



SFX NEWSLETTER

Love of God. Love of Neighbour

School reopens on Tuesday 3rd September

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

After such a busy half term, the pupils and staff are ready for a well-deserved summer holiday. Pupils have been involved in many exciting opportunities including the end of year trips to Lightwater Valley and Round Howe. Year 10 have visited university and been involved in other enrichment activities. Our KS3 pupils have helped with the year 6 induction day and evening, and we have even managed to fit in our sports day as well.



We were honoured to host a visit by the local MP, Rishi Sunak, who met the Eco-team and was impressed by their passion and knowledge on environmental protection issues.

Many of our KS4 pupils have taken part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme co-ordinated by Mr Rodaway, enjoying the challenge of the outdoors and growing in confidence and skills.

Two very significant events have taken place including the school production of *The Wiz*, where a large number of our pupils displayed their acting and musical talents. Staff from our Chaplaincy team as well as the RE and History Departments took a school party to Poland, which included a moving trip to Auschwitz.

On Wednesday we had our Junior Awards evening, a great oppor-

tunity to celebrate student achievements over the year.

On Thursday we will be remembering Eilidh Hallett in a special service. Eilidh very sadly passed away last month after a long illness, and she is greatly missed by her classmates, teachers and staff. The school has raised funds towards two charities dear to Eilidh, these are Dreamflight and CLIC Sargent.

On Friday afternoon, pupils will take part in our end of year Thanksgiving Service. There is a lot to be grateful for at St Francis Xavier School and our pupils have embraced the many opportunities given to them this year. Thank you for your support and we look forward to welcoming your child back in September. Have a great summer.

POLAND

by Mrs Nicholson

At the end of June the RE/History/Chaplaincy Team took 34 Year 10 and 11 students to the beautiful and historic city of Krakow in Poland.

After a gruelling overnight journey, we landed and disembarked into a balmy 34 degree heat. To give you an idea, it was so hot that Joely Weston's sunglasses melted. We had to abandon our initial plans due to the extreme climate and settled for a MacDonaldis and an ice cream. Not overly cultural but the Main Square of Krakow was a stunning setting nonetheless.

On our second day, we made our way to Auschwitz I and Birkenau. We entered with trepidation and despite the harrowing experience that we all encountered, our stu-

dents showed reverence throughout. We came away feeling exceptionally proud of their conduct. In the afternoon, we lifted the mood with a river cruise, this turned out to be one of the many highlights of the trip. Our students performed the YMCA for the people of Krakow on the roof of the boat, up and down the Vistula, attracting a fair bit of attention from tourists and locals alike.

We had a day visiting the Salt Mines, where our students were given the opportunity to lick the walls. We discovered only a small percentage of the thousands of caverns of the mine. This particular excursion may go to explain some of the odd gifts that were brought home, it is a challenge to buy love ones mementos when the entire gift shop is salt based. We followed this with lunch in the Old Jewish Quarter, a tour around a



functioning synagogue and the Jewish Ghetto. We then got the chance to look around Oskar Schindler's Enamelware Factory, which documented Polish life during WWII.

On our final day, we took a break from the city and went up to the scenic Zakopane, located in the Tatra Mountains. Some of the group went on an energetic hike up the mountain, some went on the funicular to take in the breath taking views, whilst others took the chance to spend some Zloties in the shops.

Thank you to all who took part. Mrs Masterman, Mrs Ross Russell, Mr Benaiges, Mrs Crossling and Ms. Nicholson



for lunch we went on a river cruise along the Seine, passing very famous landmarks. After this we went to the Arc de Triomphe which was amazing we also went along the Champs d'Elysee passing many fancy shops.



PARIS TRIP

On Sunday night we set sail to Dover to catch a ferry to Paris. Mrs Winter was in the very best of moods when we had the twelve hour bus and ferry voyage!

When we arrived at the FI-AP Hotel it was very nice and the rooms were spacious. We all went for a stroll in the local park and showcased our fabulous French skills when ordering crepes.

On Tuesday we ventured off to the amazing Eiffel Tower and saw the breath-taking beauty of Paris from above. After a delightful stop off

On Wednesday, we went off to the Stade de France, I thought I was not going to like this not being a fan of football, but it was very interesting and we had such a good tour of the stadium.

On the Thursday (our final day in Paris) we went to Disneyland, it was so fun and the most magical place in the world!

On the Friday, we all jetted off on the coach to return home. We all were exhausted so slept the whole time. After a prolonged journey from Dover to Richmond we went home happy about the week.

PTA

The PTA have had another busy year of fundraising. We presented a cheque for £4559.50 to the Head Teacher in June towards Notice Boards, wall mounted flagpole and a donation towards the end of year trip to Light-water Valley. Our Main event, the Christmas Fair will be held on Friday 22 November and we hope this will be as big a success as in previous years. As children move on through school we have parents who leave the PTA and we are hoping after a lot of interest at the Year 7 Open Evening that lots of new faces will be joining us this year. Our first meeting is on Tuesday 16 September at 5.45pm in the School Library. Please join our friendly group and. It's a great way to get involved with the School and more importantly raise funds for your children. Have a lovely summer everybody.

JUNIOR AWARDS EVENING

On Wednesday 17th July the school gathered to celebrate the outstanding efforts of students from year 7 to year 10. Addressing the audience of staff, relatives and friends Mr McGhee congratulated all of the worthy winners receiving awards for exceptional progress and achievements in school over the last academic year. The heart warming messages from the staff about the consistently diligent and enthusiastic approach of the young people demonstrated the strong working relationships that develop between teacher and student here at St Francis Xavier School, and demonstrated the important lessons that will help each child to become well rounded, confident young adults.



YEAR 9 RETREAT

On Wednesday 26th June year 9 took part in a retreat which explored the concepts of forgiveness, compassion, hope and faith through a talk by couple whose sixteen year old son, Jimmy was killed by an act of senseless violence. The event, held at the Influence Church in Richmond was very moving and thought provoking for everyone involved.



PROM

The relief of finishing their GCSEs added to the spectacular setting of Rockcliffe Hall ensured that our year 11 leavers had a memorable evening at the leavers prom.

All the students had made a real effort and looked stunning in suits and gowns. Bethany Nixon was voted prom queen and Leon Nichols, prom king.

After a delicious two course meal the students enjoyed the music, the hotel grounds and the company of their peers, all together for the last time as students of the school. A night to cherish.



SPORTS UPDATE

Athletics

A group of students took part in an athletics competition and showcased the sporting talent at St Francis Xavier School:

Body Results

- Year 7 boys- 1st
- Year 7 girls- 3rd
- Year 8 boys- 2nd
- Year 8 girls- 1st
- Year 9 boys- 3rd
- Year 9 girls- tbc
- Year 10 boys- tbc
- Year 10 girls- 1st

Outstanding performances-

- Oliver Stanley- 20.15m javelin
- Louis Humble-Jones- 8.59m shot
- Ben Blenkiron- 1.45m high jump
- Mae Johnson- 49.53 300m
- Dwayne Lord- 10.33m shot
- Bradley Lambert- 9.37m triple jump

- Olly Sartin- 26.96m javelin
- Alex Pinkney- 22.06 discus
- Tom O'Mahoney- ? 1500m
- Natasja Clemmet- 13.39 100m and 1.35m high jump
- Grace Beaumont- 28.92 200m
- Lucy Christie- 8.68m triple jump
- Lydia Turnbull- 7.82m shot

There was also an athletics meet on Tuesday 16th July. We will bring you the results for this competition in the next newsletter.

Sports day records

Congratulations to the following students who have broken some of our school's sports day records:

Charlie Wallace

- Year 7 boys
- 1500 metres
- was 5:37.22
- now **5:32.17**



Harrison Mason

- Year 7 boys 100 metres
- was 13.18 sec
- now **12.43 sec**
- Year 7 boys 200 metres
- was 28.56 sec
- now **26.84 sec**

Harry King

- Year 7 boys discus
- was 20.35 metres
- now **20.48 metres**

Kai Sideman-Wolter

- Year 8 boys discus
- was 25.49 metres
- now **28.81 metres**

Fundraising Marathon

on Saturday 13th July Anna Marshall completed the 26 mile Macmillan Marathon Hike in the Lake District in aid of Cancer Research. Well done Anna.