

Saint John Wall Catholic School

A Catholic School For All



Mission Statement

'To educate each and every unique child in our care to hear and respond to what God calls them to be'



Issue 37

Weekly Information Bulletin

Date: Thursday 6 July 2023

Catholic Life - This year we are focusing on 'The Year of Sanctuary'.
Termly theme: Option for the Poor/Parable of the Great Banquet
Termly SJW Values – Curious and Active

This week in Weekly Worship... "We focused on Walk to School Week. This was presented by our school's ATA group. We began by listening to a reading and thought about the fact that walking to school is healthy. However, as some people may live far away from school or might live in a busy area, they may not be able to walk. As a school, we are encouraging everyone to walk to school next week even if they walk for the last few minutes. Pupils who do this will be put into a prize draw and may win a prize. The advantages of walking to school include less traffic on the roads and a healthier lifestyle.

By Stefan Dahorea 10JON

This week in Afternoon Prayer... "We prayed for Saint Thomas the Apostle. We thought about how we can grow as individuals and how we can use our gifts and talents. We also prayed for Pope Francis and for a Eucharistic life. We reflected on the Last Supper, what it represents and how it makes us feel. On Wednesday, we prayed for the Birthday of the NHS. We thanked all those who work for the NHS and all those who work to help us. We ended the week by praying for Global Forgiveness Day. We reflected on the importance of always showing love and forgiveness to all people even when we may feel hurt.

By Akeyo Cunningham 10WIO

Teacher Training Day & Year 6 Induction Day

Tomorrow, **Friday 7 July 2023** is a teacher training day, school will be closed to all pupils.

In addition, **Year 8 pupils will need to work at home on Wednesday 12 July** which is Year 6 induction day.

By Miss Marston

Dates to Note

- **Teacher Training Day – School closed to all pupils**
Friday 7 July 2023
- **National Justice Museum Trip – Year 9 History Pupils**
Tuesday 11 July 2023 – 8.30am to 4.30pm
- **Year 6 Induction Day – (Year 8 to work from home)**
Wednesday 12 July 2023
- **Year 7 and Year 10 Parents' Afternoon**
Thursday 13 July 2023 - 1pm to 3.30pm
- **Sports Day**
Friday 14 July 2023
- **Witness Week (Trips and in-school activities, Year 10 work experience)**
Monday 17 July to Friday 21 July 2023



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Year 11 Survey Feedback

The dust has just about settled on our Leavers' celebration for the Leavers of 2023. This event included a Mass led by Fr Subba and leavers' party extravaganza held on the playground. Both parts of the event allowed the pupils and staff to reflect fondly on their time at Saint John Wall, plus there was a video and photographic reminder of all the experiences they have gained both inside and outside the classroom. Thank you to Miss Reynolds, Mr Price and Mrs Ellis for the hard work and organisation that went into coordinating event

During this event the Year 11 were given the opportunity to complete a survey to highlight our strengths and areas we could improve as a school. I am pleased to inform you that the results were overwhelmingly positive. Some of the key headlines include:

- **96% of pupils agree or strongly agree they have enjoyed school.**
- **96% of pupils agree or strongly agree that teaching is good at Saint John Wall.**
- **96% of pupils agree or strongly agree that they have been helped to do their very best.**
- **96% of pupils agree or strongly agree that they feel safe when in school.**

I am sure you will agree, a #Champion set of survey results.

By Mr Holder

St Mary's Coffee Club

We have had a busy visit to St Mary's this morning and spent most of our time supporting guests playing bingo which they take very seriously I might add. Guests were able to help themselves to summer activity books to use when they're not able to attend over the summer and our pupils were lucky enough to get some too. Madeline, one of the guests eagerly shared the story of a family member who turned down an offer many years ago to set up a shop with Michael Marks (of Marks and Spencer). If he had taken up the opportunity we would be shopping at Marks and Currans instead of Marks and Spencer today! Next week is our last visit this academic year and we'll be supporting Tai Chi activities.

By Mrs Clayton



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Staff v Year 10 Sport

Wednesday 5 July 2023 was a bright day full of anticipation and hope with staff ready for the sports challenge, and facing them were the Year 10 lions and lionesses. What an electrifying atmosphere across all the sports (badminton, basketball, and football) during the afternoon with a competitive edge taking all the matches to nail biting ends.

There were a number of football matches with different Year 10 teams.

The overall combined football score was **Staff 15 – 3 Year 10s**.

Once again, Saint John Wall did a superb job organising a wonderful experience and pupils and staff should be proud of themselves. **By Mr Hussain**



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Year 8 Sandwell Valley Walk

On Wednesday Year 8 went for a lovely walk to Sandwell Valley. The groups left school at 9.30am and took a scenic route around Swan Lake to a large field where they played football, spent time with their friends, and played games. After a snack break the groups also went onto the play equipment. We then took a shorter route back to school. It was wonderful to spend time with the pupils, to engage in some lovely conversations and find out more about their plans for the summer. This walk has also given pupils the opportunity to see what is happening in their local area, and to encourage them to visit Sandwell Valley, a beautiful area, with their families. We hope you have the opportunity to visit Sandwell Valley soon!

By Mrs Ellis



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Big Brum Theatre Company Visit

On Thursday, KS4 Drama pupils got the amazing opportunity to have a visit from local theatre company Big Brum as they are on tour as part of their trilogy tour. They are touring a story which tells us of the lives of young people set in 2064 but from the point of view of Juliet Capulet and the struggles she faces as she is on the run from The Capulets. This play was presented in the style of Theatre in Education. Pupils got to take part in a workshop which involved discussions about what they see and think but also got to watch different sections of the story through the eyes of Juliet Capulet. They also got to ask questions and explore the set which will help them with their future Drama course requirements. It was amazing to see all Y9 + Y10 pupils get involved in discussions and practical work.

By Miss Cummings



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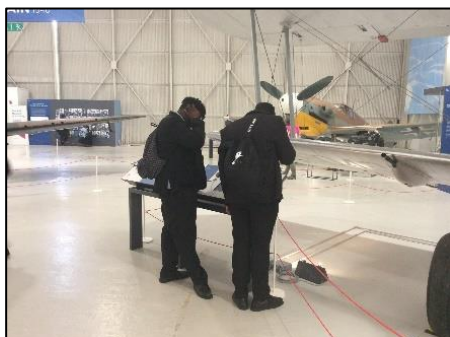
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Royal Air Force Museum Cosford

On Monday 3 July, Miss Lally, Miss Raybe, Mr Lysaght and myself accompanied 45 Year 10 Historians to the Royal Air Force Museum Cosford. The trip was an opportunity for pupils to deepen their knowledge of the Cold War which pupils had been learning about in class. RAF Cosford opened in 1938 as a training site for RAF technicians but today houses the National Cold War Exhibition along with many different types of aircraft that have been used in some of Britain's greatest battles. Pupils were eloquent and truthful in a Cold War debating workshop in which they showed fantastic knowledge. Through these learning experiences pupils were able to understand more about the very real threat of a nuclear war and the effects that this might have had on Britain.

By Mr McIntosh



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Duke of Edinburgh Expedition

On the Friday 20 June, myself and Miss Young and Mr Bakshi accompanied ten Year 9 pupils - Kai, Jeremiah, Grace, Kibriya, Stefania, Mercedes, Miya, Diya, Natasha and Ruth to rural Worcestershire as they set off on the practice expedition element of their bronze Duke of Edinburgh award. In the weeks previous, pupils had completed various elements of preparation for this expedition, including valuable first aid skills; map reading and how to set up camp.

On arrival to the Clent Hills, we were met with drizzling rain and grey skies. Not letting this deter them, the groups set off on their first ascent, leaving the teachers and more importantly phones behind. Despite a few challenges including a wrong turning and a hill or two, both groups completed their first day's walking in a good pace.

After a short minibus trip to Blackwell court, our campsite for the night, the pupils quickly got stuck into setting up their tents, a feat arguably more taxing than the walk itself (just ask Mr Bakshi). Grace, Miya and Ruth managed to pitch their tent with no issues, the same can unfortunately not be said for Kibriya who needed the support from his peers to set up his shelter for the night. The groups also had to 'cook' their own dinner and tidy the campsite before a well-deserved rest.

After a good night's sleep for most! Day 2 began, Natasha took on cooking duties with noodles for breakfast. Although the route was less challenging than the previous day, both groups still had to use problem solving and map reading skills (mainly Stefania and Kai) to get themselves to their final destination.

We were very proud of our pupils who worked together, showing resilience and upholding the Catholic values which have been instilled in them during their time at Saint John Wall.

By Mr Woodward



"It was my favourite trip ever. I got to make new friends, explore the outdoors and the countryside and use my Geographical skills in real life." **By Ruth Kidane 9WOO**



"The trip was spectacular, we had so much fun! We got to set up our own tents, map read and get to know teachers better. We gained a lot of independence and teamwork skills."

By Grace Irwin 9RES



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Brilliant Club

Over the last few months, the following pupils have been working with the Brilliant Club. The Brilliant Club is an organisation that aims to inspire young high achievers to strive for further academic education in university. Pupils were chosen due to their excellent achievement and progress in school and worked with a PhD tutor who provided them with seminar like sessions on a chosen topic. Our topic was Music with a Message: Understanding America Through Song where pupils learnt about how protest songs written in certain time periods highlighted discrimination, racism and inequality in America. After completing multiple homework assignments pupils were tasked with writing a 1,500-word essay to showcase all their learning where work was graded to a university standard.

I am so pleased and proud of all the Brilliant Club pupils. Their work was praised and celebrated on Monday on our trip to the University of Birmingham where the Brilliant Club graduated!!!

I want to say a huge congratulations to all of the Brilliant Club for their amazing results.

Ellie Mai 8BAK	Rako Hussain 8BAK
Kritika Basra 8GRE	Sara Yemane 8HAY
Priya Kaur 8HAY	Africa Beauty Garcia George 8HAY
Mateusz Teterycz 8GRE	Riccardo-Mario Sfeta 8FOR
Success Ihaza 8FOR	Kayden Tran 8FRE
Jahari Brou Walker-Smith 8PAW	
Elnael Fasil 8BAK	

By Miss Raybe

"The Brilliant Club was a good opportunity to learn about life at university"

By Jahari Brou Walker-Smith 8PAW

"The Brilliant Club was fun and interesting. It was a one in a life experience which filled me with facts and knowledge about American songs with a message. Critical thinking is a major role to consider in the Brilliant Club. Overall, I think the Brilliant Club has been a fun roller coaster of emotions that gave me the knowledge about life at university/university life."

By Riccardo-Mario Sfeta 8FOR



Meringues

Last week Year 9 and 10 made meringues. They had to aerate their egg whites to ensure that they were fully whisked until they don't move from the bowl when turning it on your head! Yes, we did try this!

We also whipped cream and used mixed berries to present them as different versions of Eton Mess.

By Mrs Crooks



LONELINESS ONLINE:

What Causes It and Ways to Feel Better

Have you ever been online and felt a little bit lonely? In a recent study, 14% of 10-12-year-olds said they often felt lonely, so you're not the only one who sometimes feels that way. We spoke to a group of children and teenagers, who told us some of the things that make them feel isolated when they're online.

CAUSES OF LONELINESS ONLINE

- Seeing photos or videos of friends having fun without me
- Being excluded from group chats or games with friends
- Friends or family not replying to texts or answering my calls
- People being unkind to me online
- When friends leave my group chat

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

So if these things happen to you and you start to feel down, what can you do? The same young people also told us how they make themselves feel less lonely when they're online – and we've collected some of their advice to share with you.

- ☒ Tell a friend or a trusted adult that you feel lonely
- ☒ Watch funny videos of cats and pandas
- ☒ Watch yoga videos and do some exercises
- ☒ Play single-player games you enjoy
- ☒ Listen to happy music
- ☒ Listen to your favourite audiobooks
- ☒ Send nice messages to your friends and family
- ☒ Play games with friends who you trust, if they're online too

TAKE A BREAK

Sometimes the best thing you can do is to take a break from technology and do something offline that makes you feel happy.

Here's what our group suggested!

- ☒ Paint or draw pictures
- ☒ Play with a pet
- ☒ Write about your feelings
- ☒ Hang out with your family
- ☒ Get outdoors & enjoy nature

FURTHER SUPPORT

Remember, it's normal to feel a bit lonely sometimes – but if it's really upsetting you, and you have no-one to talk to, you can call Childline for free on

0800 1111



www.nationalonlinesafety.com



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#WakeUpWednesday