



# SFX NEWSLETTER

*Love of God. Love of Neighbour*

*School reopens on Monday 4th June*

## HEADTEACHER MESSAGE

Thank you for taking time to read our newsletter. This half term has been dominated by the start of the GCSE exams and the diocesan inspection carried out on the school.

The year 11 pupils have been working very hard to achieve their potential and we continue to hold them and their families in our prayers.

Our diocesan inspection was extremely successful and outstanding judgments were awarded in all categories. The inspection report will be available on MyChildatSchool for those of you who would like to read the report in full. However, I wanted to draw your attention to the excellent work of the staff and pupils and I have pulled out some direct quotes from the document.

*The joint Catholic/Anglican foundation enriches the life of the school and the local community because everyone comes to a deeper understanding of their own faith and its place in society.*

*Exceptional pastoral care is rooted in Gospel value. It is headed by an outstanding pastoral team and chaplain who together with staff model exemplary relationships.*

*High academic standards are the direct result of the vision to enable every pupil to develop their God-given talents and to demonstrate the 'Love of God and Love of Neighbour' by being the best they can.*

*This is also demonstrable in the everyday atmosphere and interactions during lessons where behaviour for learning is exemplary and in corridors at break time when interactions between staff and other adults was seen to be highly respectful and courteous.*

The inspectors were highly complementary of the whole school community throughout the visit and I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those staff, pupils, parents and members of our wider school community including the clergy and governors who gave up their time, or wrote messages affirming our school.



Finally, top right shows a photograph of former pupil Liam Kay being awarded his Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham palace. In many ways this achievement is a practical expression of the words of the inspectors. Despite having left the school two years ago, a group of 15 pupils have completed their D of E award through St Francis Xavier and with the support of Mrs Crossling. As one year 10 pupil reflected in the inspection report "There is a caring ethos here, we are a small school so we are able to take care of each other". I believe that our pupils see the school as a family and enjoy working together to make a difference.



## TOUR DE YORKSHIRE

A group of students and staff were proud to represent the school at the stage 3 starting point of the Tour de Yorkshire in Richmond on Saturday 5 May. The enthusiasm of our students, combined with the lovely weather, were a great showcase for our beautiful town.



## EASTER CONCERT

To get the term started the school's budding musicians took to the stage to perform a varied and entertaining musical journey from Oasis to Blake. Well done to all the students who made this event a memorable occasion.



## ECO UPDATE

The SFX Eco team recently met Bishop Helen Ann Hartley from the Diocese of Ripon and Dr Jim Whiston, Chair of Governors at SFX school, to give a 10 minute presentation about their eco work within the school. The presentation showed some of the distressing images of animals from Sir David Attenborough's recent Blue Planet Series. They also included a reference to Pope Francis' encyclical which calls for urgent action on climate change.

The eco team shared the work that they have been doing in the school over recent months which includes:

monitoring energy usage – so far the school has achieved almost a 20% decrease in its electrical consumption;

food waste reduction - through their daily efforts in manning a recycling centre, the school has reduced its student food waste by over 12% since January;

grounds maintenance – the team recently planted spring bulbs to brighten up the school grounds and have carried out 21 litter picks to date. One of the interesting finds from their litter picking was a plastic duck now named by the group as 'Derek'. Derek was entered into the recent Richmond Duck Race to highlight the serious issue of littering; and,

paper reduction - the school has reduced its paper usage by over 70,000 sheets during the last eight month period. The team are also planning to plant 15 native trees within the school grounds equivalent to their paper usage last year.

Next on the list is to tackle the important issue of plastic straws and single use plastics. The team are already thinking about ways to do this and the school is already working with its suppliers to find alternatives.

In recognition of their efforts the eco team have been successful in achieving the Eco schools Bronze and Silver Awards.

## Eco-Schools



St. Francis Xavier School

has been given this award to recognise their achievement in working towards a sustainable lifestyle.



They are now working towards their Eco Schools prestigious Green Flag Award. There's still plenty more work to do...



## CHAPLAINCY

Reverend Martin Fletcher was welcomed as the new Rector for St Mary's Church in Richmond and was Licensed On Thursday 26th April at St Mary's Church. Members of St Francis Xavier School attended the service including Mrs Ross Russell, Mrs Keelan-Beardsley and Mr Humphries. Pupil representatives came from some of the different Christian denominations present in our school, these included: Chloe Reid, Samuel Ross Russell, Josephine Cooper and Harry Pike. Revd Martin was presented with an engraved beer glass, a bottle of local beer and a DVD. The latter was presented to give him a flavour of the school he will be helping to support as part of his new job. We are very much looking forward to welcoming Revd Martin as he comes in to school to help us with our Eucharist's and Services.

On Thursday 19th April, year 8 had their Retreat Day in School. Missional Generation, a Schools Work Organisation from Leeds, came in for the day to run the retreat. The theme was to explore our School's ethos – 'Love of God and Love of Neighbour',

defining how we are formed and loved by God and how we can draw strength from God's love for us to show love to others. The day was packed with activities, including a game of human 'hungry hippos' and bible teaching through Virtual Reality experiences.

All of our year groups have now had their Year Group Mass and Eucharist. We have had some very special Services together throughout the year and have been grateful to each of the clergy from Richmond Deanery and to Fr Dan for their support and hard work in putting those Services together.

On Friday 11th May we held our Thanksgiving Service for year 11 as they come towards the end of their time at St Francis Xavier. The students worked with Mrs Ross Russell to put the Service together, and Lizzie Morrison and Oliver Holubecki-France wrote a beautiful reflection as the message they wanted to give their fellow students as they leave our school. The Service involved a fire pit, photo memories, a poem from Mrs McPhee and Miss Webb, refreshments and a chance to sign shirts – it was a lovely afternoon. Each of

our year 11s were given a gift of a prayer cross and a card with our school prayer.

We are fast approaching the date when we will set off for Lourdes! We have 38 students and 5 members of staff taking part in the Pilgrimage this year. On Saturday 28th April, we took part in our wheelchair training and the Lourdes preparation day at All Saints School in York. We met with all the other schools in the Diocese who will be taking part in the Pilgrimage and had a great day learning how to safely take care of the Supported Pilgrims, making goody bags for the Supported Pilgrims to have on their arrival in Lourdes, and finding out more about the Pilgrimage we will be taking part in. please keep us in your prayers as we set off on 25th May and return on 1st June.

We very much appreciate the prayer support of our parents and governors at school. The parent's prayer meeting took place on Tuesday 8th May, which was well timed before the inspection began on 10th May – we were glad to be able to meet together and to pray for our school and our students. Our next meeting will be on Thursday 28th June, 2 – 3.30pm in the Chapel – all are welcome. We meet for a time of reflection, prayer and refreshments.

The school would like to thank our fabulous Chaplaincy Team, St Vincent de Paul Group and Worship Band who did such a great job representing our school when the inspection took place this half term – they all do an amazing job helping to make our school a special place which reflects God's love in all we do.

## SPORTS UPDATE

### Athletics

In May we took an enthusiastic group of students to the Area Athletics Trials, they pulled out some excellent performances on the day.

#### Junior Girls

Natasja Clemmet- 100m champion

Ria Nolan- High jump champion

Emily Wilford- Discus 2nd

Lucy Christie- Javelin 2nd

Rosie Jolly- 300m 3rd

#### Junior Boys

Tyler Gotts- Discus champion

George Farrow- Triple jump 2nd

Tristan Alderson- 200m 3rd

#### Intermediate Girls

Emily Harris- 100m and Long jump champion

#### Intermediate Boys

Daniel Wilson- Triple jump champion

### Outstanding performances

Well done to all our sporting students who have qualified recently or achieved impressive results:

Emily Harris: Area Athletics

Lucy Christie: Area Athletics



st Francis  
Xavier

Alec Fuller: Area Athletics

Natasja Clemmet: Area Athletics

Ria Nolan: Area Athletics

Emily Wilford: Area Athletics

George Farrow: Area Athletics

Tyler Gotts: Area Athletics

Daniel Wilson: Area Athletics

Rebecca Savage: Table tennis ranked 4th in Country

Joe Kitching: Middlesbrough Academy Football

Tristan Alderson: County and Area Cricket

## YEAR 10 ENRICHMENT

Year 10 is an important year to start thinking about the next step after GCSEs.

To support our students they took down in a two day enrichment programme which included CV writing, followed by interviews from local businesses, team building and a visit to Darlington College who also have a Teesside University connection.

Congratulations to the successful candidates who were 'hired' as a result of their interviews and well done to all the year 10s who impressed our visitors and visitations with their excellent attitude and behaviour.



## SERVICE STUDENTS

Students whose parents are in the armed forces were taken along to a special event at St John's in York, exploring their unique perspective and feelings around further and higher education in a mutually supportive environment.

## THANK YOU

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Brain Tumour Research fund raising event, whether through donations, hard work or raising awareness, you helped the school raise nearly £700 for this worthwhile cause.



Brain Tumour  
Research