youth worker talking to the children about the dances they will be learning, and in the other Pedro is planting a shrub.



The key message underpinning the week was “By working together and being responsible citizens, we can help each other, we can look after the environment and we can help create a better, more peaceful future for everyone.” Year 7 forms created paper chains to go round their form rooms. Each chain cost 10p each, and the aim was to link a map of England with a map of Brazil. Year 8 and 9 forms completed a map of Brazil by buying trees to represent the Amazon rainforest, skyscrapers to represent the cities, and blue rectangles to try and complete the Amazon River. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 forms filled a tube with loose change. Year 10 also took part in the Feast and Famine lunch, reviewed below. During CAFOD week we raised £1000 and the charities committee are very kindly matching that, taking our donation to CAFOD this year to £2000!

Year 10 Feast and Famine Lunch

The Feast and Famine lunch was a brilliant opportunity for Year 10 pupils to experience the truth of life and unfairness of humanity. The majority of the year group bought tickets for £1.50 and as they entered the hall their ticket was placed into a hat. All pupils were asked to sit around the edge of the hall at tables. Ten of the tickets were then picked out of the hat and those lucky few sat at the table in the middle a table with a feast on, which included pizza, paninis, hot dogs, chips, amongst other delicious things, followed by a dessert of chocolate cake and

fruit kebabs. This was a completely unfair proposition as the rest of us received a bowl of soup and a piece of bread. This brought into context that the richer countries should help the poorer countries as they are starving and we have more than can be needed for any one person.

Going Global Club

Join our Going Global Club - we meet every Thursday lunchtime at 1.10pm in E7 with Miss Wright. We discuss issues around the world to help improve school awareness of being a global citizen. Next term we will be e-mailing pupils in schools in India and Australia to compare our day-to-day life and our different cultures. So 'Be the change you want to see in the world' and come along and join us.

GCSE Art Examination Dates

Research Sheets:

6 – 13 March	Research prep sheet. Background research in and around the topic, this can include photographs.
13 – 20 March	Artists / Designers prep sheet. Must include at least three artists.
20 – 27 March	Observational prep sheet. Drawing from primary sources connected with the topic.
27 March – 3 April	Experimenting with materials / media prep sheet.
3 – 20 April	Developing ideas prep sheet. This sheet should explain how the final piece has been arrived at and why.

Controlled Examination Sessions: Final Piece:

Friday 24 April	5 hours	All day
Tuesday 28 April	3 hours	Periods 1, 2 and 3
Wednesday 29 April	2 hours	Periods 4 and 5

Food Technology Department

The Summer term is going to be a very busy time in the Department. Our Year 9 students have all been invited to compete in the Rotary Club 'Young Chef of the Year' competition. We are running this competition in conjunction with the Northwich Rotary Club. All Year 9 students have been given a letter for their parents explaining all about the competition. We are expecting a large number of

entries. The closing date for entries is Monday 30 March at 1.00 p.m. The school heat of the competition will be judged on 10 June by two external judges and two winners will be selected to go through to the Northwich District Heat in late June / early July.

In addition to the above mentioned competition all our Year 8 and Year 9 students will be doing 'The Active Kids Get Cooking' Bronze Award (year 8) and Silver Award (Year 9). All students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their creative talents and we are eagerly looking forward to excellent food products being made.

We would like to thank parents for their continuing support with the provision of ingredients, labelling food and containers, etc. If any parent has any problems re. ingredients, allergies, etc. please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

The Food Technology Staff