



Welcome to our final newsletter of the year. Once more the year seems to have flown by and here we are in July, saying goodbye to lots of different people and ready to welcome more.

Our first year as a mixed college for over 40 years has been a great success, we have a fabulous Year 7, who will soon be Year 8 and joined by our second mixed cohort. In September we will have over 40 more girls joining us in Year 7 as part of the largest year group the college has admitted for over 20 years at 150.

As part of this expansion there will be alterations to the buildings over the summer with new changing rooms for the girls, changes to classrooms and a final refurbishment of the main block. A new exit from the main block will be built during the summer break and we will recommence the year with the school bell only being used at the beginning of the sessions.

The college will say goodbye to a record number of staff this summer and I want to thank those leaving for their amazing contribution to the rebuilding of Saint George. Many of the staff I am about to mention have played a key role in the re-emergence of Saint George and are now moving for new opportunities and promotions that are well deserved.

We are saying goodbye to: Mrs Pemberton - English, Mrs Bartlett - MFL, Miss Dalzell - Geography, Miss Ennuyer - MFL, Mr Hammond - PE/Science, Mr Irvine - ICT, Miss McClarnon - RE, Mrs Owles - Geography, Mr Wilford - PE/Progress Leader, Mr Proctor - Science, Mrs Higgins - TA, Mrs Nobbs - TA and finally, Mr Doyle - Deputy Head and Mr Musk - Assistant Headteacher.

I would like to pay a special tribute to the final three names on this list, firstly, Mrs Nobbs who has worked in the learning support area of the college for 19 years. Working mainly with dyslexic students, helping them to overcome their learning difficulty and giving them the strategies and more importantly confidence to be successful students. Mrs Nobbs has been a model professional, much admired and respected by many generations of students and parents. Thank you on behalf of us all at the college for your enormous contribution.

Secondly to Mr Doyle, Deputy Headteacher, who has been at the heart of the college's recent improvements as a Teacher of Maths, Head of Maths, Assistant Headteacher and currently Deputy Headteacher. Mr Doyle's skills with data, systems, curriculum, and the ability to communicate these skills effectively to others has seen our colleges self-evaluation surge forward. Mr Doyle has been a key member of the college community throughout my time as Headteacher and I want to thank him for all his support of me as the Headteacher and his commitment to Catholic education. We all wish him well in his new role as Senior Deputy Headteacher at St Peters in Bournemouth.

And... finally, Mr Musk, Assistant Headteacher, 39/40 years teaching service to the college. He is a living legend, known by many generations of families who have attended the college, remembered by many for being strict but fair. Bryan is a rare breed in today's society, a person who dedicates their whole career to one organisation. He would argue that he has worked in a number of different schools, as St George has gone through phases and changes during this period. However, one of the things that students and parents really appreciate as these changes take place, is the consistency of the faces managing the school. Bryan Musk has been 'Mr. Consistency' for our community and we all owe him a huge thank you for this commitment. There is no doubt the college will not be the same without him but he is about to earn a well-deserved retirement and move into a slightly less hectic life style. Thank you for all you have contributed to St George Catholic College, we wish you a long and happy retirement.

DIARY DATES

September

Mon 1st Inset Day
 Tues 2nd Year 7 Induction
 Wed 3rd All students return
 Mon 8th Reading for Fun Day
 Wed 10th Year 7 Spirituality Induction
 Fri 12th Year 7 Welcome Mass
 Wed 17th Iceland Trip Info Evening
 Thurs 18th Year 11 Intervention Evening
 Fri 19th School Mass
 Tues 23rd Year 10 Information Evening

October

Thurs 2nd Open Evening
 Wed 8th & Sat 11th Open Mornings
 Wed 15th Year 7 Settling In Evening
 Sat 25th - Sun 2nd Half Term
 Sun 26th - Thurs 30th Iceland Trip

November

Thurs 13th Year 10 Parents Evening
 Tues 18th Ski Info Evening
 Thurs 27th Presentation Evening

December

Thurs 4th Christmas Concert
 Wed 10th Carol Concert
 Mon 15th Reward Trips
 Thurs 18th Mentoring Day
 Sat 20th - Jan 4th Christmas Holiday

Please see our website diary page for updates and more details

End of Term Prayer

*God of all times and seasons,
 As this school year ends,
 We turn to you with hearts full of
 grateful amazement
 At all you've helped us to learn and be.
 Every time one of us has extended a
 helping hand to another,
 Every time we forgave each other,
 Every time we put our trust in you,
 Your son, Jesus, was present among us.
 We have grown in our love for you and
 our desire to walk with you.
 Thank you, Lord.*

The three staff above have given over 69 years service to the college, a shining example to us all of commitment, passion for their work and dedication to young people.

The end of term definitely feels like the end of an era, however, the new year is only just around the corner and we begin a new chapter in September with a whole host of new opportunities and challenges to stimulate our further development as a college.

We welcome a large number of new staff:

Miss Ball
Miss Billington
Miss Chisholm
Mr Gillard
Miss Gobin
Miss Haydock
Mr Liston
Miss Lopez
Miss Martin
Mr Maynard
Mr Ndabala
Mr Ryan
Mr Shelley
Mr Southwell
Mr Tootill
Mr Rees-Long
Mr Moor

English
PE/Dance
Geography
PE/Business
Head of MFL
English
Assistant HOD Maths
MFL
Head of Year 8/ Maths
PE/Science
ICT
Head of Geography
PE/Science
RE
Science
TA
TA

We will have the largest team of staff and over 600 students on roll in September, the college is growing in every sense – exciting times for us all to look forward to!

However, first of all we need to have a well- deserved summer break recharging our batteries and storing renewed energy for these forthcoming challenges. I hope everyone has the opportunity to rest, recuperate and relax with their families over the next six weeks, enjoying the summer sun!

Graham Wilson,
Headteacher

Family Fun Day



A planetarium was the star attraction at our 'fun day' this year with an individualised show for the school based on the night sky around Southampton.

Visitors enjoyed numerous stalls and activities including a glass stall, karaoke, horse racing, cross bar challenge, a bottle stall, candy floss a fudge stall, and mini golf. **Abi Hinton** (Year 7) had a bracelet stall - all hand made. **7TE** ran a nail bar. **Erin Harris-Thorne** (Year 7) baked cakes and looked after 2 stalls to raise money for the school to adopt an animal at Marwell Zoo. Children particularly enjoyed the Police van where they were shown equipment and some even tried on uniforms.

Summer Arts Evening

In June, Years 7,8 and 9 all experienced 'Street Dance' workshops put on by a local street dance instructor. All of the pupils involved, had a fantastic time and were able to unleash their creativity in new ways. We hope that this is something that we will be able to develop as a faculty to enable an even wider range of creativity being explored by all pupils.

Our recent Summer Arts evening was a huge success starting out with an exhibition of artwork created by students in all year groups, and seeing lots of new and well established talent take the stage to show off the amazing musical and dramatic skills that we have here at St George.

A selection of students artwork can be viewed on our website 'gallery' section.



Year 7 News

Year 7 have had an action packed year, and it is worthwhile to note how well our first cohort of girls has settled in. The number of girls with us has increased over the year, with girls joining us from other secondary schools, and we are delighted with their confidence and enthusiasm, and how they have progressed throughout Year 7. In fact, the whole year group have made a fabulous start to their time at St George, and have gone from strength to strength, with a particular highlight being the Year 7 Showcase in May.

In September, we are welcoming our largest year group to the school, as there will be 150 students in Year 7, again with a mix of boys and girls. There is now a long waiting list for both Year 7 and 8, and this is a reflection of how well our students are doing.



GCSE Drama

Four groups performed the final part of their GCSE exam in front of an external examiner and an audience of staff in May. The 16 students performed *Of mice and Men*, *Bouncers*, *Two Sides of the Same Coin* (a play devised by the four performers) and the tragic tale, *Blood Brothers*. The boys performed excellently and hope to achieve good grades in August.

Encountering Christ.

In June, 45 Year 7 and 8 students from St Annes, St Mary's and St George met at Immaculate Conception Church in Portswood.

The aim of the event was to evangelise our students and help build the Catholic community in Southampton.

The day began with mass, followed by some group sessions social time and adoration of the blessed sacrament. Students really enjoyed the experience and we are planning the next steps in our evangelism project. A big thank you to Sr Maria Natella and Fr Tony Gatt for their involvement.





BBC Report

Ten Year 9 students took on the challenge of becoming roving reporters. **James Bennett, Theo Barnes, Joaquin Capinpuyan, Tom Lovett, Dominic Owen, Leo Stoy, Harrison Strange, Heshou Su, Ganymede Villaruel and Alex Wanstall** took part in BBC News School Report.

They sourced, wrote and filmed a range of top news stories, including the success of our school literacy drive and the amazing fundraising efforts of our students. Theo secured an interview with Caroline Nokes, MP for Romsey and Southampton North, who came into school to answer his questions about funding for sports for young people.

Watch out for more School Report activity next year!

Talent Show

Judges voted **Lee Collinson, Joseph Goodridge and Donel Mangena** winners of this year's 'St George's Got Talent' competition. The trio of singers were excellent, as were girl band 3rd Time lucky, who gained second place **Darcy Hollinsworth** won the audience over with her blend of magic and humour and **India Miles'** monologue was superb.

The standard of every act was very high and all the dancers and singers who took part created a varied and entertaining evening. The event raised £335 for Pancreatic Cancer.

The talents of our Year 7 students were also on display on our Showcase Evening, which provided a superb evening of art, dance, music and athletics.



Easter Story

In April, Years 7 and 8 were treated to the Creative Arts Department's very first Passion Play. **Joseph Cousins** (8 Kolbe) led the production in a very sensitive portrayal of Jesus in the last few days of his life, leading up to his crucifixion and death.

A combination of songs, drama and narration, the play was a powerful message to lead into Holy Week and school-wide reflection on the importance of Easter.

Boys Singing Workshops

Thanks to a fully funded city initiative, 32 boys in Years 7 – 10 have enjoyed a series of vocal workshops over the past year.

The workshops, led by Jamie Ledwith, of Southampton Music Services, aimed to encourage boys to sing and our students have worked hard and really enjoyed the sessions.

RE Students Compete

Michael Thompson, Eoin Shaw, Jack Ryan, Joseph Cousins, Leo Stoy, Brendan O'Keefe and Luyanda Dlamini, have entered the *Catholic Guild's Young Writer of the Year Award*. The topic this year was *Why do Christians worship God on Sunday?* Prize winners will be announced in the Autumn term.

In addition students from all year groups have entered a prayer competition run by the Knights of St Columba, again local and national winners to be announced next term.

Year 10 have enjoyed a presentation about Marriage and Relationships by Explore and were able to question married couples about what makes a successful and long lasting relationship.

Science Links Up

Next year we will be starting Astronomy GCSE and will be the only school in Southampton offering this option

Science and Geography are currently working together on a cross-curricular project on climate change and sustainability (Year 8). We have also linked up with Art for a competition called BioArt. Students used their Biology knowledge to produce some fantastic artwork.

Science teacher, Mr Douglas has created some excellent GCSE Science revision clips that have been very popular with students this term. Search for *Mr Douglas Flipped Revision* on YouTube to view them.



Active Shakespeare

Our students have been learning techniques used by the Royal Shakespeare Company to bring the Bard to life.

The English department has been working with Southampton's Nuffield Theatre and other local schools led by Bitterne Park as part of the RSC's Learning and Performance Network.

Year 7 students learning about Macbeth and Year 10 students studying Henry IV Part 1 had the opportunity to take part in lively, interactive workshops led by Robin Belfield, LPN project director at the Nuffield Theatre.

They practised drama techniques used by the RSC's actors to present Shakespeare's texts to an audience.

Technology

Technology students have been working hard on their practical projects, Year 7 have been working on the 'Festival of Light' and Year 8 have designed and made clocks. **Chloe Yandell** was the first Year 7 student to complete her project, with a successful outcome not only with her design, but also the LED lights worked first time.

Mohit Kishor in Year 8 designed and made a beautiful bird/clock. Both of these students will receive an award for their hard work this term.





All Weather Pitch Opening

Our superb new 3G all-weather pitch was officially opened with a *World Cup Day*, comprising competitions from across the years groups. For the grand finale, Gordon Watson (ex Saints & England U21) cut the ribbon, followed by an exciting match where teachers played against a team made up of parents, ex pupils and ex Saints players.



Inter Tutor Rugby

Our annual inter-tutor rugby tournament showcased the ability of our KS3 students. Congratulations to winners, Year 9 - Colby, Year 8- Romero and Year 7 Romero. The games took place on our new, extended sports fields.

Sports Awards 2014

This summer saw over 300 people attend our 7th annual Sports Awards. We were privileged to have Saints goalkeeper Kelvin Davis present a host of awards for individuals, teams and overall excellence. In addition to this the main awards were collected by:

Year 7 Boys: Dynel Simeu
 Year 7 Girls: Caitlin Walford
 Year 8: Lee Collinson
 Year 9: Jon Keogh
 Year 10: Dost Khaksar
 Year 11: Callum Kwong
 Overall Sports Personality:
 Luke Bennett



Sports Day

Sports day this year was a great success. Participation was the highest ever for our school sports day. The afternoon was filled with pupils pushing themselves to their physical limits and many records were broken. **Dynel Simeu** broke the Year 7 shot put record and all the Year 7 girls winners took new school records! Tug of War was a new addition to the timetable and stole the show with students heaving as hard as they could! Well done to all involved!



Skiing 2014

Nineteen students took the opportunity to learn to ski in the resort of Risoul in the French Alps this term. They enjoyed six days of skiing, 7 nights of fun packed evening entertainment and a massive slalom ski competition at the end of the week. We already have 15 pupils signed up for this very popular trip next year.

From our Chaplain...

We started our summer term with our St George's Day Mass presided over by Fr John Cooke. This year was made particularly special as one of our Year 10 students, **Brendan**, received his First Communion. Congratulations to him and our prayers for him as he continues his journey in faith. In June, Year 7 and 8s attended the Good Shepherd Mass at St John's Cathedral and presented a cheque for over £700 to the Archbishop of Bamenda for the "Books for Bamenda" appeal from our Lent fundraising.

This summer we will be saying Goodbye to Canon Michael Dennehy as he leaves the parish of St Swithun Wells to take up new ministry in Reading. Fr Michael is a good and supportive friend of the college and we will miss his quiet, prayerful and humorous contributions to our spiritual life.

World Cup Debate

Volunteers from Southampton University's Catholic Society led a Year 7 debate on the positive and negative aspects of the World Cup in June

Students discussed the implications of the £8 billion spent in Brazil where 40 million people live in poverty and families have been evicted from their homes to make way for roads for the World Cup.. After watching television coverage about the CAFOD projects in Sao Paulo to improve housing, schools and hospitals, Year 7 viewed an online petition to the President of Brazil.



Year 6 Knockout

More than three hundred pupils from our Catholic feeder schools enjoyed a day of fun at our annual, "It's a Knockout" in July.

After a welcome mass in the morning, the sun shone for them as they divided into teams to enjoy competing on the crazy inflatable games, set up on our sports fields.



Watersports 2015

A fantastic opportunity exists for 20 pupils to take a trip of a lifetime next summer. The watersports trip takes place in La Fosca, just north of Barcelona; with the added incentive of a water-park visit during their week-long trip. Letters are out and replies are due in by the end of the summer term, please see Mr Richardson for more information.

