



In all things July 2024

**St Damian's RC Science College**

Lees Road  
Ashton-under-Lyne  
OL6 8BH

**Tel:** 0161 330 5974

**Fax:** 0161 331 4744

**Email:** [admin@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:admin@stdamians.co.uk)

**Web:** <http://www.stdamians.co.uk/>

**Follow us on Twitter:** @StDamiansRCSC

**Follow us on Facebook**

**Headteacher**

Mr S Logue BA (Hons), MEd., NPQH, NPQEL

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to my last newsletter of the year. Another bumper issue that I hope you enjoy reading!

### Catholic Life of the School

What a year it has been for the Catholic life of our school. The creativity of the RE team has been inspiring and the following formation opportunities have taken place over the past few weeks.

### Interfaith Yr8 Assembly.

A few weeks ago, we welcomed representatives from the Oldham Inter-Faith Forum for an insightful and engaging assembly with Yr8. Led by Fr Sumner and Molana Attiq. It focused on the Five Pillars of Islam and their similarities with Christianity. Fr Sumner said, *"It was a privilege to deliver a workshop about the similarities between Christianity and Islam"*. In an increasingly secular Britain, it is good to engender respect for faith, even when the individual faiths are different. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and promote interfaith dialogue, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and understanding in our diverse society. Our Muslim members of staff enjoyed the talk; Miss Jameel said *"The priest was lovely, and a breath of fresh air. I'd like to go to his church on a Sunday, since I've never been to mass – I think I'd love it"* and Miss Ali said *"I just want to say, I really loved this! I felt so included and the warmth from the priest towards Islam was so lovely. Thank you for organising this!"* We are grateful to Fr Sumner and Molana Attiq for their contributions.

The Five Pillars of Islam and similarities in Christianity  
Fr. Phil Sumner and Molana Attiq



respect for faith, even when the individual faiths are different. The event provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and promote interfaith dialogue, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and understanding in our diverse society. Our Muslim members of staff enjoyed the talk; Miss Jameel said *"The priest was lovely, and a breath of fresh air. I'd like to go to his church on a Sunday, since I've never been to mass – I think I'd love it"* and Miss Ali said *"I just want to say, I really loved this! I felt so included and the warmth from the priest towards Islam was so lovely. Thank you for organising this!"* We are grateful to Fr Sumner and Molana Attiq for their contributions.

- **Yr8 Gift Team Preparing an Assembly.** Our Yr8 GIFT Team is excited to announce that they are preparing a special assembly for all year groups this September, focusing on the theme of prayer. Pope Francis has called for 2024 to be a Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee 'Pilgrims of Hope' starting at Advent. The title of the assembly is *The Power of Prayer* and Yr8 will be exploring the significance of prayer in our lives. We hope that by the end of the assembly our students will have a deeper understanding of prayer and experience a guided meditation.
- **Formation Meeting: St Damian's Staff Prayer Picnic.** The theme for this meeting was *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"* Matthew 18:20. The St. Damian's Staff Prayer Picnic provided an opportunity for reflection, prayer, and the celebration of our community. We began at the school chapel, coming together as a community for an opening reflection. Afterward, we headed outside to the amphitheatre and collected a treat from the ice cream van, a small gesture of appreciation for our hardworking staff. Staff members were invited to share their personal prayers and reflections.



members were invited to share their personal prayers and reflections.

St. Damian's RC Science College

- **End of Year Liturgy:** As we conclude another school year, we gathered for our End of Year Liturgy, centred on the theme of *service to the community*. This was a moment to reflect on our collective achievements, celebrate our year, and offer prayers for ourselves and the wider community. Our liturgy began with a PowerPoint presentation that showcased the highlights of the year. The presentation celebrated the St. Damian's Way in action, highlighting various events and community engagement, as well as the numerous ways our students and staff have made a positive impact. We prayed for our personal intentions and for the people in our lives who have supported us. The liturgy also provided a time for reflection on the past year, the challenges we faced and the many successes we have achieved as a strong, united, catholic community.

**Safeguarding**

With summer upon us and the students being off school for 6 weeks I would like highlight some safety information to keep our children safe over the summer.

- **Biking Safety.** Many children use their bikes as a mode of transport, and it is advisable that they wear helmets in case of a collision or accident. Furthermore, ensure there are lights on their bikes if they are travelling in the evening and encourage them to wear clothes that increase their visibility. It is well worth giving their bike a maintenance check to ensure that it is road worthy, this link is a great resource for helping children take responsibility <https://www.cyclinguk.org/article/simple-bike-maintenance-guides>

**5 steps to know how to float**

However you end up in the water, if you end up in difficulty, Float to Live.



- **Water Safety.** Tragically, every year we see young people lose their lives when they are tempted to get in to open waters as the temperature rises. Children have had an assembly on the dangers of going in rivers, reservoirs and canals. The Fire Service provide great information on the hazards associated with water and I urge you to look at their website <https://manchesterfire.gov.uk/your-safety/water-safety/>.

The 2 most important things that children should know are: If they see someone in danger in the water use the 'CALL, TELL, THROW' advice shared in assembly and if they themselves find themselves in trouble use the FLOAT TO LIVE technique.

**Remember it. Share it.**

- **Derelict/Unoccupied Buildings.** Empty buildings often attract young people because they are quiet and provide somewhere for them to explore. Very often these buildings are unsafe and condemned, accidents have been recorded where children have fallen through roofs or where they have hurt themselves on debris and sharp waste materials. Derelict buildings and

building sites are not open to the public and the police may become involved if your child is found trespassing, please explain the dangers to your child.

- **Sun Protection. Warm Weather Safety.** Children are often out of the house for many hours in the summer spending time with friends, it is easy for them to forget to put sunscreen on and wear appropriate clothing. Time spent applying sunscreen takes a few minutes but could help to prevent painful burns and possible skin cancer

**End of Year ASPIRE Assemblies**

All of our students have worked exceptionally hard over the last term. As always, we endeavour to praise and celebrate the achievements of as many students as possible. During our ASPIRE assemblies for Yr7-Yr10, students were rewarded for improvements made, academic achievement and most importantly their daily efforts. Well done to the many winners!



**Celebration Evening: 'Advance, Achieve, Accomplish'**



A few weeks ago, we recognised the achievements and efforts of our great children at our annual Celebration Evening. The community came together to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and achievements of our incredible students. Each child was a winner and showed remarkable determination and resilience. There is little doubt that the children of St Damian's have a bright future. The choir, which has grown in both numbers and confidence, was simply superb. I know that Mr McArdle was very proud of them on the night. The Drama was perfect, and I was delighted to see the opportunities to partake in a wide range sporting activities including football, netball and athletics.



And the compere, Miss Joyce, controlled the proceedings in a truly professional manner. In my opinion, the 'best' celebration evening yet!

**St Damian's being referred to as a 'Super' School 😊**

A few weeks ago, I received a text regarding a newspaper article entitled 'The 21 super secondary schools in the North West based on Ofsted and GCSE grades'. Many of these schools were leading grammar schools in the North West and the article said that "these schools are doing phenomenally well". I was delighted to see St Damian's in this prestigious list at number 18! You can read the article and see the full list by clicking this link, [The top-rated 21 secondary schools in the North West \(lep.co.uk\)](http://lep.co.uk)

**Goldsmiths Trip to London**



After months of anticipation, preparation, and excitement, Mrs Gerschler and Mrs Baynham, along with eight students arrived at the magnificent Goldsmiths' Hall in central London for an unforgettable experience as a finalist for the prestigious Goldsmith Award for *Community Engagement*. The highlight of the trip was when the students presented their case to the panel of judges. They did so with much joy, confidence and infectious enthusiasm, adding a vibrant energy to the proceedings. Their passion was palpable, and Mrs Gerschler was proud of the remarkable journey that

each one of them had been on. They were true ambassadors for the St Damian's community. Being a finalist for the Goldsmith Award was an enriching experience that the students will remember for a long time to come. In fact, we were only one of eight successful schools selected from the heats to attend this unique event.

Although we did not take home the prize, the journey to London itself was immensely rewarding, filled with proud moments, fun, and enriching opportunities. Importantly, they are 'winners' in the eyes of St Damian's. Mrs Gerschler, who led the group said *"During the final of the Goldsmith award, our great students consistently showed confidence and maturity, engaging with new people and representing our school with humility. As true ambassadors, they have handled defeat with dignity and demonstrated pride in our school. I was impressed by their public speaking and these skills have flourished over our rehearsal time, and they have grown as individuals and a team. I could not be prouder of them"*. The whole community concurs with these sentiments. St Damian's will be back!



### Disco

Our inaugural school disco was a great success! Everyone had a great evening dancing to our Taylor Swift Tribute band and then the great selection of music played by 'Denis the DJ'. We raised an incredible £1,600 which will go towards our Share Day charities; Willow Wood Hospice, Reuben's Retreat, Cancer Research and Charcot-Marie-Tooth [CMT]. CMT causes problems with the nerves that supply your feet, legs, hands and arms and also your motor and sensory nerves. A member of staff has a young son who has recently been diagnosed with the genetic condition CMT and the charity is the first place they sign post you to. They are a fantastic charity that help give parents support and information about the condition, as well as supporting people affected by the condition. They arrange retreats for children with CMT so they can get to know other children with the same condition.



### Tameside Athletics July 2024



St Damian's had the honour of organising the 2024 Tameside Athletic Championships at Sports City on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Our students fittingly played their part in making it an unforgettable experience, with many outstanding performances. The girls' team was simply outstanding and were crowned Tameside Champions with 1<sup>st</sup> place finishings for Olivia Jones 200m, Roxy McHugh 300m, Bella Armstrong high jump, Harriet Byrnes 800m, Amelia Jones 200m, Shauna Cullen and the intermediate girls won the 4 x 100m relay. Supporting the team with silver and bronze placings were Hollie McHugh high jump, Thea Brophy 1500m, Laura Jarzynska Long Jump and the junior girls finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 4 x 100m relay. The boys also did St Damian's proud with a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall, behind 2 strong all boys schools in the Borough. Outstanding performances in the boys include 1<sup>st</sup> place for Max Ormston 100m 2<sup>nd</sup> place Symon Wieczorek Discus, Alex Scofield Javelin, David Bakula Discus, Pauly Knight 300m and a bronze for Reuben Thompson in the high jump. All competitors played their part in making the 2024 Athletic Championships one of the most successful ever for St Damian's. Mrs Brophy, who accompanied the PE staff emailed me that evening to say *"what wonderful young people we have at school!"*

Outstanding performances in the boys include 1<sup>st</sup> place for Max Ormston 100m 2<sup>nd</sup> place Symon Wieczorek Discus, Alex Scofield Javelin, David Bakula Discus, Pauly Knight 300m and a bronze for Reuben Thompson in the high jump. All competitors played their part in making the 2024 Athletic Championships one of the most successful ever for St Damian's. Mrs Brophy, who accompanied the PE staff emailed me that evening to say *"what wonderful young people we have at school!"*

*They were just a delight to be with, their behaviour and conduct were exemplary and not only that, they actually want to take time to sit and talk to staff! I've just had a brilliant day"! What a lovely comment about your children, our students! Thanks to Mr Burtles and the PE staff*

**Sports Day**



Our annual Sports Day was a great success in the July sunshine. Form groups competed in football, old school relays and indoor athletics. Staff and pupils



had an amazing time throughout the day. Congratulations to winners 7JLB, 8MGE and 9RFM.

**ASPIRE Day**



On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July, our KS3 pupils took part in the final Aspire Day of the year. Workshops included topics on aspirations, respect for others, overcoming adversity, diversity, gambling, the law, and domestic violence. Our aim is to develop the 'whole child' and through these days, we aim to prepare pupils for their future, ensuring that they leave school with the skills and understanding to lead confident, healthy and independent lives.

The vast majority of our sessions are delivered by outside speakers who have the expertise to provide a deep learning experience in areas such as health and well-being, relationships, safety and also careers and finance. Our guests were impressed by the high standards of behaviour, engagement, and dedication of our pupils. Many thanks to all our guests for making it a valuable day for our pupils.



**Share Day**

Our annual tradition of Share Day was yet again a great occasion for both students and staff. This year's theme was "Damiansland", where everyone embraced the event by dressing up as Disney characters or theme park visitors. The day was filled with fun activities, laughter, and a strong sense of community spirit and even the sun shone !



The pennies are still being counted, and we will update you in September with the total amount we have raised. Thank you to everyone who participated and made this event a memorable success!



**Democracy in Action**

For the final pastoral theme of the year, Mr Gregory's form [10LGY] explored themes around the democratic process.

Given that this theme dovetailed perfectly with the recent General Election, 10LGY chose to run a mock election for our form assembly with various members of the form representing the five main parties. In the hope of gaining their peers vote, the would-be politicians each read part of the main parties' manifestos before the remainder of Yr10 were invited to cast their vote. The results were as follows: Conservative party (4 votes), Labour Party (59 votes), Liberal Democrats (4 votes), Reform party (50 votes) and the Green Party (12 votes). In a follow-up activity, students were requested to indicate 'why they chose to vote for their party of choice'? The survey showed many of our students are politically engaged as they referenced themes such as 'National Service, NHS, Immigration and the Environment' as the motivating factors behind their votes.

### National Awards

As we end another academic year, I am delighted to say that we have done well in another couple of national award ceremonies. Although we didn't win, we are proud that our nominations were recognised.



- **TES School Awards 'Staff Wellbeing of the Year'.** Dubbed the 'Oscars of Education' we were privileged to be a finalist in this year's TES School Awards. This category celebrates the exemplary work that we do to support our wonderful staff. Jon Severs, Editor of TES Magazine said, "*Congratulations to all the shortlisted entries - the standard was so high this year despite the challenges schools face. It is critical we celebrate excellence and share it widely so we can ensure that the fantastic work happening in education is properly recognised.*" I am delighted that our unique wellbeing initiatives are being recognised. Staff wellbeing is a high priority of the leadership at St Damian's as 'happy staff deliver' a great education to our great children.

- **Pearson National Teaching Awards 'Making a Difference – Secondary School of the Year'.** We were delighted to receive a Certificate of Excellence for making a difference. The Pearson awards are an annual celebration of education, recognising the incredible work of teaching communities across the UK. This category celebrates secondary schools with "*an established record of good academic outcomes, an asset to the wider community and is well respected by parents and key partners. It demonstrates power and effectiveness in transforming the life chances of learners and enriches the local community.*"

### Trip to Jodrell Trip Observatory

A group of 50 students from Yr9 and Yr10 enjoyed an out of this world experience visiting Jodrell Bank Observatory, a world-learning science research institute and UNESCO World Heritage Site. They listened to a fascinating talk about the Lovell Telescope, where they heard how the Cold War and the beginning of the Space Race accelerated its construction in the 1950's. Students were able to touch a real meteorite and observe their own radiation via an infrared camera as they toured fantastic exhibits. The Space Dome session at the end of the trip was a firm favourite, with students able to sit back and watch the history of the Universe played out on a huge screen all around them. For Yr9, this trip served to inspire and enhance their knowledge of space research prior to studying Separate Science Physics GCSE next year. Mrs Robinson said it was "a great trip with our fantastic students"!



## History London Trip



Early in July, 53 Yr10 students and 7 staff had a wonderful whistle-stop tour of major London attractions. This included the Science Museum which will be helpful with our Medicine Through Time GCSE topic. Then the group visited the Imperial War Museum where we saw artefacts from across a wide range of time and conflicts and of course the Lord Ashcroft Special collection. A big highlight was The Tower of London with over a millennium of History to look at, focusing mainly on the White Tower which is the main Norman building with Tudor developments. While in the Tower, staff and students took the time to examine the stunning Crown Jewels. Mr McHugh said the *“superb students let nothing daunt them, and despite the appalling weather and a cancelled boat trip it didn't stop them having a great time”*.



## History Staff Profile

We have a superb History department and GCSE outcomes are very strong. Following on from the success of the London trip I decided to profile this department.

- Mr McHugh.** After school Mr McHugh attended a local college and did a Higher National Certificate in Business Studies, saying to this day he has no idea how he passed the Accountancy part of the course! During studying at the University of Glasgow, one summer he worked in a kitchen in Delaware, in the United States, leaving him with a life-long love of eating in restaurants. Other summers were spent working as a postman to raise money needed to have a good time at university. He says his interest in teaching was when BP were looking for people to go into deprived areas of Glasgow and encourage young people to embrace their education. After university he completed a PGCE and got his first teaching job in a deprived area in Middlesbrough. Although challenging, he loved it saying everyone was football mad. He worked in three other schools before starting at St Damian's in 2007. He says he has loved every minute of his time here. When not in work, he watches football and supports Kilmarnock and Scotland and relaxes with his wife by seeing lots of shows
- Mr Gregory.** Mr Gregory has been teaching History at St Damian's for the past 11 years. Prior to this role he worked as an archaeologist for the University of Manchester and was lucky enough to work on sites from a range of periods ranging from the Romans, the industrial revolution and even in the Andes of Peru. He says working at St Damians is a pleasure as it allows him to foster a love of history in our students, with the hope that some of them will go on to develop careers in this field and enjoy similar experiences to that of his own.
- Mrs Taylor.** As a former pupil of St Damian's, Mrs Taylor says she has been lucky to be part of this community for many years. She attended Ashton Sixth Form College where she studied History, Sociology and RE, before studying History at the University of Manchester. This was followed by a PGCE (teacher training) at Edge Hill University. When a job became available at St Damian's, she couldn't miss out on the opportunity as she knew she wanted to return. Mrs Taylor has worked here for 10 years and says she loves coming to work each day saying she feels extremely lucky to work in such a supportive department and school and that the students here are wonderful, and every day is different. Although teaching is challenging it is also an extremely rewarding job and Mrs Taylor is confident that it is a career she will be sticking

with for the rest of her working life. Outside of work, she enjoys spending quality time with her baby boy and socialising with friends and family.

### Careers Impact System

Over the past few months Mr Healey and Ms Joyce completed a Careers Impact Review with other schools around Greater Manchester. This was a fantastic opportunity to collaborate on best practice regarding the delivery of careers at St Damian's. This programme involved peer-to-peer reviews with other Careers leads and a final review summary which allowed us to analyse our current provision, plan and implement further enhancements. This will ensure that our Careers provision continues to be excellent and enables your child to plan so they can achieve their future aspirations.



### The Class of 2024 Prom



On Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June we celebrated with the class of 2024 at the traditional Year 11 Prom. This was a fantastic evening. Mrs Harrison said *“The evening was an amazing opportunity for our beautiful, intelligent, and courageous young men and women to show case themselves. They all looked spectacular”*. It was great to see the excellent relationships between staff and students which were based on high levels of mutual respect. This was epitomised on the evening when the children and Mrs Harrison sang and danced to the song ‘Valarie’ followed by presenting Mrs Harrison with a lovely gift. It was a joy to behold!



### Curriculum Updates

- **Yr10 GCSE Music:** Students recently completed their solo and ensemble performance recordings, an essential part of their assessment. Mr McArdle was delighted the recordings went exceptionally well, reflecting the tremendous effort and talent of our students; they have dedicated countless hours to practice, mastering a variety of instruments including guitar, vocals, piano and drums. Mr McArdle is to be commended for fostering a nurturing and challenging environment, providing expert feedback and coordinating numerous practice schedules. I look forward to excellent GCSE outcomes next year.



- **Geography Field Trip.** On Friday 28th June, Yr10 Geography students attended their compulsory field trip to Crosby Beach. This trip is a fundamental part of the geography GCSE, as the pupils will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the geographical enquiry process in the Paper 3 exam next summer. They were tasked with collecting geographical data to assess the effectiveness of the coastal defences along the Crosby coastline. During their time at the coast, students conducted an environmental quality survey and a questionnaire to gather evidence for their enquiry question. Additionally, students enjoyed exploring the artwork by Antony Gormley on the beach. The collected data will now be analysed and evaluated during lessons to determine the overall effectiveness of the sea defences.

- **Yr10 Drama GCSE.** These students recently completed a series of recordings for their devising projects, showcasing their immense talent and creativity. The process involved collaborative brainstorming, scriptwriting, rehearsing, and ultimately performing their pieces for the recordings.



They embraced the challenge with creativity and determination, resulting in an impressive array of performances that highlight their growth and skills in drama. Each group brought a different perspective and energy to their projects, making for a diverse and engaging collection of work. Miss Brookes said the *“dedication and enthusiasm demonstrated by every student was truly commendable”*. I am looking forward to great GCSE outcomes next year.

- **Computer Science:** Mr Tabas welcomed C Murray, Senior Professional Development Leader in STEM Learning Ltd. back to review our progress in implementing the KS3 Computer Science Curriculum. I am delighted to inform you that she agreed that we are meeting level 3 for the Computing Quality Framework. This has taken a lot of hard work, the department and the pupils. This has put us at or above the national standard in all areas of Computing and we are delighted by this. Moving forward, she has set the rigorous target of achieving level 4 and certification by February of next year.



- **STEM.** A few weeks ago several Yr9 students attended a STEM Club taster session. Our fabulous Yr10 STEM leaders have been outstanding in their role this year, demonstrating great practical, teamwork and leadership skills. They were keen to pass on their knowledge to the Yr9 students who had a great time conducting starch tests on leaves.

Mrs Robinson thanked the current Yr10 leaders for all their hard work but now is the time to pass the baton on to the new STEM leaders for the next academic year. The current STEM leaders will be focusing on their GCSEs next year.



**Peer Readers** As you know, senior leaders and other staff have reading groups throughout the year. But we also have an additional 7 wonderful Yr10 students who have volunteered to become ‘peer readers’. These Yr10 students are paired up with a Yr7 student for peer reading sessions over the academic year.



When Mrs Heenan has tested their reading ages this month, she was delighted to see significant progress. She said that the *“commitment that our Yr10s have shown those students has been second to none. They have listened to Yr7 reading, encouraged them with prompts regarding intonation and helped them understand difficult vocabulary”*.

Most importantly, they have built up their confidence. Mrs Heenan presented these Yr10 students with a little reward for their dedication and time. This successful initiative, our ‘Peer Reading Programme’, will continue in the next academic year.



**Exciting Graffiti Art Battle**



A massive congratulations goes out to the extremely talented pupils Isabella Brazier [Yr7], Patrick England [Yr8] and Mariah Ferreira dos Santos [Yr9] for winning Mrs Freeman’s animal themed Graffiti Art Battle this term. It’s clear from the entries that our students are a talented bunch.



A big thank you goes out to everyone who participated. Not only did you make Mrs Freeman's job very difficult choosing a winner, but you helped to raise money for our wonderful charities. The prize winners will receive three additional lessons in the Art studio to create their masterpieces on a larger scale. I am looking forward to seeing the work when it is finished.

**Transition Day, June 2024** We hosted our annual Yr6 Transition Day on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Students were welcomed into our community and introduced to the 'St Damian's Way'. The day started with a welcome assembly and met Mrs Harrison, their Head of Year before meeting their form tutor, who will be the first point of call if there is an issue.



A tour of the school followed to familiarise themselves with the building. Then they eagerly participated in 'taster lessons', offering a glimpse of our broad and balanced curriculum. Students had ample time during the day getting to know staff and peers and allowed students to develop relationships with staff and peers prior to September. Their day concluded with a beautiful

prayer service. This service was accompanied by our fantastic choir and it was delightful to hear Yr6 learn and sing our school hymn. We are very much looking forward to greeting our new Yr7 students in September and wish them a lovely restful summer ready to begin their next academic adventure with us.



**BIG Award**



It is an honour to announce that St Damian's have been awarded the BIG award for excellence in challenging bullying for the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. There is a rigorous assessment process where evidence is collected throughout the academic year. The Bully Busters have been raising awareness with poster campaigns, form time presentations, whole year group assemblies and attending training courses to further their understanding on actively

tackling bullying. This year's theme has been 'Be an Upstander!' And we look forward to launching our theme for 24/25 Respect! On Yr6 taster day they were given information on how they can join our growing school community of Bully Busters and we look forward to welcoming them in September.



**Farewells**

As we end the academic year, we say a few goodbyes to some staff, all of whom have served the St Damian's community to a high standard.

- Mrs Marshall has been at St Damian's for 10 years but has decided that now is the time to retire and spend more time with her beautiful granddaughter. A tremendous lady whose career has spanned four decades. I received an email a few months ago from a student she taught a few years ago. It was a lovely email and included the following "The way you taught Maths to me and others, has completely changed the trajectory of my life. I found myself loving Maths, inspired and



*motivated by the belief you had in me and left St Damian's with a grade 8. I went onto sixth form to do Maths A Level*

*where I achieved an A\* and one of the highest marks in the cohort". This ex-pupil has now become a Maths teacher and said "I can only hope to be half as good as the teacher you are! I hope you truly know how brilliant you are". WOW! I fully concur with these sentiments.*

- Ms Ali is moving onto pastures new and is closer to home so she can spend more time with her young family. A great Maths teacher and form tutor. She will thrive in her new leadership role.
- Ms Lucas is also moving onto pastures new to continue to teach French. She has grown over the years from ECT to be an excellent teacher. On a parental feedback form a parent wrote 'Every school needs a Ms Lucas' and I wholeheartedly agree!



- Ms Smith has decided it's time to travel, starting in Vietnam. It was on her bucket list, and she has promised to keep in touch. Again, she started St Damian's as an ECT and has developed into a great teacher. When she returns, she has a great future in teaching. I look forward to the postcards!

- Mr Hennessey is moving onwards and upwards to be an IT teacher at Ashton 6<sup>th</sup> Form. An ex-student, St Damian's has served him well!
- And finally, Mrs Perret-Hall is going on maternity leave and is expecting her second baby in August. I wish her all the very best and look forward to meeting the new addition to the Perret-Hall family.



On behalf of all the staff, we wish you all good luck and all the best in whatever lies ahead. I hope that you all look back and remember your time at St Damian's fondly with great memories.

### Student Success Stories...



Roxy McHugh competed for the first time in the English Schools Athletics Championships. This is the most prestigious athletics event in the calendar for young athletes and a pathway to international selection in the future. She competed in the junior girls 300m and finished in 9th place overall. She narrowly missed qualification for the final by 0.1 seconds. She had a great experience representing St Damians and the county and will hopefully be back next year competing in the final.

Bobby Burton has participated in the English schools' athletics championships and represented St Damian's with the greater Manchester team. Bobby ran the heats for 800m, and came an impressive 3rd, securing a place in the final Saturday. He then went on to place 7th overall in the final against the fastest runners in the country. Bobby's family would once again like to thank school, the PE Dept. and Mrs Harrison for supporting Bobby in athletics throughout his time at Damian's



**Finally, Planning Ahead ... Future Dates**

- *Macmillan Coffee Morning.* You're invited to join us for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024. Enjoy delicious treats and warm company while supporting an incredible cause. Save the date! We look forward to seeing you there!
- *Christmas Markets & Santa Dash 2024.* Even though it's only July, I want to give you a heads-



up to save the date for our exciting Christmas Markets and Santa Dash. This is on Saturday 23rd November 2024. It's never too early to start planning for the festive season! We anticipate a fun-filled day for the whole family. If you're interested in booking a market stall, please email [events@stdamians.co.uk](mailto:events@stdamians.co.uk)

for more details. It will be here before we know it!

On behalf of the staff and governors of St Damian's, I hope you all have a great summer.

Kind regards

Mr S Logue  
Headteacher