

WHAT IS THE LATEST FROM ALL HALLOWS?

The Launch of our School Blog

February 2019 sees the first edition of the All Hallows' school Blog. In our first publication you will find a selection of items which encapsulate some of the main school events which have taken place so far this year and which celebrate some of the most notable achievements of members of our community. I hope that you enjoy reading it and will look forward to our monthly instalments.

Beauty and the Beast

I can't think of a better way to start a new venture such as a school Blog than a write-up about our recent school production. Before the February half term break we were treated to four nights of high quality entertainment from pupils who starred in 'Beauty and the Beast.' Mrs Colclough and her army of staff helpers marshalled a cast of more than 100 pupils, who acted and sang their hearts out in front of packed audiences. I had been told about the long history of school productions at All Hallows, but nothing could have prepared me for the quality of the production which I attended. The whole community wishes to thank all of those people involved in the musical and we look forward eagerly to next year's offering.





The Catholic Life of the School

In October, twenty pupils from our SVP group enjoyed the weekend retreat to Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. The weekend was packed with team building activities, social justice games, reflective prayer and walks in the beautiful Lake District. The SVP spent time reflecting on our work in school and the local community and how we could continue to live out the message Jesus gave us in the Parable of the Sheep and Goats; 'to feed the hungry, visit the lonely'. Thank you to the local SVP for funding our retreat.



At the end of November and early December, thirty pupils from Year 8 forms Bernadette, Catherine and Francis also enjoyed the weekend retreat to Castlerigg Manor in Keswick. The weekend was packed with team building activities, social justice games, reflective prayer and walks in the beautiful Lake District. The theme of the weekend linked to the first Sunday of Advent and enabled a start to Year 8's Advent preparations in the run up to Christmas. Another thirty pupils from Year 8 forms John, Margaret and Francis enjoyed the second weekend retreat of the year to Castlerigg Manor in January. On Friday afternoon we arrived and felt really welcomed by the Castlerigg team. Pupils had the chance to explore the Manor and the gardens. Lots of ice breaker games were played and we ended the day with a hot chocolate and night prayer. Saturday's activities included a long walk to Castlehead and some time in Keswick town centre, then a disco and night prayer in the evening. Sunday was full of Mass preparation and a lovely Mass to end the retreat.



As part of an extension to the school's retreat programme, Year 7 pupils had their first retreat opportunity at Savio House. In January, forty five pupils attended the Catholic retreat set in the beautiful surroundings of Bollington, close to the Peak District. Pupils took part in a variety of activities including, ice breakers, discussion sharing, walks, music, reconciliation and Mass. It provided an excellent opportunity for our young people to think about their lives and their relationship with God.



Throughout the year, our SVP community in school has continued to organise food collections. We set up a six weekly rota so that each form would only be asked to bring in an item of food once every six weeks. Every time someone brings in a food item they get one entry into the prize raffle where they could win a box of celebrations. At the end of each half term we create food parcels for local people in need (identified through our local SVP group) and deliver these parcels. They are all so gratefully received and the work allows us to continue to strengthen our links with the local community. We take all the remaining food down to our local foodbank. We would like to thank everyone for their support, we could not do this without you. We ask that you continue to support us through bringing in food items and remembering us in your prayers.



Parish Links

At All Hallows we put a great deal of emphasis on maintaining close links with our local Catholic community. We work in collaboration with our four partner primary schools on a number of transition activities, which begin in the autumn term with our 'roadshow' visits to launch the admissions process. Taster days for Year 5 and pupils are a regular feature of the school calendar and this year's recent visits were both useful and enjoyable for all concerned. In addition, Fr Michael and Fr Roy are great supporters of the school and we would like to thank them for their involvement in a number of recent events. Parents and pupils may be interested to note that the regular Sunday Mass times for both of our local parishes.

Saturday: 6.30 pm – St Teresa's

Sunday: 8.30 am – St Mary Magdelene's (Latin)

Sunday: 8.30 am – St Oswald's

Sunday: 9.30 am – St Teresa's

Sunday: 11 am – St Mary Magdelene's



Educational Visits

The following is a write up from two of our pupils, Rory Smith and Tom Gallagher, who went on our visit to the Jewish museum in Manchester.

In October, the whole of year 8 (on three separate days) went on a trip to the Jewish museum in Manchester. On our trip bad traffic caused us to arrive late at the museum, meaning we didn't have as much time as we had thought. When we eventually did arrive, however, we walked into the museum and we were spoken to by a nice man called John who volunteered at the museum. After his brief talk was over we went around the museum, which used to be a functioning synagogue, in our groups to fill out a booklet. Despite the short amount of time we had everyone got a good look around the museum and managed to fill out their booklets pretty well. Eventually we walked back onto the coach and drove to Pizza Hut. However everyone could agree that the museum was so much better than Pizza Hut!



Sporting Success

Well done to the following girls who represented the school in trampolining at the District competition held at Jump UK on Wednesday 6th February: Amy Pickering, Hannah Gray, Hollie Cook, Freya Abrams, Melissa Whittle, Lauren Anyon and Molly Cranshaw. Congratulations go to Amy Pickering in Year 11, who won the Elite Year 10 and 11 Section and Hannah Gray, who also won the Intermediate section.



We had strong representation on the South Ribble Cross Country Team in this year's Lancashire Schools' Cross Country Championships at Witton Park, Blackburn on Saturday 2nd February. The following pupils were selected to run: Sam Smalley, Daniel Smith, William Moorhouse, Poppi Watson, Megan Reynolds, Abigail McKenna, Maddie Emmet (all Year 7), Ben Dilworth (Year 8), Olivia Miller, Anna Gaughan (both Year 9), Jessica Watson, Adam Moxham, Faye Fishwick and Emily Reynolds (all Year 10).

A special mention must go to Poppi Watson, Sam Smalley, Daniel Smith and Jessica Watson who all finished in the top 10 and qualify for the English Schools Championships which will be held in March. Well done to all runners, especially in the cold conditions on the day!



Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM)

STEM Club has been running since September every Tuesday night after school and now has a new lunchtime slot on a Friday to accommodate extra demand. Approximately 35 pupils attend and they have been working on a variety of competitions and problem solving activities. A number of girls entered the Talent 2030 competition before Christmas, where they had to solve a problem the world was facing currently, such as too much plastic in the oceans. The pupils made presentation slides or videos, designs and models, using any problem they wanted to try out.

A group of Year 7 boys and girls are currently working on the EEP Lego Robotics Competition, preparing for their regional competition at West Lancashire College on Friday 8th March 2019. We are very lucky to now have a STEM Ambassador to help us every fortnight, Adam Petrus, who will be using his engineering background to assist the pupils with problem solving, computer programming, and the technical aspects of building the robot.



More competitions are underway with pupils looking at the Shell Bright Ideas challenge. What will cities look like in 2050? How will they be powered to be vibrant, healthy and clean places to live?

That's the question put to students aged 11-14 by The Bright Ideas Challenge, Shell's cross-curricular schools' competition. Now in its fourth year, the competition invites young people to use their creativity, problem solving, team working and STEM skills to devise innovative solutions that could power cities of the future. With over £45,000 worth of cash prizes up for grabs, there's every reason to think big! Any pupils who would like to get involved are welcome to join us on a Tuesday after school or Friday lunchtimes in the Design & Technology area.

For our use during enrichment day we were able to secure a number of exciting STEM boxes, courtesy of the Royal Academy of Engineering, through Chris Wallis at Ashton Community Science College. The boxes included projects to make 3D printers that work with chocolate and a solar yacht challenge. Focusing on the latter, Year 8 students had an hour to assemble their boat, ensure it floated, and the solar panel would power the motor, then redesign it so it could be used as an ocean litter picking boat. Students were shown videos of similar vessels and had to work in teams of 4 to try and come up with creative and innovative solutions.

There were a wide range of excellent attempts at solving the problem. The vast majority redesigned their boats to have large 'arms' on either side which rounded up rubbish and funnelled it into a conveyor situated between the two floats of the catamaran. However, there were also teams who designed their own fish friendly nets which remained on the surface of the water, there were designs which included 'whirlpool' style funnels which trapped plastics, but allowed fish to slip back into the sea and many more.

Coming up between 4th and 15th March is STEM Fortnight where there are a wide range of activities due to take place.

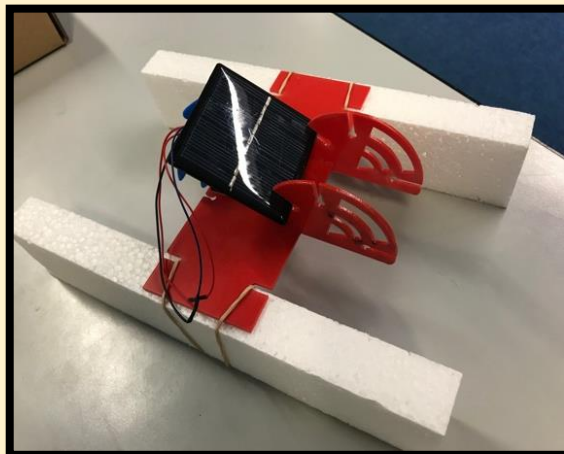
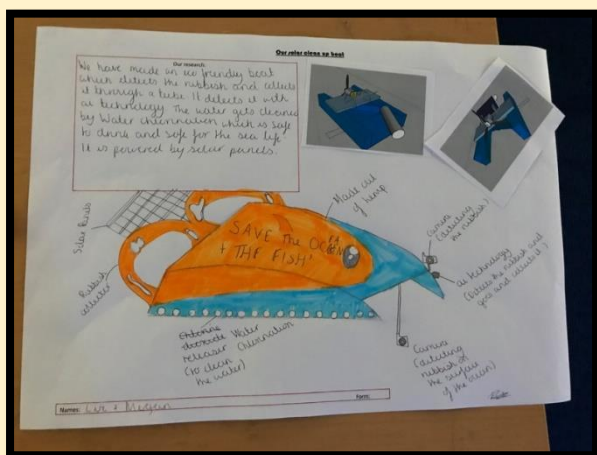
Friday 8th March: Year 7 EEP Lego Robotics Regional Final at West Lancs College.

Tuesday 12th March: Year 8 Energy Quest (design, build and race solar cars).

Wednesday 13th March: Big Bang Fair Trip to NEC, Birmingham.

Wednesday 13th March: Faraday Challenge Day where several local schools will compete against each other in a team based engineering task.

Friday 15th March: KS3 and KS4 Rotary D&T competition.





This also includes British Science Week so watch out for more activities taking place at the time!

Enrichment Activity in Food Technology

During the last term we were very fortunate to receive a number of pheasants, free from the Taste of Game initiative. This allowed our GCSE students to develop their high level knife skills whilst portioning a pheasant and producing quality plates of food using the breast of the pheasant. Year 10 pupils also took part in the Tunnocks Teacake Challenge. This was a competition run in conjunction with Tunnocks and the Food Teachers Centre. The pupils were given a range of items to use in order to create a presentation plate, using the teacake as the centrepiece. The pupils have worked hard on their ideas and will be able to take these skills forward into their GCSE practical work.

In November, ten of the Year 10 pupils were able to take part in a Minilinks taster day at Runshaw College within Hospitality and Management. During the day they learnt how to portion a chicken, fillet a fish, use knife skills to create garnishes, made sausage rolls and millionaire shortbread, mocktails, and designed and planned a large scale event (like Glastonbury). The day was a fantastic opportunity to meet current pupils and staff and learn more about their subject and how to apply their skills and knowledge once they have completed their GCSE's. Thank you to Runshaw College for hosting the event.



Learning in MFL

During the autumn term the MFL Department took learning outside of the classroom, bringing language learning to life. European Day of Languages involved most of the school community, with the chance to encounter some new languages. Mrs Noad even taught Portuguese!

We also hosted Spanish Language Classes which were delivered by excellent MFL students from Cardinal Newman College over a period of five weeks, these lessons were very popular with our Year 7 students.



'Kaffee und Kuchen' provided a chance for former students to come back to All Hallows to catch up with our current Year 11 classes. It was nice to see them all again.



At the Christmas Markets Trip a great time was had by all as we went to Manchester to experience the market stalls and eateries of central Manchester. Joyeux Noël!



During this spring term, after-school Mandarin Chinese classes have started and will continue until Easter. We have a very enthusiastic group of students and an excellent teacher from UCLan (Shu yan). If anybody would like to join in, there are still places available.

News from Performing Arts

This has been yet another busy year for the Music/Performing Arts Department, one in which we have been honoured to take our music into the wider community. In the autumn term, instrumental players, singers and GCSE Performing Arts pupils performed during the Open Evening activities in October. Musicians also took part in the whole school assembly in September and in the Year 7 Mass of Welcome.

The department took a number of pupils to the Palace Theatre to watch a production of Matilda. Additionally, Performing Arts/Music pupils have enjoyed various workshops this past year in preparation for their GCSE exams with students from Newman College and Runshaw supporting our pupils with workshops. Members of the Performing Arts Society were also awarded for their achievements at Certificate Evening and at the special Achievement assemblies in November.





Members of the Performing Arts accompanied Mrs Colclough and our Chaplain Kate to an event called Make Some Noise in Thornleigh High School which gave pupils an opportunity to spend time with other young people and celebrate together their Catholic Faith. Students from Runshaw College performed a play in school for the GCSE lessons earlier this month and pupils were also invited to the Newman College Performing Arts Open evening.



The start of the Christmas musical events began with an evening of seasonal music. Members of the various ensembles performed on the night. The seasonal celebration of music was followed by the 'Primary School Roadshow' for a day of music and dance celebrations in three of our feeder Primary schools. On Friday 14th December, the Concert Band and Choir were invited once again to perform at our annual Senior Citizen Christmas party, a popular event in the calendar for many of our senior citizens from the local community.



Half Term Building Project

I am sure that you recall a letter I sent home recently explaining the need for our school to invest in enhanced security fencing on the school site. During the recent half term, builders were busy installing new fencing at the front of school under the direction of Mr Adamson. Pupils and staff alike are currently learning new practices which are necessary due to the installation of the fencing, but fears about this eroding our reputation for a warm welcome have not been founded, due to the smart appearance of the fencing and the pleasant look of the newly erected flower bed located close to the front entrance.



Great news for Year 11 pupils! The Year 11 Centre, which has needed refurbishing for some time, has been 'spruced up' during the half term break. Financial constraint has hindered our ability to invest in this area of school, however, the windfall from central government promised in the autumn budget has enabled us to carry out the work earlier than expected. We hope that the new area will become a valued common room for the Year 11 pupils and it will offer a bookable space to enhance both teaching and learning provision during the school day and lettings to the local community at night. Please contact Mr Adamson if you wish to explore hiring any of our facilities during the evening.



Staff Committed to the Craft!

On Friday 15th February, as pupils enjoyed an early start to the half term break, teaching staff spent a day training at school. The day, organised by Mrs Wallbanks, had a focus on 'feedback'. Current educational research indicates that well considered feedback on students' work, then acted upon by the student, is the most effective method of achieving progress in learning.



We have been reviewing both our whole school and departmental feedback policies and the Inset day allowed us the time to examine the topic in greater depth. Initially, Mrs Wallbanks presented on the current educational research, then a number of colleagues shared best practice in feedback techniques currently being employed in our classrooms. Colleagues were then privileged to attend practical sessions delivered by the Art, PE and Food Technology Departments, in which they received the same learning experience as our pupils and experienced how to learn through verbal constructive feedback. And of course, great fun was had by all!



Dates for Your Diary

Friday 15th March – non-uniform day for CAFOD

Saturday 16th March – Rotary Technology Tournament

Wednesday 27th March – Year 9 Options Forms return deadline

Thursday 4th April – Enrichment Day

Friday 5th April – Easter Assemblies (school closes at 12.35 pm)

