



The Bernard

Our newsletter for parents, carers & friends of
St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School

Issue 4



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Alton Castle Retreat

On Friday 27 January, 40 pupils and 4 staff left school for a retreat at Alton Castle in Staffordshire. On the way, we stopped at Puzzlewood Forest where they have recently filmed the new Star Wars film to explore the woods and have our lunch. Many pupils found it exciting to be in the same place famous actors were not that long ago!



We then travelled on to Alton and arrived about 4pm. Once we had settled into our rooms and had our tea, we were split into our activity groups. We had a tour of the church and looked closer at the theme of our retreat which was 'Who Am I?' We were asked to think about how we viewed ourselves as well as how other people viewed us like our friends, family and God. We also went on a night walk in the wood, a very muddy experience! It was a good test of our trust skills and how we needed to be excellent communicators to keep everyone safe. We finished the evening with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, a quiet and peaceful way to bring everything together that we had done that day.



After a restful sleep, we were looking forward to our activities on the Saturday. After breakfast and morning prayer, we departed in our groups for activities such as biking, climbing, archery, trekking or survival. Each activity tested our determination, teamwork and resilience levels as well as helping us to reflect on our achievements with a meditation within each activity. The big group came back together at lunch and swapped stories about what they had done, ensuring that everyone was looking forward to another activity in the afternoon!

Once those activities had finished and everyone had had a chance to have a shower, freshen up and have their dinner we started to think about the mass we would be participating in later. We practised our hymns beforehand and it was great to hear all our pupils singing so joyfully! We then went over to the church and had mass with Fr Thé with some excellent readings and bidding prayers by our pupils. The brilliant singing continued all the way through the mass finishing with our final hymn called Burning in My Soul by Matt Maher. Look out for this one in school soon! We finished our evening on Saturday by having some games and a disco before night prayer in our activity groups.



We were greeted on Sunday morning by bright and glorious sunshine. It was great weather for us to take part in our final activity. It was excellent to see how pupils had really bonded together by this time, especially those who don't normally spend a lot of time together. Once our activities had finished we had our lunch and had an opportunity to buy some souvenirs from the tuck shop. After a final service to reflect on all that we had done and how it all fitted into our theme, it was back to the coaches and our long trip back to Bristol.

It was a packed weekend full of fun, laughter, kindness and faith. We are already looking forward to next year's retreat! A big thank you to all the staff who came with us on the retreat, giving up their weekend with their families to spend time with our pupils. Thank you also to the staff and team at Alton Castle who have yet again given us a fantastic experience and helped us grow closer to our faith and have a deeper relationship with God.



HPV Vaccinations for Y8 & Y9 Girls

Year 8 & Year 9 girls had their HPV vaccinations last week and the nursing staff would like to compliment them on their fantastic behaviour. We are one of the schools that they love coming to.

Well done for being great ambassadors.

Mrs Hardwell

Calendar Dates - Term 4

February 2017

10th End of Term 3

20th Start of Term 4

20th - 24th Y11 Maths & Science Mock Exams

21st Jekyll & Hyde Workshop with Y10

22nd Feast of St Bernadette (9.00am - 11.00am)

27th - 3rd March Y8 Exam Week



March 2017

1st Ash Wednesday

2nd World Book Day

2nd Y11 Photos

3rd - 5th Y10 Solihouse Retreat

6th - 10th Y11 Math & English Mock Exams

9th Y9 Pathways Evening (19.00pm - 20.00pm)

10th Food Tech Exam

10th Civil War Day

13th Curriculum Enrichment Day

13th Y9 Trench Day

14th Food Tech Exams

15th Food Tech Exams

15th RE Reconciliation Day

16th Y9 Parents Evening (16.00pm - 18.30pm)

25th & 26th Drama Trip

28th Full Governing Body Meeting (10.00am - 12.00pm)

31st Non Uniform Day

April 2017

4th & 5th GCSE Art Exam

6th - 9th Trip to Barcelona

7th Holy Week Service (9.00am - 11.00am)

7th End of Term 4

9th Palm Sunday

14th Good Friday

15th Holy Saturday

16th Easter Sunday

17th Easter Monday

24th Start of Term 5

24th Y11 Math Mock Exams

E-Safety Tip

www.thinkuknow.co.uk is a website set up by CEOP to give advice to parents and students on e-safety.

John Pridmore visit

Years 10 and 11 were privileged to listen to an inspirational talk from John Pridmore. John is a former gangster who turned to Christianity and is now a full time speaker. John gave some of his life story that led to his changing direction which was incredibly powerful. The pupils listening were very touched by what he said. He left each of them with a parting gift of a Rosary and collection of prayer cards to continue their own faith journey.



Candlemas

The 2nd February is a special feast day in the Churches Calendar, it is The Feast of the Presentation of The Lord also known as Candlemas. This feast marks the occasion when Jesus is presented at the Temple, 40 days after Christmas. It is also an occasion when, traditionally, the candles that are to be used in the church throughout the year are blessed. We were able to celebrate this feast with each Tutor Group having a short liturgy involving a candle to mark the occasion. We also had Mass celebrated by Fr Michael, during which 5 candles were blessed, each one representing one of our Houses. We will be using those candles throughout the year for House and whole school events.



Lost Property

We have acquired quite a lot of lost property in reception. We have some very nice coats, hats etc. If your child has misplaced their belongings please ask them to go to reception.

If these items are not claimed we will donate them to the homeless shelter.

Thank you for your help.

Uniform

Unfortunately our uniform suppliers, Michael Hope have informed us of a price increase as from 1st March 2017. Our school Blazers will increase by at least £2.00 and all other uniform will increase by a nominal amount.

Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Learning Hub

Congratulations to all the students receiving intervention in the Learning Hub this term. Many of them have exceeded expectations both in Literacy and Numeracy. Well done!

The Learning Hub will be doing a raffle next term to raise funds for Exmouth camp which will take place later on in the year. The proceeds of the raffle will enable students to do more activities at camp without incurring the additional cost. We hope that you will all be able to support us in this by purchasing tickets which will be on sale from Monday 20th February. Prizes include, a family day out to Weston Pier with unlimited rides, 1/2 price meal for 2 at Crispies, £20 Garden vouchers, Family of 4 day pass to Puxton Park, 2 free tickets to 'The Big Sheep', 2 Adult tickets to Noah's Ark and Chocolates. Prices of tickets will be 25p each or 5 for £1 and the Draw will take place on Friday 7th April. More information to follow.

We are also looking at transforming the garden area during lunchtimes and would welcome anyone who would like to join Mrs Morris and a group of -students who have already started making plans.



Debate Mate

Debate Mate launched this year at St Bernadette for years 7 - 10. It is a great opportunity to learn how to become more confident with speaking and to understand how to form coherent arguments. These skills are taught through different games which are a lot of fun and are also competitive. We've just elected a president, secretary, publicity officer, motion officer and training officer.

Our first regional competition was on Weds 1st February and was a great success. Our Students were extremely nervous but performed well under pressure. Our debaters learned a lot by watching and listening to the more experienced teams.

The competition is scored using points and we are awaiting our score to see how well we have done.

Our next competition is on 9th March and we would welcome any new members who would like to join!

Watch this space for an event in school coming soon.

Y10 CAFOD Young Volunteers



16 Year 10 pupils have come together to form the CAFOD Young Volunteers group. They have had 3 training sessions so far, one of which was with other schools from the Diocese, looking at the 'One Climate, One World' campaign from CAFOD which looks to highlight the impact of Climate Change, particularly in the poorest areas of the world. The group have been busy making plans for a campaign in school to highlight the Climate Change issue and are looking forward to meeting up with other schools in the Diocese in March to share ideas.



Year 11 Parents

Please ensure that you have purchased a scientific calculator for your son/daughter. This piece of equipment is essential for Maths and Science lessons and exams.

Thank you Maths/Science Department



Interested in trying a new sport? Do you play cricket and are interested in joining an all-girl cricket team?

Then the **BRISLINGTON VIPERS** are for you.

The Vipers run cricket teams from U9's to U16's and are currently recruiting girls for the 2017 season. We train indoors between January and April then outdoors at our ground in Ironmould Lane, Brislington once the season starts.

So if you are in Yr7- Yr11 why not Come along to our training sessions from 7 to 9pm every Thursday night for 10 weeks at Oasis Brislington (formerly BEC) sports hall starting 26th January 2017. Cost per session £2

For Yr3-Yr6 (softball) Training starts on Friday 27th January for 10 weeks at Oasis Brislington (formerly BEC) sports hall from 4.30-6pm Cost per session free

All experience level catered for from beginners through to accomplished cricketers who are looking for all girl cricket. All equipment provided. For more information call Steve Whitmore on 07973 854509 or check out our website on <http://www.brislingtoncc.com/teams/135786>



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Dear Parent/ Carer,

Governor Vacancy

Would you like to be more involved in your child's education?

If you would, why not consider becoming a school governor. There is currently a vacancy for a parent governor at St Bernadette Catholic Secondary School.

What do school governors do?

- Oversee the budget
- Help recruit staff
- Monitor the performance of the school, e.g. in examinations and key stage tests
- Advise on school policies and procedures
- Provide a vital means for parents and the community to get their views heard by the governing body as a whole

Are you interested?

If you are interested in becoming a parent governor but feel a little daunted by the responsibility you may be taking on, remember that full training will be available, and you will always act as part of a team.

What skills are required?

You will need an interest in the school and in the welfare of our children and the time and willingness to get involved. At the moment the governing body particularly needs governors who have expertise in legal matters. If you are someone with the required experience, would you consider applying?

Governors also need the ability to be able to build relationships with a range of people, to be able to work as part of a team, to be able to question, and to make connections between different types of information.

Your Commitment

If you become a governor you will be taking on the following commitments to help make sure the school is well managed:

- Share the responsibilities of the governing body as summarised above.
- Attend and participate in governors meetings on a regular basis – the governors generally meet six times a year
- Undergo appropriate training
- You may also be invited to sit on appointment panels or attend committee meetings etc.
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You will be required to sign the governing body's code of practice, and to apply for a DBS enhanced disclosure.

What do you need to do next?

Read the section on our website which explains the process for appointing governors and also has a nomination form.

The closing date for nominations is 12 noon on Friday 17th March 2017. If you would like to know more about the role of parent governor or the appointment process you are welcome to contact the Headteacher or a serving governor at school.