

Welcome to the July Newsletter and the last one of this academic year. This year has arguably been the best one in the History of the College. At the beginning of the year St Damian's was the highest achieving school in Tameside in terms of 5 A\*- C grades and only last week we were awarded the *MEN Schools Award for The Manchester College 'Secondary School of the Year'*. This follows on from our judgement of Outstanding following our Section 48 Inspection earlier this year.

**Celebration Evening 2016:** This is one of our best nights of the year and is a formal occasion when we celebrate the hard work, talents and achievements of our pupils. It is an evening where we both reward and inspire our great pupils to continue to excel in all their pursuits and is a memorable evening for the pupils and their parents. It makes me extremely proud and gives me great pleasure to mark the achievements of our students in effort, achievement, attendance and contributions to the liturgical, sporting and creative aspects of College life. This year we were lucky enough to not only have fantastic performances from Choir and Drama, but we were also treated to performance poetry by Thiana Messaoud and Hannah Hodson.

### Share Day



What a fabulous start we have had to the Share Day Fundraising. Pupils, parents and staff are very busy baking and selling cakes, rehearsing for "Teachers Got Talent", Sponge the Teacher and many, many more events. The Charities we are supporting this year are The Believe and Achieve Trust, Youth in Mind and Harry's Holiday Hangout. Last year we raised a tremendous £5,500 – we are all trying our very best to equal or beat this amount! We will let you know in September how we get on. We are hoping the weather is kind to us on Share Day itself, where our pupils will walk (or run) up to Harthead Pike in Fancy Dress costumes. There will be lots going on too – Photo Booth, Total Wipeout, Face Painting, Hot Dogs, Ice-cream van, Disco and lots more. This is a special day that is unique to the proud traditions of St Damian's.

### Mr McHugh getting a soaking in Sponge the Teacher ☺

**Contact Details:** Please make sure that school has your correct and up to date contact details i.e. mobile number, home and work's number, it is important that the school can contact you.

**School Meals:** Please be aware that the price of a School Meal will be increased to £2.13 (meal of the day) per pupil, from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2016 .

**Lockers:** Could all pupils please ensure they empty their lockers before we finish for the summer break, all lockers will be emptied over the summer holiday and anything left will be disposed of.

### Leaver's 2016 – Certificate Evening

GCSE Certificate Presentation Evening for our Leaver's 2016 will be held on Wednesday 2 November 2016 at 6.30pm in the School Hall.



**Class of 2016 Prom.** After working extremely hard for their GCSE exams, our Class of 2016 were able to celebrate together at their School Prom. Pupils arrived at school looking stunning. The weather was kind and they were able to take photographs as parents waved their excited sons/daughters off. Vintage Buses took the pupils from school to the White Hart, and the luxurious Oak Room. Pupils and staff enjoyed a delicious two course meal, before speeches, fun awards and games commenced. We will miss ALL the Year 11 pupils. Good luck in your forthcoming exams.



### Aspire Day



On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> July our pupils took part in our third Aspire Day of the year. Workshops included topics such as the Environment, Careers, Finance and STEM. Some of our Year 9 pupils worked with the Lion Heart team to plan out community cohesion work. Pupils were also lucky enough to meet Chief Constable Ian Hopkins where they presented their community action plan which they will be



delivering in the next academic year. The Chief Constable was extremely impressed with the *“wonderful engagement and dedication”* of our pupils. Many thanks to all our guests for making it a valuable day for our pupils.

**Language Ambassadors** The Year 10 Language Ambassadors have been completing a Language Leaders Award, ran by SportsLeadersUK which involves them planning and delivering a language lesson to younger pupils. After a few days of independent preparation, with just a little help from myself, the French Ambassadors did this at St. Christopher’s Primary School and it went down brilliantly! The Year 6 pupils were engaged, interested and well behaved throughout the lesson and the Year 10 leaders were confident, helpful and inspiring. Each pupil lead a different activity and all of these were well planned and perfectly explained. Well done!



The Spanish Language Ambassadors are also completing the Language Leaders course and have taught two outstanding lessons to Year 7 groups in order to prepare them for their Spanish lessons that start in Year 8. Each Language Ambassador has passed the SportsLeadersUK course with flying colours; well done!

### Science Club Reward Trip



14 Science Club members went on the reward trip to ‘Science Stars’ at the University of Manchester. Year 7 & 8 pupils enjoyed an interactive lecture about sport physiology where they were keen to contribute some excellent answers to the lecturer’s questions. Following this they attended a session using evidence to identify insect bites and stings and recommending treatments. This was followed by an Astrobiology session, where they used complex scientific techniques such as detecting amino acids using biochemical processes, proteins using UV-cis spectrometry and chemicals using spectra from radiotelescopes. Students enjoyed investigating what can live in the human gut, including some disgusting parasite dipping. They diagnosed diabetes by measuring blood sugar levels. Finally, they studied the different parts of the brain and built their own model brain with play-doh.



Nathan McGuinness was particularly proud of his model brain. Student comments on questionnaires include:

'I have learned how to identify a diabetes patient and identify parts of the brain. My highlight today was astrobiology as it was very fun and interesting' (*Jeswin Joshy*)

'I have learned about diabetes, what the different types are and how they affect people' (*Xavier Bukowski*)

About studying science at University 'It is a lot more relaxed than I thought it would be and involves a much wider range of topics than I originally thought' (*Cade Paget*)



**Humanitarianism Conference.** Miss Tomkow and 12 Year 10 pupils attended the first ever Young People in Humanitarianism Conference at Manchester Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute in June. They completed a full day of activities on working in countries touched by a Humanitarian crisis such as Ebola, the refugee crisis, the Cumbrian floods and the Nepal Earthquake. Groups were given talks from Professors and got involved in building bridges, designing awareness campaigns, planning fundraisers, sending food parcels and constructing a refugee camp. They were by far the most involved, confident and enthusiastic pupils there. All the University students and staff from other schools complimented their willingness to get involved, discuss issues and ask intelligent questions. Cleayen Suarez and Thomas Healy even presented their work to a group of 200 pupils and staff at the end - Well Done!

**Liturgy Group.** During June Mr O'Loughlin and the Liturgy Group travelled to St. Gabriel's High School in Bury to meet other GIFT (Growing in faith together) teams. They discussed the work that they had been involved in and the impact that they had made both at St. Damian's and in the wider community. They were vocal in their beliefs in equality and justice and gave other groups ideas which they could use for the future. Fr. Simon joined us in our work and a Mass was held in the afternoon to bring the curtain down on a hugely enjoyable day. This coincided with their drive for share day and their money making enterprises!

**Pupil Learning Forum** continues to take a fantastic role in supporting pupils at Form time intervention and Weekly Homework clubs, to promote higher levels of Literacy and Numeracy. In addition, they have distributed 51 Presentation prizes and certificates this term to pupils identified for 'High Quality Presentation'. A select group of pupils were interviewed during the 'Inclusion Mark' visit to talk about their work in school to support learning; the inspector was highly impressed. Mrs Lowe, quite rightly, is exceptionally proud of them.

### **MAC Awards**



Mr Trimble has been giving out MAC Awards in assembly for those pupils demonstrating outstanding MAC skills in lessons outside Maths. Over 80 pupils have been presented with Blue MAC badges and several have been presented with the prestigious Gold MAC Badge. Remember, 3 Gold MAC badges qualifies a pupil for a £50 voucher of their choice. The competition will continue to run next year.

The photograph shows Ms Sutton presenting a Gold MAC Award, on behalf of the Numeracy Co-ordinator, to Ms Tomkow, who achieved one of the highest nominations by pupils. She was successful at using arithmetic in French and Spanish and demonstrating scale, bearing and

co-ordinates in maps of different countries. She has continued this work in her outreach project with our feeder schools. Several other teachers have been nominated for a MAC Badge. First prize for teachers, a meal with and paid for by Mr Trimble. Second prize, two meals with him!!! Well done to MAC Ambassadors, yr10 PLF and teachers for supporting Maths Across the Curriculum.

**Carnegie Group** Since March, a group of pupils from year 8 have been shadowing the Carnegie Prize for Children's Literature. Each of the pupils had access to the short listed books and as a group they had to decide which book they thought would win each of the competitions. We are very pleased to say that they correctly selected both. Well done!



**Year 8 Masked Ball.** Year 8 pupils have been given the opportunity to perform a masked ball during English lessons this half term while studying Shakespeare's *Much Ado about Nothing*. They have had great fun and will hopefully remember at least a few key lines in the future.

**Spine Chillers.** We are lucky enough to have 51 pupils who have been selected and published in the Manchester Spine Chillers Collection. As part of the Gothic Literature Unit that finished in December, pupils were asked to try and condense their stories down to only 100 words! Well done to our published few.

**Greater Manchester School Games.** Well done to all the Year 7 athletic competitors who took part in the Greater Manchester School Games last week at Sports City. All pupils were a credit to the school in the Quadkids competition. There were some outstanding displays of athletic ability too. The Year 7 boys team won Gold by 0.01 seconds in the 5 x 80m relay and Rick Caro finished 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the whole of Greater Manchester. A fantastic achievement by you all.

### Term Dates 2016/2017

AUTUMN TERM	First Day	Last Day	
INSET DAY	*Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2016		School closed
Autumn 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2016	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Pupils in school
Half term holidays	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> October 2016	School closed
INSET DAY	*Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November 2016		School closed
Autumn 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2016	Pupils in school

SPRING TERM	First Day	Last Day	
Spring 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Pupils in school
Half term holidays	Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	School closed
INSET DAY	*Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> March 2017		School closed
Spring 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2017	Pupils in school
Easter Holidays	Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2017	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2017*	School closed

\*Easter Sunday is 16<sup>th</sup> April 2017, pupils will return on the Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017 due to Easter Monday

SUMMER TERM	First Day	Last Day	
Summer 1 <sup>st</sup> Term	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> April 2017	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Pupils in school
MAY BANK HOLIDAY	*Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> May 2017		School closed
Half term holidays	Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2017	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	School closed
Summer 2 <sup>nd</sup> Term	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2017**	Pupils in school

\*\* It is anticipated that Autumn term 2017/18 will commence Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017



**Early Finish** - School will finish at 1:30pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016. School buses have been arranged, the only school bus unable to accommodate the change of time is the First Manchester 770 Oldham bus.

Finally, on behalf of Mrs E Jones [Chair of Governors], all the governors and the brilliant staff at St Damian's, we all wish you a happy summer and like before, I hope that the weather improves ! Mr Logue