



In all things faithful

February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that everyone enjoyed the half term break ...

A warm welcome to the monthly newsletter on 'all things St Damian's'. Before I share 'all things' St Damian's, I am going to remind parents of some of the values at St Damian's.

### The Values of the St Damian's Community



St Damian's RC Science College

**We are here to help you**

**Our staff have the right to be treated with dignity and respect at all times, without the risk of threatening behaviour or violence.**

**This behaviour will not be tolerated towards our staff, and may result in you being asked to leave.**

Our values have been fundamental to the many successes that we have achieved as a strong and united community. Our successes are tangible and have included, but not limited to, four back-to-back outstanding external inspections, a plethora of awards across many major aspects of an effective school and sustained outstanding GCSE outcomes, which prepare our great students for post-16. These values include the following: high expectations, the pursuit of excellence for all, quality teaching of a robust academic curriculum, all of which is underpinned by a community where **respect is key**.

However, as I said in my last newsletter, the actions of a small number of parents do not align with these values. Shouting at receptionists [indeed, any member of staff], sending inappropriate emails, deliberately undermining our

transparent rules or perpetuating fake news on Social Media is not conducive to St Damian's being a strong Catholic community.

As a school we are not perfect. Where is? We have a multitude of children with complex issues, but in a world where respect is constantly being challenged, I will be resolute in ensuring that these values are promoted and maintained. Although we all benefit from these values, it is **your children, our children**, who benefit the most. Again, it is another opportunity to say a simple, but genuine, thanks to the 99.5% of parents who support what the school has done, and is doing, to ensure your child gets an outstanding education and who raise issues in a polite and respectful manner.

For clarity, as Headteacher a safe, welcoming environment underpinned by our core values, such as respect, is my top priority. On this note, the reception staff work hard to assist you to either resolve your query or direct you onto someone who can help. I kindly ask that you treat them with courtesy and respect at all times. Rudeness, aggression, or inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated, and you will be asked to leave the school premises. As the theme for the 'Year of the Jubilee' is HOPE, we pray that St Damian's will continue to be a beacon of great hope for our community, students, staff, parents and governors. Please support us in creating a welcoming, professional and caring environment for everyone.

### Catholic Life of the School

A lot of the following shows the continuous professional development embraced by the RE staff to ensure the highest quality teaching of a robust academic curriculum. I am proud to state that St Damian's RE results are consistently some of the best in the Diocese of Salford.

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St. Damian's RC Science College

- *Salford Diocesan Training.* Mrs Allmand recently attended the Chaplains Spring Conference, focusing on the implementation of the Prayer & Liturgy Directory 'To know you more clearly' organised by the Salford Diocese. The day included updates on the arrangements for schools in the Year of Jubilee. There was a focus on liturgical worship and diocesan guidance for implementation of the Prayer and Liturgy Directory. Mrs Allmand was inspired by the liturgical training given by Fr Manock about prayer and liturgy at St Damian's being a personal encounter with Jesus. Mrs Allmand and the RE team have started planning for the arrival of the travelling anchor that will arrive at St Damian's on the 6<sup>th</sup> May as part of the Salford Diocese Jubilee year celebrations.
- *Heads of RE Day, Salford Diocese.* Mrs Gerschler attended the Heads of RE conference focusing on the evolving landscape of RE in Catholic schools. The event provided valuable insights into forthcoming changes, particularly the new diocesan curriculum compliance from September 2025. There was an opportunity to review our KS3 curriculum considering, ensuring we continue to meet diocesan and national expectations. Another key focus was KS4 RE, covering expectations for GCSE entries across diocesan schools, provisions for SEND students, and latest national updates on the GCSE RE review. The session also explored assessment at KS3, including insights from the national working party, diocesan guidance, and examples of best practices. As a school, we continuously evaluate our curriculum and assessment KS3 to ensure we are effectively measuring student progress.
- *CPD for RE Staff.* Starting in the Spring term, a new diocesan CPD programme for RE will be running from March 2025 to July 2026. It features sessions with Dawn Cox, Lat Blaylock, and Nancy Walbank, who are all well-known for their expertise in RE teaching. This training will help us make sure the RE lessons are academically strong but ensure that our Catholic ethos is at the heart of what we do. RE staff will get access to these resources so we can continue delivering the best possible lessons.



- *St Damian's Day.* This was a huge success, bringing our community together in faith, learning, and charity. The celebrations began with inspiring assemblies led by the Heads of Year, created by the RE team, encouraging students to reflect on how we can all strive to be saints in our daily lives, inspired by



the Jubilee Year. Throughout the day, students engaged in lessons linked to the departmental saints 'Saints for Subjects', making meaningful connections between faith and the subjects they have in school. A voluntary Mass at St. Christopher's Church



provided a special opportunity for students to gather in prayer, and we were delighted to see such a strong turnout. Lunchtime was extended to allow everyone to enjoy a Valentine's-themed menu and take part in our Caritas Ambassadors' charity event, which truly captured the spirit of 'Love of Others'. The St. Valentine's Sale was a fantastic success, with students enjoying the photo booth, pink candyfloss, and a variety of Valentine-themed treats. All proceeds will go towards supporting the Year 11 Prom, helping to make it an unforgettable experience for our students.





**Reward Trip.** Our brilliant Caritas Ambassadors recently enjoyed a fantastic reward trip to



Hollywood Bowl and Frankie & Benny's at Ashton Moss after winning the *Caritas Community Engagement Award*! This prestigious recognition celebrates their outstanding dedication to serving others and making a positive impact within our school and wider community. The day was filled with fun as students enjoyed a friendly bowling competition before tucking into a delicious meal. It



was a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work and commitment to living out the St Damian's Way.

- **Peer Learning Walks.** Recently, peer learning walks took place in the RE department, focusing on the Yr11 curriculum and our 'Going for the Grade 4 or Above' initiative. This initiative aims to streamline the curriculum, present content in a more accessible and structured way, and ensure that all students have the aspiration and support to achieve at least a Grade 4. The learning walk examined how teachers are delivering key content, the effectiveness of retrieval practice and student engagement. As part of this process, Yr11 students have completed an assessment to measure the impact of the curriculum refinements. The results will be moderated and evaluated at the next departmental meeting to ensure that we continue refining our approach and working hard to help every student reach their full potential.
- **Yr11 Intervention: Monday afterschool Y band, Thursday Morning X band.** RE intervention classes have been going from strength to strength, with students showing a fantastic attitude to learning. Their efforts have been commendable as they continue to work towards achieving their full potential. Recently, students tackled topics that will be in their Judaism paper, allowing them to put their knowledge to the test and refine exam techniques. This was a great opportunity to build confidence, identify areas for improvement, and develop the skills needed for success in their final exams. With this momentum, we encourage all students to keep up the hard work, stay engaged, and make the most of the support available to them. Well done to everyone involved—let's keep pushing forward!

**Safeguarding: Follow up on Substance Misuse**

Mrs Brophy has delivered assemblies to raise awareness of substance misuse in a society where there appears to be an increased acceptance of drugs. Mrs Brophy signposted children to 'Talk to Frank'. This is a website that provides information on substance misuse but also what to do if you feel pressurised by peers to experiment with substances. I urge parents to talk openly with their children and check their social media for indicators that they may be exposed to drugs. A key aspect to the assemblies was the correlation between **substance misuse and mental health**. Take this opportunity to learn about substance misuse by visiting <https://www.talktofrank.com/>. You never know when you might need honest and factful information.



**Safeguarding: UNITE**

At St Damian's we have a unique lockdown procedure called UNITE. This is used in case of an emergency in school. Safeguarding is our number one priority and in the event of a severe situation the school will 'unite' to allow everybody to be accounted for. In practice this means students will remain in classrooms and under the supervision of their teacher. Individual classes will work together to make appropriate arrangements to make the classroom as safe as possible. We

practice UNITE once a term and Mrs Brophy, our Designated Safeguarding Lead [DSL], regularly presents on UNITE in assemblies as part of her safeguarding remit. More details, including frequently asked questions are on the web site. Click [here](#) for this information.

### Safeguarding: Annual Fire Risk Assessment

We have recently had a successful annual fire risk assessment undertaken by an outside professional. This assessment ensures that our fire safety measures, equipment, and emergency procedures are up to required standards, and ultimately that our students, staff, and visitors are safe. The safety of our school community remains our top priority, and we appreciate everyone's cooperation in maintaining a safe and caring environment.

### Teaching & Learning Updates



It has been a real exciting half term for Teaching & Learning at St Damian's. We are very proud to announce St Damian's Teaching & Learning vision, which is underpinned by our READ strategy in school. 'Empowering' teachers is necessary to inspire our students to reach their full potential through autonomous CPD and for students to be empowered to become lifelong learners. To enable this, we *talk* about teaching, *observe* teaching, *plan collaboratively* and effectively teach *each other*. We have used CPD sessions so far to share and discuss current pedagogical theories and ideas such as PISA International Research, Adam Grant's book '*Hidden Potential*' and Alex Quigley's '*How Learning*

*Fails and what to do about it*'. Staff have discussed these theories with key takeaway messages and these ideas are being implemented in the classroom. Staff have the opportunity to collaboratively look at and discuss students' work across different curriculum subjects in Work Scrutiny Triads. Staff embraced this and feedback has shown an impact such as teachers using strategies to prioritise students as independent learners, using the visualiser to enhance teaching and learning or using tasks to increase challenge. Staff are well underway with their chosen departmental research as part of our Research Model and we are proud to say there is a plethora of pedagogical research and subject knowledge enhancement on-going! I can proudly say that the quality of teaching is superb at this school.

### National Apprenticeship Week

Years 8, 9 and 10s had the fantastic opportunity to listen to a local apprenticeship provider and a worldwide business called STEPAN for National Apprenticeship week. With an office in Stalybridge and employer of over 200 local people, we were lucky enough to have Viv Dennis come in and speak to our students, explaining the range of apprenticeships available and 'success stories' of young people employed by STEPAN from all over Tameside, including ex-students of St Damian's. Educating our students

and raising the profile of apprenticeships is important as it may be the perfect option for some of our students. Our students asked relevant questions, which meant they could maximise the most of their experience with Viv stating she was delighted with the engagement she received from all year groups. Thanks to Mr Healey for organising.



### Yr11 Update

✓ **Mock exams.** These took place on the final day of last half term. These were another opportunity for the students to show that they are making great progress. If your child is not making progress, it is highly likely that they are not working hard enough. As a rule of thumb, your child should be doing 2-3 hours of effective revision per night. **Disappointingly, a**



**significant number of children were absent and lost out on key preparations for their exams.** If this happened in the real GCSE exams, they would get zero for the exams that they missed.

- ✓ *Half term revision.* The feedback from teachers was that this was positive. This bodes well for their future results. To the right is a picture of Mrs Baynham's chemistry class. She said, "great turnout, engaged in learning and made great progress".



- ✓ *Attendance.* The single biggest barrier to your child achieving their potential is poor or sporadic attendance. I know, and understand, that a small number of students have serious issues that affect their attendance, but a significant number of students have sporadic attendance. This will have a detrimental impact on their GCSE grades.

- ✓ *Prom & raffle for a free ticket?* A big well done to Ruby Morrell whose name was pulled out of the hat. She wins a free ticket to the Prom for the following nomination from Miss Hughes, her English teacher. "Please can I nominate Ruby Morrell. Ruby goes above and beyond on every piece of homework I set her. If the task is to complete an essay paragraph, she will frequently write the whole essay. She has made great progress in her assessments this year. In her November mocks, she was head and shoulders above the rest of the class, and this can only be due to a large amount of revision being completed in her own time. She puts 110% into every lesson and is on track to surpass her target grade". I enjoyed reading this lovely uplifting comment!

- ✓ *Prom.* Sadly, several children have had their invitation to the Prom withdrawn. A small number of other children that have poor or sporadic attendance will also be at risk of having their invitation withdrawn. The Prom is through invitation only and is **not an entitlement**. Both students and parents have been repeatedly informed about this since September.

Finally, all the staff are working really hard and going the 'extra-mile' for your child. I ask that parents support us by ensuring they attend, and they are revising at home for 2-3 hours each night. It's obvious that students who are working hard are making the most progress. Working together will result in the greatest success for your child and their future.

### Yr10 Parents' Evening

There was a great turnout on the night, creating a real buzz in the hall. Every parent I spoke to was positive about the school and their teachers. This was great to listen to. The returns from the questionnaires were, again, overwhelmingly positive. Out of 116 returns, 114 parents said they would recommend the school, and 2 parents would not recommend the school. Sadly, no names were left so I couldn't follow-up with the parent to ascertain what their concerns are, or support a move to another school in such an important year where they may be happier. All comments will be on the website but here is a flavour of some of the comments. You may recognise what you have written. Thanks for this support. It is not taken for granted by my great staff or me.

"I believe the educational support is a great standard...I believe we have definitely chosen the right school. Thank you"

"Thanks for everything that you do"

"Thank you for providing such a wonderful education for my daughter. I feel very lucky to say both my son and daughter attend St Damian's"

"Great staff. Excellent environment"

"The staff at the school push hard to make pupils reach their potential and take great pride in doing so"

"Superb year after year. Thank you to all the staff"

"We feel our child is supported in every lesson. We would highly recommend St Damian's to anyone. St Damian's wants the best for our son, we are so happy and proud our son attends this school"

### At St Damian's we made Valentine's Day special...



✓ *Valentine's Teddy Bear Raffle.* The Valentine's Teddy Bear raffle added an extra layer of fun to our celebrations! Students eagerly participated for the chance to win a cuddly companion, with excitement building as the raffle drew to a close. Congratulations to the lucky winner, Harper Thompstone Yr7, who took home a special teddy bear to hug this Valentine's Day! The raffle was a great addition to our fundraising efforts, helping to support St Damian's Day and bringing even more joy to the school community.

✓ *Valentine's Day Lollipop Sale:* Our St Valentine's Day lollipop sale was a huge success, with excited faces as students received their sweet treats! The sale gave everyone the chance to send a little love to their friends and classmates. Lollipops were delivered on Valentine's Day, spreading joy and a sense of community. The funds raised from this event will go towards our St Damian's Day fundraising, helping to support this important cause and adding a touch of sweetness to the day!



I am delighted to say that on the day we raised an incredible **£962.39**. This is testament to the generosity of this community. Some of these funds will be used to support lowering the cost for all students at the upcoming Yr11 Prom. We know that the cost of living is tough on many in our community, and we hope this will alleviate some of the cost pressures of this magical night.

### The iDEA relaunch

Last year Mr Tabas, introduced the Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award [iDEA]. Students were given time in school to login to the online platform and complete badges towards a bronze award. It was great to see that a number of students embraced this and through self-study, were awarded the bronze certificate. A further 4 students went on to complete the more difficult silver certificate. The Computer Science department is going to relaunch the iDEA award in lessons. This can then be completed in the computer room at lunch time to support students to achieve their badges. This is an excellent extra-curricular activity that I hope students get involved in. iDEA is free to complete and there is not an age restriction. If you are interested in improving your computer-based knowledge, please speak to Mr Tabas or visit the link <https://idea.org.uk/>

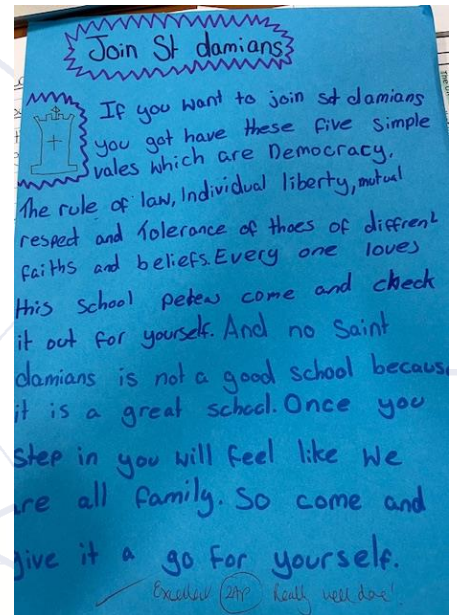




## Our PSHE Curriculum

Our PSHE curriculum educates our students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. At all times, our Catholic faith and ethos underpin the lessons, and in turn, pupils grow into well-rounded young adults. Last half term each year were educated in age-appropriate topics/content. Below are the topics/content covered for your perusal.

- ✓ *Yr7: Rules and the law.* This includes British Values and criminal responsibility. Students studied how laws are made, the criminal justice system and the age of criminal responsibility in the UK, with reference to the Jamie Bulger case of 1993.
- ✓ *Yr8: Local and National Government.* Students engaged in a mock trial studying the different roles in a Crown Court, the work of a local councillor and how the local council manages a budget.
- ✓ *Yr9: Finance and International Citizenship.* Areas covered were the difference between debit and credit, how to avoid getting into debt, discussion of real-life budgeting case studies and the importance of having commitments.
- ✓ *Yr10: Mental health, good study routines and resilience.* Students examined strategies to maintain positive mental wellbeing and the importance of sleep and exercise in keeping ourselves mentally well. Revision timetables have been created where students have had to assess how to manage their learning time with other personal commitments and hobbies.
- ✓ *Yr11: Drugs, alcohol, and careers education.* Students investigated the short and long-term effects that alcohol and drugs can have on their bodies. In addition, the law was discussed, and students were signposted to further support.



## The Diana Award – Wellbeing Badge

I am pleased to announce our student Bully Busters have been working on positive initiatives in school to promote wellbeing and have been awarded the *Diana Award for Wellbeing*. They are now working towards their Community Action badge and have some exciting plans such as a Q&A called 'Learn' with the Lords in Parliament and they are going to the local primary school to deliver an anti-bullying workshop to Yr4 in the next half term. At St Damian's, we promote unity and a strong, united community where there is a zero-tolerance towards bullying.

## Staff Profile

In this month's newsletter I have asked 2 members of staff from the Maths department. Our superb Maths department's GCSE outcomes are consistently excellent.

- ✓ *Mr Wilson, Maths Teacher.* I started St Damian's in 2019 as a teacher of Mathematics having previously worked in several secondary schools in the Tameside area. Prior to my teaching career I have worked in industry as a Technical Manager giving me opportunities to link Mathematics to real life. I was extremely lucky to secure a teaching job at such a great school as St Damians in such a supportive department. With a Master's degree in Mathematics from The Open University I love teaching Mathematics and also learning new concepts. Since working here, I have had the opportunity to teach a variety of wonderful students. It really is a pleasure to work here, and I know how lucky I am!

- ✓ *Ms Mayoh.* I became part of the St Damian's community when I was 11 years old and had just moved to the area. After leaving school, I joined the army and moved around the UK. When I left, I had a variety of jobs before starting to work in education when my children were born. I returned to St Damians as the Ambrose Manager in 2019, a job which I loved due to the variety of tasks on any day, and the opportunity to support our students. Returning, I was not surprised to see so many familiar staff faces. After a few years working in Ambrose, and fully supported by some amazing colleagues, I made the choice to continue my university studies and retrain as a maths Teacher. My new role has allowed me to push myself and learn different ways to support our students in their learning as well as pastorally as a form teacher. I was asked recently by a student if I would ever leave, and the answer was a firm 'NEVER'.

### Easter Trip to London Update

On behalf of Mrs Hayworth, who has organised a jam-packed trip to London, a big thank you to the parents who attended the recent meeting for London 2025. It is fast approaching, and Mrs Hayworth said it was great to meet you all. If anyone has any further questions, please contact school and we will be happy to answer them. I am getting very excited and can't wait to see the sensational production of the Lion King on stage.



### Raising Aspirations... Yr10 visit Oxford University



Fifteen Yr10 students visited one of the most prestigious universities in the world, Oxford University on Tuesday 4th February. This great opportunity allowed the students to explore the campus of Corpus Christi Oxford, discover the diverse range of subjects offered, and get firsthand experience of university life. Meeting university students and academics provided valuable insight into the application process, student support systems and the high academic standards that Oxford has. The purpose of the trip was to inspire our students to aim higher in their studies and think critically about

their future educational and career goals and to foster a sense of belief, where if students **work hard, they can achieve anything**. Shaun Shibu, a Yr10 student, said *"My favourite part about the day was meeting student ambassadors talking about their experience at university, I found it very beneficial. It surprised me how normal Oxford was a university, I left thinking it was more achievable than previously thought"*. Mr Healey, our careers lead, said that "our students came away from Corpus Christi Oxford knowing that with hard-work, dedication and high aspirations, being a student at Oxford is within their grasp".

As we have come to expect from our great students, feedback from Oxford University was extremely complimentary. Mr McGann, outreach worker at Corpus Christie College stated *"The visiting group from St Damian's were one of the best we've had this year. They were engaged and talkative throughout the visit, asking plenty of questions to our student ambassadors and taking in their surroundings. Their behaviour was excellent and respectful of the space they were sharing with College students throughout their time at Corpus and the central University libraries. Mr Healey was personable and fantastic in areas of the day where students needed to be gathered or moved along to the next activity – he also seemed to get a lot of enjoyment out of the day himself, which is always lovely to see!"*



I always enjoy reading great and positive comments regarding our students, your children. It makes me so proud. May I take this opportunity to formally thank Mr Healey for providing this experience.

**The Lisbon Maru Memorial Award for Celebration Evening**



This new award has been presented to St Damian’s by Mrs Kathleen Birch, whose relationship with St Damian’s has spanned over 40 years, firstly as our Science Technician and now as an Exam Invigilator. This new award will be presented annually at Celebration Evening by the History Department to a student who has worked really hard in History throughout the year. The award is named after the ship, *The Lisbon Maru*, that transported prisoners of war to POW camps in Japan. It was sunk off the coast of China by an American submarine who didn’t know it was carrying POW’s. There were 1,800 POWs on board and only a small number survived. Mrs Birch’s cousin and her cousin’s best friend were amongst those who perished at sea. The wreck of the ship was only discovered about 9 years ago and this story has now been made into a film. As one of the few surviving relatives, Mrs Birch has since been invited to China to the Shanghai Film Festival and to Zhoushan Province to view the site of the ship wreck.

**BeeWell Survey – The results are in!**

Back in October, Yr7 and Yr10 students completed the BeeWell questionnaire. This is an initiative that allows young people across Greater Manchester to have their say about the things that impact their wellbeing. The survey is very comprehensive and covers a range of things that may impact their mental health such as Health & Well Being, School, Hobbies & Interests, Relationships, Society, and the control they think they have over their future. We are delighted to report that by comparison to similar schools, your children feel a greater connection to their school community and experience fewer issues with their emotional well-being. It also reported that a larger number of students stated they had positive relationships with staff in school, when compared to students in similar schools. This is great news! However, when it came to social time, our students spent more time on social media than their peers in similar schools. As you know, it is well documented that social media can cause issues for some teenagers and I would urge you to monitor your child’s use carefully. As this survey provides us with vital information of how we can continue to support our students, we appreciate those of you who gave consent for your child to complete it.



**Children’s Mental Health Week 3<sup>rd</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> March**

Once again, we supported children’s mental health week this year. We wholeheartedly support this event because mental health is an increasing concern and can impact any of us at any time of our lives. This year the theme was *‘Know yourself, grow yourself’* and our focus was based on learning to appreciate ourselves and be confident enough to accept our unique traits. Each day between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> February started with positive affirmations in form time and simple activities to reflect on our individual personalities. Heads of Year also played a pivotal role in supporting by leading assemblies with thought provoking stories and videos. It is important that we as adults don’t encourage children to focus on poor mental health but instead look at ways to promote healthy wellbeing. If you want more information for your child contact our highly trained student support officers or visit [Tameside Oldham and Glossop Mind](https://tamesideoldhamandglossopmind.org.uk) or <http://tasfund.org.uk>.

### A Special Guest Visits Art Club!

Our Art Club had a very special visitor this month when renowned local artist *Chris Cyprus* brought a selection of his paintings to the after-school social.

Chris's paintings showcase familiar local scenes in vibrant colours and students were in awe as they admired his work up close. During his visit, Chris shared his journey as an artist, speaking passionately about the importance of perseverance and resilience in the art world. Chris is currently working on a national public art project and visited St Damian's to launch an exciting competition. The winners will have their work permanently displayed at Ashton Train Station — a fantastic opportunity to leave a lasting artistic legacy in the community. Good luck to all our hopeful artists entering the competition!



### Yr7 Rewards Lunch

Twelve Yr7 students were treated to a Friday special 'Fish and Chips' lunch to celebrate their amazing effort in their Spring Progress Checks. Well done! This bodes well for the future. Keep it up, your hard work does not go unnoticed.



### Upcoming Dates

- ✓ *National Careers Week, 10<sup>th</sup> March - 14<sup>th</sup> March.* There will be a range of activities planned by Mr Healey.
- ✓ *Yr7 Parents' Evening, 12<sup>th</sup> March.* This is an important evening where parents can hear their child's teacher talk about their progress across all subjects in their first year at St Damian's.
- ✓ *INSET Day 17<sup>th</sup> March.* School is shut for all students as staff use the day for their professional development.
- ✓ *Options Evening 20<sup>th</sup> March.* Important Evening for Y9 parents as Mrs Kelly presents vital information regarding the options process and choices for KS4 study.
- ✓ *Yr11 Parent's Evening, 26<sup>th</sup> March.* This is the last opportunity for parents to listen to classroom teachers before their child commences their GCSE exams.
- ✓ *School closes for Easter, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April.* Have a peaceful and holy Easter.
- ✓ *London Trip. 7<sup>th</sup> April – 10<sup>th</sup> April.* A meeting was held a few weeks ago regarding this school trip.



- ✓ School reopens as usual on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

### Spotlight on a Current Student

- *Current student, Thea Brophy, Yr10.* Thea is a very active member of our community. She has immersed herself in the following; a reading buddy to Yr7, trained to be mobile phone ambassador with GMP, represents the Caritas Team, an active member of the STEM club, visited Oxford University with St Damian's, support the Yr11 football team by playing for them against other schools, has applied to be a Language Ambassador and has represented school and Tameside in the Greater Manchester cross country. Despite all this, Thea has worked conscientiously in all her lessons



and has been rewarded with a great progress check. Thea is a real role-model for our community!

**Spotlight on several past students**

- *Ex-student, Lucy Ormston, left in June 2023.* I recently received an email from her parent who is extremely proud of her daughter. This ex-student was a great example of a true ambassador for our community. She was a senior prefect, and she has grown in confidence, successfully securing a place at Camp America for the summer. True to form, she has chosen a camp that involves working with homeless children who live in shelters. I remember Lucy well as a great student, and on behalf of all the staff, wish her well in this new and exciting adventure! I am sure Lucy will keep up us to date.



✓ Secondly, I was informed that former Head Boy Fin Hayworth and Deputy Head Boy, Garth Herman, who are currently studying at Loreto 6<sup>th</sup> Form in Manchester, have been selected to appear in the upcoming 25/26 prospectus for the College. They were chosen from over 1000 students due to their attitude to learning, attendance, academic achievement and immersion in college life. Both Fin and Garth say that the preparation that St Damian's gave them have helped them adapt seamlessly to the new experiences and the challenges of college and A Levels. They thanked their former teachers for the support, care and guidance they showed them during their time at St Damians. Watch this space for the prospectus becoming available to the current Yr10s at the end of July. I wish them well in their A levels.

**Parent Governor**

There is a second vacancy on the full Governing Board for a Parent Governor due to a term of office coming to an end, details will follow shortly.

In the meantime, if you are interested, please contact Mrs Biggs on [admin@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:admin@stdamians.co.uk)

**Finally...**

The season of lent starts next Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. We have ashes being distributed during Liturgy of the Word for each year, led by their Head of Year. On Shrove Tuesday there will be pancake sales to raise money for CAFOD.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Logue  
Headteacher