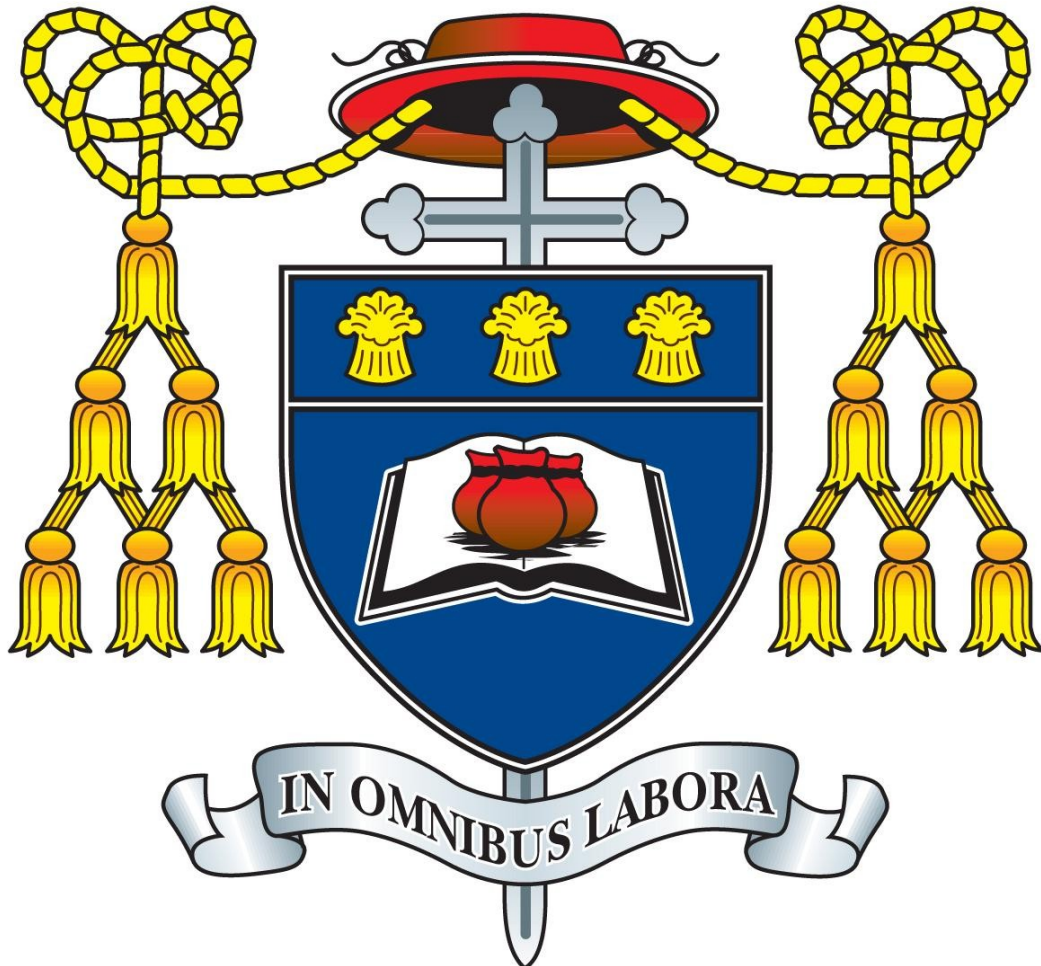


# St Nicholas Catholic High School



Head's Newsletter  
***May 2008***

***Congratulations to:***

Hayley Holmes  
Colette Parsons  
Nicola Underhill  
Kimberley Done

All Upper VI, on achieving the Community Volunteer Award.

Gregory Walker      Year 11  
Shanice Ashley      Year 11

On their selection for the prestigious National Youth Theatre Summer Course in London.

To all who participated in a Concert of Vocal Music presented by Miss Naylor on Tuesday 6 May 2008:

Grace Edmunds	Marian Taig	Emily Rosa
Christopher Jones	Katie Hart	Grace Smith
Sarah Little	Mary Hunt	Julia Dawson
Gabriella Burke	Lucy Rosa	Konstancja Naporowska
Jessica Bates	Kathryn Wellington	Nicola Underhill
Helen Hunt	Diane Lapworth	

A collection was taken in aid of “St Nicks to Lourdes” at the end of the concert. The group are also performing at St Mary’s Church, Middlewich on Sunday 18 May.

Lauren Garvey on passing her Grade V flute examinations.

All those students who “sailed” through their capsized and swim tests in order to join our partnership with Northwich Rowing Club.

Louise Towers, Year 7, who represented the County in the London Mini Marathon. Louise came an excellent 61<sup>st</sup> out of 302 runners.

School Choir: At the Chester Festival came 1<sup>st</sup> with Honours in School Choirs for the Under 18’s, and they were judged the Best Choir of the Competition, beating fifteen other choirs.

Richard Tranter, Year 11, on becoming the County Triple Jump Champion, with a leap exceeding his previous personal best.

Richard Taig and Jessica Holt, both of who received a “Highly Commended” Certificate from the President of the Royal Society of British Artists, for their entries in the National Student’s Exhibition.

Annabel Rogers and Joe Regan, Year 8, and Sarah Jones and Ryan Kitt, Year 9, on their representation of St Nicholas in the Maths Challenge held at South Cheshire College.

To all those students who went on trips to Italy and Iceland. The staff received so many positive comments from people all over the world about the students. I received a letter from the tour company which was involved in the trip to Lake Garda, and I quote “Everyone at Pavilion Tours, both in our head office and in our overseas resort, would like to congratulate staff and students for the tremendous effort they put into what has proved to be a very enjoyable and successful tour with St Nicholas Catholic High School. The students involved were excellent ambassadors both for St Nicholas Catholic High School and your community. Our staff and suppliers have been extremely complimentary about their positive and mature attitude in the resort. We all look forward to the prospect of further collaboration between Pavilion Tours and St Nicholas Catholic High School, and would like to thank staff, students and parents for their contribution to the tour.”

Alex Hunns, 11S, who came second in the High Sheriffs Citizenship Award. Alex received a cheque for his chosen charity, Practical Action, which was for the value of £250.

A letter from Oliver Power, Upper Sixth 2006/2007, “I’ve not been up to an awful lot recently, just lots of hours at work as well as trying to get super fit. I’ve been doing a lot of work with the Royal Marines and have spent a week down in Devon on a training course (only 25 of the 58 lads who were on my training course passed). The course had lots of physical activities, assault course, gym tests and swimming tests as well as obviously running tests. It was as much mentally demanding as it was physically. They really put us through our paces and I can honestly say that I have never been pushed like that! Those of us who passed have finally been given a joining up date for the Royal Marines Commandos, basic training starts on 24 March 2008 and I can’t wait!” Many congratulations Oliver.

## Girls Netball League Results

Under 13                      Runners Up (11 schools)

Under 14                      4<sup>th</sup> out of 10 schools

Under 15                      Champions (9 schools)

Well done Girls!

Congratulations to Steven Luong, Lower VI, who won the termly prize draw for good behaviour on school transport.

Mr Don Firkins led a group of ex-students on the trip of a lifetime to the heart of Africa in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, supported by our sponsors "Speedy Rice"! From Kampala they had an eight hours trip towards the Rwandan border. The group worked in two teams, each building individual houses for villages. In ten days of building the two houses were completed. The group had collected toys / baby clothes to take with them for the villagers. Another five boxes have been forwarded via another charity after Easter. The whole trip was an unforgettable experience and gave so much hope to members of our world family who are unbelievably less fortunate than ourselves.

## Launch of the Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy

The new and improved Young Gifted and Talented Learner Academy is now online. The portal is open to young people of all ages identified as gifted and talented by their school or college. It also provides one-stop support for educators, parents and governors. The site has been updated and improved in response to comments and feedback on the original version since September 2007. Visit the Young Gifted and Talented portal [DCSF](#)

It may have seemed like a lifetime ago in that the results of the election campaign (the DVD watched by all students in assemblies) were announced at an event in County Hall, Chester, but in reality it has only been two months. But in that time there have been a number of ground breaking events. On Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May I took part in a debate in the House of Lords with MPs from all over the UK. The event was a huge success and we hope to do something like this again in the future. The aim of the debate was to decide the main policies that should be adopted as the national campaign targets for the Youth Parliament. After several hours of debating in the chamber we have voted to have the following as our campaign targets:

- Abolition of university tuition fees

- National transport concession card for young people
- Your Future, Your World, Your Fight (recycling/environmental campaign)

On an unrelated note, as some of you will be aware, Cheshire County Council is to be broken down into West Cheshire and East Cheshire. As a result, a completely new set of councillors will be elected. This is a prime opportunity for young people to have their say in the policies that these leaders will adopt for Cheshire. With the help of Joan Feenan (Head of Children's Services for Cheshire County Council) MYPs will be able to engage in a training session with these council representatives in order to make sure they know what the young people want and therefore help us in getting there. But this obviously requires some input from you! After 23<sup>rd</sup> May I can be contacted on my Youth Parliament e-mail address which is [alex.hunns@connexions-cw.co.uk](mailto:alex.hunns@connexions-cw.co.uk) I will try to reply to all suggestions sent to me by e-mail, a deadline of 6 June will apply for your responses.

There will be a "walk in" session with myself and Mike Hall within the next few weeks where anyone can come in and ask either of us any questions they might have. I will of course let you know the time and date when I have finalised them with Mr Hall. The location is likely to be the Connexions office in Rudheath (I will let you know when this is confirmed).

If you are about to enter your exam season or go off to university I wish you the best of luck!

Alex Hunns Year 11  
Your MYP

Information for Parents from the LEA

<http://www.payingforchildcare.org.uk>

The paying for childcare site provides information about financial assistance that parents may be able to receive to help them with the cost of childcare.

### School Trips

The Governors have a detailed policy on school trips and the complete policy is available on request. However, I have quoted from Section B of the policy in order to ensure that parents and students are aware of the fact that the school does exercise the right to bar a student from a trip should it consider it necessary to do so.

## Section B

It is also essential that parents and students should also understand the criteria by which participation for trips that fall in categories ii, iii, iv is allowed:

- The acceptance of a consent form from a student expressing a wish to attend a particular trip does not mean that student is automatically accepted for the trip.
- For any student whose previous behaviour on trips may exclude attendance on a particular trip, parents must already have been notified as to the clear reasons why this action has been taken.
- Any matters relating to prior financial considerations from other trips need also to be considered. In the event of there being outstanding monies due for a previous trip then the student cannot be considered for a place on any subsequent trip. This would need to apply to any sibling wishing to attend a school trip.
- Staff accompanying a trip must therefore communicate concerns to the relevant Key Stage team with explicit reasons as to why the parents and student should be informed that participation in the future is unlikely / impossible.
- It is required that a discussion is held with Heads of Year / pastoral staff of the year groups going on the trip, particularly with regard to any students whose behaviour precludes attendance for any reason. Both parents and student again should be aware of the circumstances that can lead to this decision.

For a student with either a known or recently diagnosed illness, the extra responsibility and risk for the teacher and the group needs to be considered carefully. Parents normally want their child to have as normal an education as possible, and schools and colleges need to be mindful of their duties under the Disability Discrimination Act.

## Spring Ball

The School held its inaugural Spring Ball on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April. The event was a sell out, the hall was totally transformed into a banqueting suite, the food was superb and everyone had a wonderful time. The event raised £7,500, half of which will go to our partner schools and the remainder to our funds for the refurbishment of the changing rooms. Our thanks go to the Committee who made a tremendous commitment both in terms of time, energy and expense. Without them it simply would not have happened. Thanks to them and to all those who actually came along and supported us on the evening.

## Greenbank Lane

The school works hard in order to maintain good community links in the local community. In recent weeks I have received telephone calls complaining of inappropriate parking by the drivers of vehicles who are waiting to pick up students from school. Everyone's support in avoiding such problems would be much appreciated.

## Chewing Gum: A Reminder

The use of chewing gum on school premises is not allowed and your support in assisting us with this is vitally important. Chewing gum is unacceptable because of the way it has been disposed of on various occasions;

- It makes a terrible mess on uniform and footwear
- It presents unspecified health hazards when deposited carelessly
- It ruins floor surfaces and carpets in school

The fact that this information is available in this letter will serve as a warning to students so that they understand that subsequent failure to comply will result in after school detention.

## Mobile Phones

In previous letters I asked for continued Parental support in ensuring that your sons and daughters (Years 7-11 inclusive) do not bring mobile phones into school. I have to re-emphasise the need for this support not just for the range of reasons which I quoted in my initial request but also in the light of specific advice from the Department of Health.

## School Transport

The vast majority of our students behave impeccably on school buses and it is their welfare and safe-being which is of paramount importance. Unfortunately one or two individuals have allowed their standards to slip and they have indulged in behaviour which has quite literally endangered the health and safety of others. Depending on the nature of the behaviour a warning may be given, however, parents are asked to note that a student may lose the right to travel, on a temporary or permanent basis, if he/she indulges in behaviour which compromises the well-being of others. In addition the School may also take disciplinary action. Your support in reminding your son/daughter of these matters would be appreciated.

The crossings are manned from 8.25 am and students have access to either the school Big Hall or the Crypt depending on their age group. Staff are in position and on duty from 8.30 am in these areas.

## Staffing News

The school welcomes:

Mrs Judith Goodwin, Head's PA  
Miss J Petts, MFL  
Mrs Lindsay Hilditch, School Exams Officer  
Miss Little, Girls PE

Mrs T Bailey, Exams Secretary retired  
Mrs F Fosbury has taken maternity leave

## Half Term Holiday

School re-opens on Monday 2 June. Year 10 are on work experience from 2 June until 13 June, returning to school on 16 June.

## School Liturgy

Father Finton celebrated our Year 11 Leavers Mass on 22 May and it was very well attended by the students and their families. Our thanks are due to all those who played a part in organising this occasion.

Upper Sixth Leavers Mass was celebrated on Friday 23 May by Father Dutton. As for Year 11 Mass, the students themselves played a prominent role in leading the liturgy for their Mass.

Wednesday Mass continues to be supported by Form Groups on a regular basis.