

# sfxtra

## MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents

As the nights draw in and the temperature falls we begin our approach to Christmas. The adverts from the major retailers are now broadcast and available for us to download via social media if we so wish, we are reminded about how many shopping days we have left and encouraged to go off and buy new clothes for those social events which take part at this time of year.



We must not lose sight however of the true meaning of Christmas and the fact that we are celebrating one of the most important events that has ever happened – God made man. An event which was to change the world forever and one which led to God living among us so that we could learn how to live our lives better. So, do we love each other, do we respect each other, do we recognise our own faults before criticising others? – among other things these are some of Jesus' most important teachings to us all.

Christmas can be a difficult time for some for all sorts of reasons and it is especially important at this time of year that we follow the important elements of Jesus' teaching. We need to take a little time out of the hustle and bustle to visit the elderly and the relatives who live on their own, to think about giving rather than receiving, to say a prayer for the families who are experiencing Christmas without a loved one for the first time.

On behalf of everyone at the College I wish you a Happy and peaceful Christmas.

Best wishes to everyone for 2018.

Yours sincerely  
L D Rippon

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## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 9th January - Term Starts  
 Wednesday 17th January - Year 11 Parents' Meeting  
 Wednesday 24th January - Years 12 and 13 Parents' Meeting  
 Wednesday 31st January - PHSCE Day and Year 10 Enterprise Day  
 Monday 12th February - Friday 16th February - Half term  
 Tuesday 20th February - Sixth Form Open Evening  
 Monday 26th February - Year 9 Assessment week  
 Monday 5th March - Year 8 Assessment Week  
 Tuesday 6th March - Year 9 Key Stage 4 Planning (options) Evening  
 Tuesday 13th March - Year 8 Parents' Evening  
 Tuesday 13th March - year 10 Employability Interviews  
 Wednesday 14th March - year 10 Employability Interviews  
 Monday 19th March - Year 12 Exams commence  
 Tuesday 20th March - Spring Concert  
 Wednesday 21st March - Year 10 Parents' Evening  
 Friday 23rd March - End of Term

## THE EDITING TEAM

Mr J Hepworth  
and Tom Carr Year 8



In partnership with



## GOVERNORS UPDATE

### VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

The pressures on school finances are becoming increasingly severe and the school has to make difficult decisions in order to manage the school budget. As



governors we are not allowed to set a budget with a deficit. In July I highlighted that in order to set a balanced budget for the year we would be asking parents to make a contribution of £5/month for each family as a way of closing the gap between our costs and the funding we receive. Unfortunately we have had a poor uptake with only 46 parents from approximately 900 families signing up to make contributions.

The current budget is very tight and we cannot sustain this shortfall for long without having to take remedial action. The school does not have any reserves and we will have to make some difficult choices in order to balance the budget. This is something we do not want to do so again, I ask you to please sign up to the £5/month contribution. We need this funding urgently.

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Despite the financial pressures on the school, the staff continue to support a wide range of extracurricular activities including sports, debating, choir, a gardening club amongst others. The school is so much more than just an academic institution. It is also broadening the experiences of pupils through these other activities. This can only take place due to the commitment of staff and other volunteers who give up their time to make these things happen. This is a big part of the school community and I want to highlight the work these people do and the impact it is having on young people's lives.

Dr. A. Keeley  
Chair of Governors

Welcome to the Winter issue of the newsletter. It has certainly been a busy but very rewarding three and a half months.

Our new Year 7s are looking forward to their first Christmas at SFX. As I write we are preparing to celebrate the Feast of St Francis Xavier and we remind ourselves of our daily Mission statement to bring Life in all its Fullness throughout our community. Christmas is always a lovely time of year at the College and all of the pupils make the atmosphere special and, in their own way, holy.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you and farewell to some colleagues who are moving on to other things at Christmas. Dr Dave Reynolds has "drawn stumps" on a spectacular innings at the College, firstly as a teacher and latterly as an expert groundsman and all round champion of sport at SFX. Dr Reynolds has been instrumental in the provision of countless outstanding life opportunities for our youngsters. I am delighted to say that he remains a constant presence at SFX and continues to be key to the quality of the resources we can enjoy.

Mrs Hesketh is also moving on to a well-earned position as Deputy Headteacher "over the water". Mrs Hesketh has been a very significant member of the management team and Technology Department and has led our successful Teaching and Learning initiatives in recent years. We wish her every success.

Finally, I would like to thank all of the pupils, parents, staff and governors and trustees of SFX for all of the support given to our community this year. I wish you all a peaceful and holy Christmas and I look forward to 2018 with great optimism.

Mr G Flowers

A colorful poster for Old Xaverians Junior Cricket Training. The background is red. At the top center is a stylized illustration of a school building with a yellow roof and a blue and white shield on its front. To the left of the building are three circular icons with cricket stumps, each with a blue banner: "Fun, Exciting Games", "Successive Junior Section", and "Highly Experienced Coaches". To the right of the building are two similar circular icons with banners: "All Abilities Welcome" and "Welcoming, Friendly Club". A large blue banner across the middle reads "OLD XAVERIANS JUNIOR CRICKET TRAINING". Below this, in the center, is a white box with black text: "Every Tuesday!!", "Start Date: 7th November 2017", "U9's: 5-6pm", "U11's: 6-7pm", "U13's/ Girls (all ages): 7-8pm", "Location: SFX school", "Woolton Hill Road", "Woolton", "L25 6EG", and "£2 Per Session". To the left of this central box are three circular icons with cricket stumps and blue banners: "Make New Friends", "Improve Sporting Skills", and "State of the Art Facilities". To the right of the central box are two similar circular icons with banners: "All Abilities Welcome" and "Welcoming, Friendly Club". In the top right corner, there is a Twitter logo with the handle "oldxavssc" and a laptop icon with the text "oldxaverians.play-cricket.com/". In the bottom right corner, there is a contact section with the text "Contact us:", a mobile phone icon with the number "07751812970 (Sean Patten)", and an email icon with the address "oxccjuniors@hotmail.com".



## HELP YOUR CHILD IMPROVE THEIR ATTENDANCE AND IMPROVE THEIR LIFE CHANCES!

We need to ensure that your children and our students are equipped to make good lives for themselves long after they put their blazer on for the last time. They will be leaving school before you know it and so the time to act is now. Attendance is one of the key factors in determining whether or not young people make the progress they should. 97 % attendance is the goal for everyone. For those with a very worrying rate of 90 % and below it is crucial that everyone understands the impact this can have. It is the same as having half a day off every week of the school year. No employer would stand for that. What can you do to improve your child's attendance?

- Talk about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation. Regular attendance at school sets up good behaviour for regular attendance at work.
- Help your child maintain daily routines such as finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep. On average, teenagers need 8-9 hours sleep to be healthy and alert. You may also need to monitor their use of the Internet, mobile phone and TV at night to ensure they are not staying up too late or being disturbed while sleeping.
- Consider how your child is sleeping – is their room cool and dark and have all devices, including TVs and mobile phones, been removed?

- Do not schedule dental or medical appointments during school hours. Arrange family holidays during scheduled school holidays so that they don't miss out on classes and feel left behind.
- Don't let your child stay home unless genuinely sick. All absences, even if authorised, can set back learning.
- Reward appropriate behaviour and don't unintentionally reward unwanted behaviour by letting children who stay home have access to their devices and the internet.
- Talk to your child. What are their feelings about school? What interests them at school? Are there any difficult situations? It helps if you open these discussions in a relaxed way so that your teenager knows you are demonstrating concern, not just interfering.
- Try to be aware of your teenager's social contacts. Peer influence can lead to skipping school, while students without many friends can feel isolated.
- Familiarise yourself with the school's attendance policy. This can help when trying to reason with teenagers.
- Monitor your child's attendance and school performance.

Mrs Fay

## THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SFX CHARITY BIKE RIDE

For the last 20 years Phil Lundy, wife Sue and family have been organising one of the great events in the Xaverian Club calendar. Early each August Bank Holiday Sunday willing volunteers, fresh from the night before, don their Lycra, pick up their bikes and board the Merseyrail heading for Southport. A few hours later, purely thanks to pedal power, all have made it back to the club, many with a tale to tell.

With generous sponsorship and a raffle this provides much needed funds for the Marie Curie Cancer Charity and this year was indeed special; over 20 years this great group of people have now topped the magic figure of £50,000.



The photographs show the celebrations at this year's handover event on a recent Sunday afternoon.

Dr D Reynolds



## OLD XAVERIANS CRICKET CLUB 2017. 125TH SEASON



**This year saw celebrations both on and off the pitch and ended in triumph when the 2nd XI clinched their league title on the final day with a 9 wicket victory against Prescot & Odyssey, thus claiming the Club's first ever trophy in the Liverpool Competition.**

Other celebrations included a Grand Charity Match when, on a sunny Bank Holiday Sunday, a team of current players took on a select team of stars from the past with BBQ and refreshments providing the ideal scenario for much banter and bonhomie among the many spectators attending the event. Late July a Cricket Week gave all of our players the opportunity to turn out against local opposition teams and it was good to see many members who had attended the Centenary and, in a few cases the 75th, able to come and reminisce about great deeds of the past.

The Club closed out the year's celebrations by hosting a Black Tie event on Saturday 14th October at the Titanic Hotel, Stanley Dock, Liverpool, which was extremely well supported, 182 guests attending and having the opportunity to catch up with former team mates and colleagues in a unique atmosphere that will live long in the memory. That night the opportunity was taken to give out the traditional Club awards and a special announcement was made to honour our new President, Dave Reynolds, who takes over after previously serving as Chairman for 34 years; a special mention goes to the outgoing Bro. Francis who has been President for 21 years.

### REVIEW OF THE SEASON.

2017 commenced with Ian Carroll returning from Northern C.C. as 1st XI Captain to take over the reins from the successful six year tenure of Jamie Doyle and there was excitement and promise from the start; both teams looking to improve on last season's missed promotions. The 1st XI won two of the first three matches, the third being a high scoring draw with Maghull where Ian Carroll recorded the highest score of the season, 158 not out, while the 2nds, after two draws, finally got off the mark away to Colwyn Bay, the significance of which is reflected in the final league table. Cup success then followed with the 1st XI progressing through early rounds with victories over Alder, Wavertree and Birkenhead St. Mary's while the 2nds went on a run of six league wins in seven taking them to top spot on June 10th and there they stayed for the remainder of the campaign.

The 1sts meanwhile had briefly moved up to second in their league but the latter half of the season proved tougher and, unlike our glorious 2nd XI, they were unable to maintain this position. In Cup matches it was a different story; having progressed to the semi-final of the Ray Tyler Cup they had

rattled up 190 against a strong Spring View side before the heavens opened and the match was abandoned. Cricket being the game that it is we could not repeat this performance in the replay.

The 2nd XI also enjoyed a good cup run with several comprehensive victories including one by 116 runs against Division 1 side Highfield before coming up against an excellent Newton-le-Willows team in the final of the Sandy Tittershill Cup. Though well beaten on the day this did not derail their quest for promotion which was achieved in late August with a fine win at Burscough; all that remained was to clinch the title and great credit must go to skipper Sean Stamper for keeping the troops focussed and securing the trophy on the final day.

The Firsts meanwhile had regained form and ended the season strongly to attain fifth place in Division 2 and celebrating with a final day victory at the County ground of Liverpool C.C.

More silverware came back to the Xavs when our midweek team, the Grandfather Clocks, returned the Junior Cup for the third successive year to add to their league trophy, and thanks go to the Deakin family for maintaining this unique feature of the club.

Sunday 3rd team cricket provided its usual challenges with trips to North Wales and mixed availability during the exam season being foremost; thanks go to Nick Weeks and his helpers for always, almost anyway, turning out teams and getting them to distant parts.

On the junior front special thanks go to Sean Patten, Youth Co-ordinator, Colin Gibson and Joey Lyons, among others for maintaining our various elevens from Under 9s to Under 21s and for the top quality coaching that they and our many other UKCC qualified coaches have provided. One late addition to the ranks is Paul Bate who has successfully brought Girls Cricket to the club and details of the winter training, already in progress, is shown below.

After 125 years our club is thriving but we always seek new members, young and old, boys and girls, so please have a look at our website, [www.oldxaverians.play-cricket.com](http://www.oldxaverians.play-cricket.com), or come along to our training evenings at the magnificent Sports Hall at SFX on a Tuesday or contact one of us below.

Jamie Doyle, Hon Secretary, [jamedoyle85@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jamedoyle85@hotmail.co.uk)  
Sean Patten, Youth Development Officer, (m) 07751812970.  
Paul Bate, Girls Development Officer, (m) 07713629673.  
Dave Reynolds, President, [drs@sfx.liverpool.sch.uk](mailto:drs@sfx.liverpool.sch.uk) (m) 07845177511

# St Francis Xavier's PTA

Did you know that whenever you buy anything online - from your weekly shop to your annual holiday - you could be collecting free donations for St Francis Xavier's College PTA - Liverpool?



What can you do to help us raise much needed funds?

There are over 3,000 shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including Amazon, Expedia, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline and Sainsbury's - it doesn't cost you a penny extra!

It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfrancisxavierspta/> and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and St Francis Xavier's College PTA - Liverpool will be really grateful for your donations.

PTA contacts ;

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Ledder.

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Jo Murphy

PLEASE USE THE LINKS TO SIGN UP FOR EASYFUNDRAISING AND THE LOTTERY.

Please support your PTA. The PTA has fully funded or supported many school areas:

- The school mini bus
- Leavers parties
- 3D printers for the technology department.

And the PTA help to make school events successful by providing subsidised catering and support.

Want to get involved? You can give as much or as little of your time as you can. New members welcome. Contact Karen Ledder at [k.ledger@sky.com](mailto:k.ledger@sky.com)

Join the PTA monthly lottery £1 a week- all profits go to the school and there is a prize guaranteed every week, with an extra chance to win

£25,000. Sign up at-

<https://www.yourschoolottery.co.uk/lottery/school/st-francis-xaviers-college>



Help us with matched funding from your employer - most financial organisations will match PTA funding. Please find out from your employer if you are able to help provide this valuable and much needed extra funding. Contact [k.ledger@sky.com](mailto:k.ledger@sky.com)



## ROUTES INTO LANGUAGES AT MMU

On Tuesday 31st October 2017, the Year 12 Spanish class took a trip to Manchester Metropolitan University for a Spanish Sixth Form day.

Upon arrival at the University, we registered and made our way into the welcome seminar before commencing the first session we had signed up to take part in. The session was focussed on translation techniques you can use to achieve the most accurate translation possible. During the second session of the day we had the opportunity to carry out interpretation, which was very enjoyable and at times challenging. The aim of the third session was to equip us with useful speaking exam strategies to support us in achieving exam success. The information was extremely valuable and gave us a good insight into how we can impress our examiners in our speaking exams.

We had lunch in the city centre and returned to the University to attend the final two sessions of the day. The penultimate session was a rather funny and interesting one on the differences between SER and ESTAR, the versions of the verb 'to be' in Spanish, and how to use them. The last session of the day was on Latino music and idols, something which teachers and students alike seemed to enjoy. We learned about some of the different types of Latino music and even got to listen to some music from the likes of Marc Anthony, Luis Fonsi and Shakira. It was very interesting to learn about the different music genres throughout Latin America.

All in all it was a very enjoyable day that provided us all with important information and useful skills to help us progress in our Hispanic studies.

Joseph Griffin

## OLD XAVERIANS FOOTBALL

Old Xaverians FC are now well into the playing season of their 125th year in existence, having been formed in 1892 (the same year as Liverpool FC). We currently field teams in the Liverpool Premier League, the Old Boys League, the I Zingari Combination and several Junior leagues around the County FA area. At the time of writing (14 November 2017) our First Team are top of the Premier Division of the Liverpool Premier League, the top amateur standard in the city. The team are managed by Paul Bennett and Mike White (former SFX pupils) and Paul Stanton who managed the successful Under 18s team a couple of years ago, a team made up of SFX pupils who now form the nucleus of our 1st Team.

Old Xaverians FC play their home games at SFX on Saturday afternoons and the Club play a big part in the maintenance of the grounds and changing facilities, both financially and through direct practical assistance including regular cutting and marking of the school pitches. We also use the Sports Hall for midweek training and contribute to the community spirit of SFX, offering football to all age groups and standards. We are planning to mark our 125th Anniversary later in the season with some high profile events, and are looking to involve our professional clubs in the city in some capacity.

Old Xaverians are always keen to welcome new players, particularly students or former pupils of SFX College. If you are interested in playing for the Club please visit our website at [oldxaveriansfc.com](http://oldxaveriansfc.com) or twitter @oldxavs2ndXI or contact Club Secretary Mike White on 07799 148866 or [mikewhite11@aol.com](mailto:mikewhite11@aol.com)



## REMEMBRANCE AT SFX

World War 1 ended on the 11th of November, 1918. It took the lives of an estimated 37 million people, both civilians and military personnel. Remembrance Day is our way of respecting the lives lost, not just in World War 1, but in all the wars, past and present. Remembrance Day is not about glorifying war, it's so that we don't forget the past, especially those who have never experienced war.

Each year group had their own Remembrance Day assembly in the hall, with Mrs Fay as the speaker. She created a powerful and poignant atmosphere with her presentation; the whole year sat in silence, listening, intrigued. She went through a powerful account of the first ever 2 minute's silence, recorded in The Manchester Guardian from 1919.

'The first stroke of eleven produced a magical effect...motors ceased to cough and fume, the mighty-limbed dray horses hunched back on their loads and stopped also...of their own volition...everyone stood very still...it was a silence that was almost pain...and the spirit of memory brooded over it all.'

The next slide had the picture of a gate that stands in Manchester Victoria Station. A gate that commemorates the brave and valiant Lancashire regiment that left for the war 103 years ago. At least one in ten never returned. The soldiers' sacrifice is marked with a small plaque that reads 'To the memory of the thousands of men who passed through this door to the Great War and of those who did not return.'

For the fourth slide, Mrs Fay, with deep solemnity, read a letter from Charles Blowers written in 1917, addressed to his 3-year-old daughter Doris. Just from his words, we could sense his agony and sorrow bleeding out from the letter. A final farewell to Doris, whom he may never see again. A final farewell to a 3-year-old child who wouldn't have been able to comprehend the tragedies of war. Charles Blowers relied on hope as he fought on the front line, a hope that kept him fighting. Sadly, a few weeks later, he was killed.

In his letter, Charles Blowers wrote of the 'battle of life', the times when we feel that we are in an uphill battle, struggling to get to the peak. We get frustrated, we become angry; we

experience the burden of disappointment. Part of the 'battle of life' is to keep fighting, to get to the other side with as many cuts and bruises as need be, to keep going even when the world turns upside down. It's not the prize which we strive for, it's the knowing that we played a good game and helped our side to win. We should play our game fair and square, knowing that even if we didn't achieve all our goals, we did not impede the ambition and perseverance of others.

After Charles Blowers' letter, representatives from each form brought up to the front of the hall a memorial cross or poppy. It was a mark of respect to those that have fallen in war, soldiers and civilians. Harmonious and gentle music played in the background as the memorial crosses were placed in a flower pot. A symbol that, even in death, there is hope for new life. We reflected on the futility of war and the need for a true and lasting peace.

After hearing all this, it's easy to see the negative side of life, to slip into a never-ending maelstrom of questions. Even with the sacrifice of millions, we still have war in our world. Not just World War 1, but 2. We turn on the news and hear of thousands dead in a far-off country. We hear of wars and rumours of wars. As Wilfred Owen once wrote in his famous poem, Exposure, 'For love of God seems dying', a heart-wrenching sentence that grieves our very ideology on life. In these dark and troubling times, our faith can fade away, we can lose our hope. However, it takes real strength to believe that God will come through, even after all of our sadness. We don't know why there is suffering, yet we still believe, and we know that deep within our hearts that God is still there for us. So let us keep believing, while playing our own part in life, to fight for an end to fighting, to choose peace instead of war.

Remembrance Day is a day of mourning but it also serves as a reminder of a second chance, that through the disorienting fear of life, through war and suffering, there can still be world peace, but we must endeavour to make what seems impossible into a reality.

Jacob Raju Year 11

## REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On the 12th November we had the honour in representing SFX College at the Remembrance Day service held at St George's Hall. It marked the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele, the 100 year anniversary of America entering the First World War and the 100th anniversary of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps and honoured those who sacrificed their lives for us with the release of poppies in the air and a 2 minutes silence. At the service itself military regiments past and present were showcased and marched through the crowds to a fitting round of applause for the efforts that they are giving today, which drew an end to the service.

Katie Dacre Y13 and James Robson Y13  
Head Girl and Deputy Head Boy



## NATIONAL POETRY DAY

Thursday 28th September saw SFX celebrate National Poetry Day with a 'Drop Down' whole school poetry event. The entire school stopped for a while to read and reflect upon Rudyard Kipling's poem 'If':

If you can keep your head when all about you  
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,  
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,  
But make allowance for their doubting too;  
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,  
Or being lied about, don't deal in lies,  
Or being hated, don't give way to hating,  
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;  
If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;  
If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster  
And treat those two impostors just the same;  
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken  
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,  
Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,  
And stoop and build 'em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings  
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,  
And lose, and start again at your beginnings  
And never breathe a word about your loss;  
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew  
To serve your turn long after they are gone,  
And so hold on when there is nothing in you  
Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on!'

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,  
Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,  
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,  
If all men count with you, but none too much;  
If you can fill the unforgiving minute  
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run,  
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,  
And—which is more—you'll be a Man, my son!

Pupils put a sticker of the poem into their exercise books then reflected upon Kipling's themes and ideas. Here is a selection of student responses to this famous poem. Pupils recognised the inspiration in the poem, but also sounded notes of caution about the expectations placed upon young people:

*"nothing in life is set in stone. 'If' you want something, you've go to be willing to work for it."*

*"inspirational quotes... but there may be too much pressure on men."*

*"I think you need to be cautious not to let self-belief lead into over-confidence."*

So, a strong response to the poem; it certainly had an impact and gave us all a lot to think about. You can listen to it here and form your own judgement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSSqc1qG238>

## POETRY COMPETITION: 'FREEDOM'

Write a poem with the theme, topic or title of 'Freedom'

To coincide with National Poetry Day, SFX launched a poetry competition, for Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils, upon the theme of "Freedom". There were many excellent entries and it has been difficult to choose the overall winner. The short-listed entrants, who all display strong potential, are featured (below) along with key lines from their poems:

Daniel Brady of 10 Campion: 'Rocketship'. A contemplative and intense short poem about taking responsibility for your life:

*"make sure one day you are in your rocket ship flying high, and free..."*

Leo Graham of 7 Owen: 'Freedom'. A beautiful poem which imagines the freedom of the bird as a metaphor for the freedom we all aspire to. Leo's poem is also artfully presented with evocative illustrations which transport the reader into the pastoral peace of the language:

*"A bird is free, to fly the skies, to rise above all the lies"*

Daniel Shea of 10 Lewis: 'Freedom'. An inspiring poem which invites us to appreciate what we already have as the building blocks to our own freedom:

*"Let us fortify the world  
With bricks made of freedom."*

Liam Mitchell of 9 Rigby: 'I'm Waking Up'. A sensitive and mature poem about the wonders of the sensory world around us. Fantastic!

*"I see a light  
It's really bright...  
I can hear life  
Trees singing  
Wind whistling  
... a song in my head"*

Liam McCay of 7 Lewis: 'Freedom'. A well-structured acrostic poem which deals directly with the human right to freedom. With its bold statements, this poem imperatively commands the reader to consider the notion of freedom. A good response to the 'brief' of the competition criteria. The judging panel enjoyed the force of Liam's entry. Liam begins the poem, convincingly, with this definition of freedom:

*"the power or right to act, speak and think freely"*

Jonathan O'Shea of 7 Rigby: 'You Have a Little Diamond'. This is a lovely poem which centres around the image of the diamond and links it beautifully to the precious nature of memories. Well done Jonathan! Such a sensitive and advanced poem. The poem really has an impact:

*"You have a little diamond  
You hold it tight in hand"*

Daniel Spruin of 10 Rigby: 'A Baby is Taken From its Mother'. A heart-breaking poem about animal welfare with a keening sense of questioning disbelief in response to animal neglect and wider themes of injustice. Powerful work Daniel!

*"beaten up for being different,  
he can never be free  
but if others can be free,  
why can't he?"*

Niall Crook of 10 Bryant: 'Freedom'. A really gritty poem which encapsulates the sometimes edgy nature of urban life. Hard-hitting, but well-controlled. Packs a powerful punch:

*"...they don't see the light themselves..."*

Harrison Rietdyk-Donohue of 10 Owen: 'Freedom'. An emotive poem about families and loss. This is a hard-hitting poem, but well-controlled and deals successfully with themes of grief and death. Thoughtful and mature work with an informed critical eye upon current affairs:

*"...A child, a father, a mother  
In desperate need of rest  
A child, a father, a mother  
Could be heading north or west..."*

Callum Savage: 'Poem 1'. This poem tackles the inequalities in the world. It is also notable for its rigid rhyme scheme and careful structure. Not an easy feat for the budding poet, but Callum manages it eloquently. Perhaps his most profound line is:

*"I have the freedom to write this..."*

## THE WINNING ENTRY!

The winner, judged by the SFX English Department, is Jonathan O'Shea, 7 Rigby, who receives a £20 Amazon voucher. Here's what the judging panel had to say: "Jonathan's entry is rewarded for its careful imagery, emotive ideas, neatness and overall power. Jonathan's opening lines resonate unforgettably with the reader and therefore he wins the prize. As a Year 7 pupil, Jonathan O'Shea demonstrates most encouraging poetic sensibilities and very strong potential. Hence, the award goes to him."

The other short-listed entrants also receive treats along with early break and lunch passes.

*"You have a little diamond  
You hold it tight in hand  
As you walk along the beach  
You lose it in the sand  
You feel it's gone forever and it breaks your heart in two  
But just as you give up, a glimmer sparkles through..."*

'You Have a Little Diamond' (extract), by Jonathan O'Shea (7 Rigby)

Mr Clark

## 7TH ANNUAL SCHOOL LIBRARY ASSOCIATION NON-FICTION BOOK AWARDS

Each year the School Library Association produces a list of the best non-fiction books for children and young people which have been published in the past year. Schools can follow it and set up pupil judging panels to submit a vote for their favourite on the shortlist. The following boys have taken part in the judging process for SFX this year:

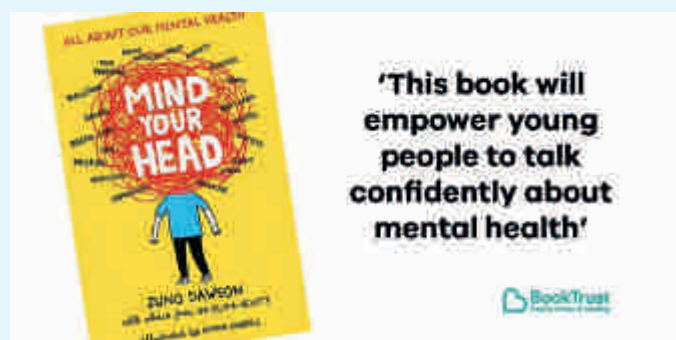


Jude Blundell (7LE), Charlie Read (7KE), Tom Elliott (7OW), Prajesh Shukla (7CA), Calum Cartledge (7KE) and Kurtus Lee (8CA).

They had a close look at the following books in the 12+ age category, and assessed each book against certain criteria such as layout, ease of use, quality of illustrations and print, whether the aims and objectives of the book were achieved, value for money etc:

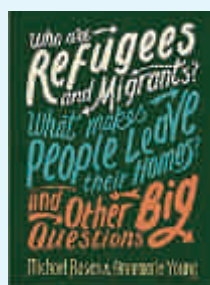
**Mind your head** by Juno Dawson and Dr Olivia Hewitt, illustrated by Gemma Correll

Straightforward advice mixed with a healthy dose of humour make this an excellent book that all teenagers would do well to read. It approaches mental health issues and sources of help in a sensible, non-sensational way with plenty of detail. Correll's illustrations are as always a delight, bringing lightness to serious topics but never trivialising the subject.



**Who are refugees and migrants? What makes people leave their homes? And other big questions** by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young

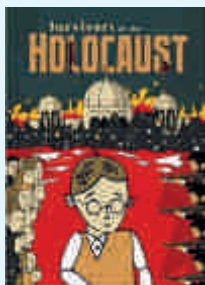
Equipped with all the organisational features of a traditional information book, this also has a distinctive authorial voice which makes it highly readable. This timely book is designed to explain and inform, but also to challenge preconceptions and encourage the reader to develop their own opinions. The topic is explored through a wide range of personal stories which combine many new voices with some of the more familiar ones.





## Survivors of the Holocaust by Kath Shackleton

A very moving and personal take on the Holocaust, describing children's stories in their own words. The stark illustrations clearly convey the fear, anger and despair that they experienced and work well with the straightforward text. The timeline and 'what happened next?' sections tie the stories together and provide context, making this an unusual and compelling look at the subject.



Our verdict: The panel's decision was almost unanimous – their favourite was "Mind Your Head." Although the boys thought it was aimed at a slightly higher age group than themselves, say Year 9 and above, they could appreciate what a useful book it is to help not only teenagers who have mental health problems themselves, but their friends and parents too. They liked the non-patronising, informal writing style and all thought that when reading it, it felt as if they were receiving quality advice from a knowledgeable and supportive older mentor or school counsellor.

For parents interested in books for younger children, the shortlisted titles in the other age categories are as follows:

### UNDER 7

- A First Book of Animals by Nicola Davies, illustrated by Petr Horacek. Walker Books, ISBN 9781406359633
- Our Very Own Dog by Amanda McCardie, illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino. Walker Books, ISBN 9781406356205
- My Encyclopedia of Very Important Things by Various. Dorling Kindersley, ISBN 9780241224939
- The Big Book of Bugs by Yuval Zommer. Thames & Hudson, ISBN 9780500650677

### 7-12

- The Great Fire of London by Emma Adams, illustrated by James Weston Lewis. Wren & Rook, ISBN 9780750298209
- RSPB Wildlife in Your Garden by Mike Dilger, illustrated by Sarah Horne. Bloomsbury Children's, ISBN 9781472913432
- Hello World by Jonathan Litton, illustrated by L'Atelier Cartographik. 360 Degrees (Little Tiger), ISBN 9781848575035
- Ada's Ideas: The Story of Ada Lovelace, the World's First Computer Programmer by Fiona Robinson. Abrams Books for Young Readers, ISBN 9781419718724

## ROYAL SOCIETY YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOOK PRIZE



It's been a busy few months for book judging at SFX! You may remember from the last issue of SFXtra that Mrs Evans organised a group of pupils to judge science books in the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. Our boys chose Robert Winston's Home Lab as their favourite, and this has just been announced as the overall winner from school judging panels across the country. It seems our boys know how to pick a winner; it will be interesting to see whether the national result for the SLA Non-fiction Book Awards above will match our winning choice.



## MAGAZINE OF THE TERM

### How It Works

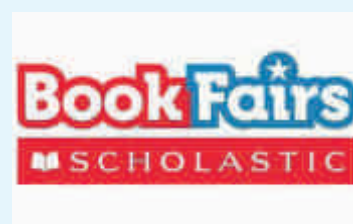


Probably my favourite of the magazines that the library subscribes to, this is a popular science magazine for people who are interested in science and technology and, well, how things work, with a little bit of history and environment thrown in! It's not necessary to have a huge amount of prior scientific knowledge to enjoy this magazine as it's written in a very accessible way. It's an enjoyable read

for scientists and non-scientists alike, packed with fabulous illustrations and explanations. The current issue features black holes, 10 inventions to change the world, a list of 13 chemistry-based life hacks, camouflage in the animal world, hydrogen vs electric transport, record-breaking royals plus lots more.

## BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair was in school in November for its yearly visit. It ran in the library for a week during breaks and lunchtimes, staffed again this year by some of our able library helpers who did a grand job.



Thanks to Jonathan Malone, Francis Rowe, Alex Kempster, Michael McCoy and Daniel Hinnigan for giving up their free time. Thanks also to English staff who brought classes in to view the display of fiction, non-fiction, stationery and posters (and we mustn't forget the ever popular hand pointers!) Thank you to all the parents who supported the book fair by sending money into school with their son. This really does help to encourage an interest in books and reading. The

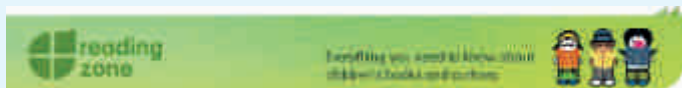
## LIBRARY & LITERACY NEWS



new Diary of a Wimpy Kid (The Getaway) was our best seller (as seems to be the case every year). Other popular titles included Wonder by R J Palacio and the Overwatch World Guide. Due to the success of this year's Book Fair, over £180 was raised to buy new books for our library.

Every boy who bought a book was entered into a raffle to win a free book. The winners were Ethan Brady (7CA) and Thomas Carubia (8KE).

### WEBSITE OF THE TERM: READING ZONE



A great website for parents and pupils alike, with reviews of the latest books, competitions, author profiles. The website is separated into different pages called Children's Zone, School Zone, Family Zone and Young Adult Zone so is tailored for different groups of readers.

[www.readingzone.com](http://www.readingzone.com)



A big thankyou to all the pupil librarians without whom the library and other reading activities wouldn't run. Thanks to Year 11 Alex Davies; Year 10s Alex Kempster and Daniel Hinnigan; Year 9s James Errington, Jacob Lawton, Jonathan Malone, Francis Rowe, Jack Walsh, Jacob Aspinall, Jack McIver and Alex Melling; Year 8s Jamie McGuire, Elliot Monaghan, Lewis Lavelle, Callum Brophy and Jay McDonald. You are all stars!



**DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW SFX LITERACY ON TWITTER!** (@SFXLiteracy) and we now also have a new Instagram account: [sfx\\_literacy](https://www.instagram.com/sfx_literacy)

Mrs Price

## YEAR 7 FOOTBALL - MATCH REPORT

SFX v Holy Family. ESFA National Trophy Round 4.

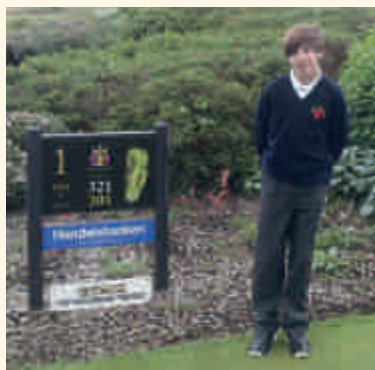
Wednesday 22nd November 2017

In weather conditions that can accurately be described as cold and wet, the SFX Year 7 footballers dominated the opening exchanges. Fierce tackling and intense pressing of the ball from midfielders Ciaran Murphy and Josh Miles meant that the opposition was having a problem getting out of their own half. Other midfielders like Alfie Scoullar and Paddy Jones were proving energetic in possession and without it and as a result the ball was moving forward at pace to damaging effect. This soon led to two SFX goals: one a magnificent chip from The Magician Jones, the other an own goal that our deadly left winger (Jones again) was somehow claiming as his own! Two nil up and our goalie Bruce O'Connor was having a solid game as well, making one really good save by charging down an attacker with bravery and agility. The half time score was 2-1 to the home side as we somehow conspired to lose a succession of tackles and challenges to concede a bad goal – lesson learned. Win your challenges!

The second half proved a great performance. The defenders, Harry Campbell, Joe Ashton and Henry Vlasman held a firm line, stayed together as a back three unit and fought like mad to win every challenge, header and tackle. In possession they moved the ball neatly and smartly to the midfield and attack. Due to this type of secure base at the back we were able to transition the ball quickly into different phases of possession and it was soon 3-1 with another smart finish from Paddy Jones. Other goals swiftly followed as the never ending intensity of the home team ensured that the away side started to weaken, despite their very best efforts. Reece McKane and Nathan Fitzgerald made important contributions in the second half providing renewed energy, whilst our forward, Leo Graham, capped a magnificent performance of true commitment with two excellent finishes. 6-1 win. Thank you to the boys for representing your school and to the parents for turning out in large numbers to get behind all of the team, not just one.

Mr Harrison





Sports stories presents to the newsletter talented Year 9 golfer Preston Diggle who has recently been selected for the Lancashire U15s squad. Preston has represented Lancashire at different age group levels and below is a picture of him lining up to represent the county in a fixture vs

Durham Boys. Preston's golf has so far taken him up and down the country playing against various counties and on some of the country's best golf courses. Possibly one of Preston's biggest achievements is playing the prestigious St Andrews Golf course in Scotland. He is a member of West Lancashire Golf Course Blundell Sands Liverpool and currently plays of a handicap of 9.



Mr Kelly

### U13 A – TEAM FOOTBALL

A successful start to the season for the U13s has seen progression in national cup and elite competitions. The campaign began with a comprehensive 8-1 victory at St Patrick's Salford in the ESFA Elite Competition. Jack Todd was the standout performer on the day grabbing the equalizer and going on to grab further goals and assists in the game. Another hard fought performance away to Chesterfield High School in the ESFA Cup saw our opponent's level the game after two Charlie Glennon headers had put the College two up. With extra time looming man of the match Dominic Evans and Kieran Mulville stepped forward with two well taken goals to send us through to round three. Close rivals Cardinal Heenan were the opposition where a very disciplined and organized performance saw the team win a tight encounter 2-1 courtesy of goals from Dominic Evans and captain Billy Johnson. Alongside national cup commitments the team is scheduled to play Ridgeway in the Merseyside cup and have also played friendlies against Gateacre and Bangor Academy Northern Ireland.

Mr Kelly



### U13 B – TEAM FOOTBALL

The Year 8 B team has enjoyed a very positive start to the season. Although heading out early from the National Cup the team was able to pull together a very impressive result against a team from Bangor in Northern Ireland. During the 4-2 victory Chedu Dixon scored an impressive brace, whilst Shea Mcknight and Baylee Dowling scored the other goals.

More games are expected for the Year 8 B team after the pleasing start they have made to this campaign.

Mr Testard

### BANGOR ACADEMY NORTHERN IRELAND FIXTURE

Early November saw both U13 football teams given very enjoyable and competitive friendly fixtures against Bangor Academy a touring school from Northern Ireland. The schools were over for a very exciting football based trip ran by Little League Sports. They attended Wigan vs Crawley in the FA Cup on the Saturday and Man City vs Arsenal on the Sunday and although they loved attending both games, Little League Sports explained to us that the pupils from Bangor highlighted the fixtures played against SFX as the best part of the trip. Results wise, the U13 A team lost narrowly 2-1 in a very close encounter and the U13 B team ran out 4-2 winners.

Mr Kelly

### ROCKRIVER 2017

June 2017 saw a group of Year 10 and Year 12 students attend a residential trip to RockRiver Mawdsley as part of their GCSE and BTEC courses. The trip would lead onto contributing to GCSE practical marks and BTEC outdoor education units of work. Over the two days the group learned new and exciting skills gaining confidence in climbing and kayaking disciplines. From which they were then assessed on day 2. The climbing proved to be of a very adventurous nature firstly on the indoor barn, then onto the outdoor tower finishing with a trip to a local outdoor rock climbing site. All the pupils involved participated with great effort and application gaining skills that will help them in other challenges they may face.

Mr Kelly





## PINCHOS, PLAYA Y PROFESORES: PARTE DOS



During the October half term, Mrs Thiery and I embarked on the second half of our Erasmus+ project and once again, we headed to Santander in the north of Spain to complete the course. We felt we had covered a lot of the region during our first trip and as a result we decided to explore more of Santander this time and try and learn more about the city itself. We had all good intentions of being the best explorers possible. This was soon forgotten when we arrived to some beautiful weather. This meant one thing and one thing only. The beach!

Unlike the last time we were in Santander, we had lovely warm Spanish weather for most of the week and so after lessons each day, we joined forces with fellow course mates and headed to the beach to catch some sun before it disappeared until Spring. We predominantly spent most afternoons on la playa de los Sardineros just outside our hotel. A beautiful golden beach looking out to the Bay of Biscay and lined with bars and restaurants. We spent many hours on the beach sunbathing and also swatting up on our Spanish grammar and vocabulary.

After a day or two in the hotel, we were all sat having a drink at the bar when all of a sudden, a fellow classmate spotted someone he thought looked familiar. Mrs Thiery and I had a quick glance but they looked like an ordinary older couple on a break. A few of the older members spotted them straight away. Sat behind us enjoying bottle of what looked like champagne were the Krankies! Personally, I had never heard of them and Mrs Thiery was equally as unenthused as I was. A number of the older course mates were a little star struck to see the Scottish duo sat in our hotel, so much so that a few approached them. It turned out they were frequent travellers to Santander and as the week went on, we got more and more familiar with them and their hilarious sense of humour – Fan-dabi-doz!

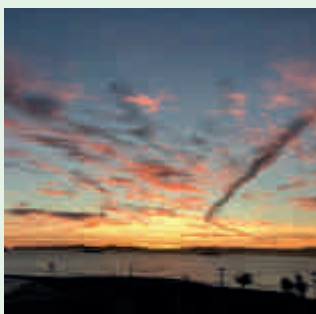
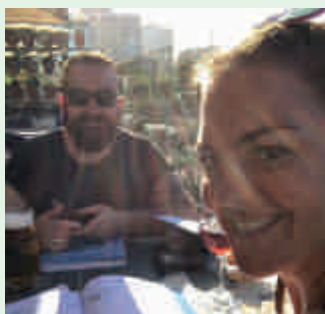
Most evenings, we ventured into Santander city centre where there were restaurants, wine bars and pinchos bars in abundance. One thing I have discovered about Santander is that there is a real variety of food available. It is good for fresh seafood but also some very rich and hearty casserole-like dishes such as cocido montañés. Tapas is not as good here but pinchos (little bites) are incredibly tasty and available at every good bar you enter.

One of the week's main highlights was our wine tasting evening. We were invited to a local organic shop/restaurant that specialises in organic and ethical produce. One of their organic wine suppliers came along and ran the event and we spent the evening tasting some very interesting (and some very pricey) organic wines from the region. We also had a variety of pinchos made with organic produce freshly prepared by the shop's owner. Both the food and the wine were incredible and we spent a lovely evening testing our Spanish and tasting the different wines.

Overall, Santander has proven to be a top destination to visit in Spain. The food is good, the people are very welcoming and it is excellent for shopping. There is always something to do or somewhere to explore. It is definitely worth looking into if you fancy a minibreak! The only thing they could improve is the weather. If you do go, you must try out the infamous tortilla at Manila. You have probably never tasted anything as delicious as this tortilla.

Going forward, our grant from the EU is coming to an end which means we have no mobilities left. However, a second round of funding is now available and so the MFL department are looking at making a second application to get some more EU funding for projects such as this. Hopefully this means more pinchos and tortilla for me and Mrs Thiery.

Mr Hepworth, Head of Spanish.



## ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2017

As part of our continued campaign to educate our students about the harm bullying does we invited "Bully Busters" into school to speak to boys in Key Stage Three. We followed this with further assemblies on this year's National Anti-Bullying theme "Power for Good".

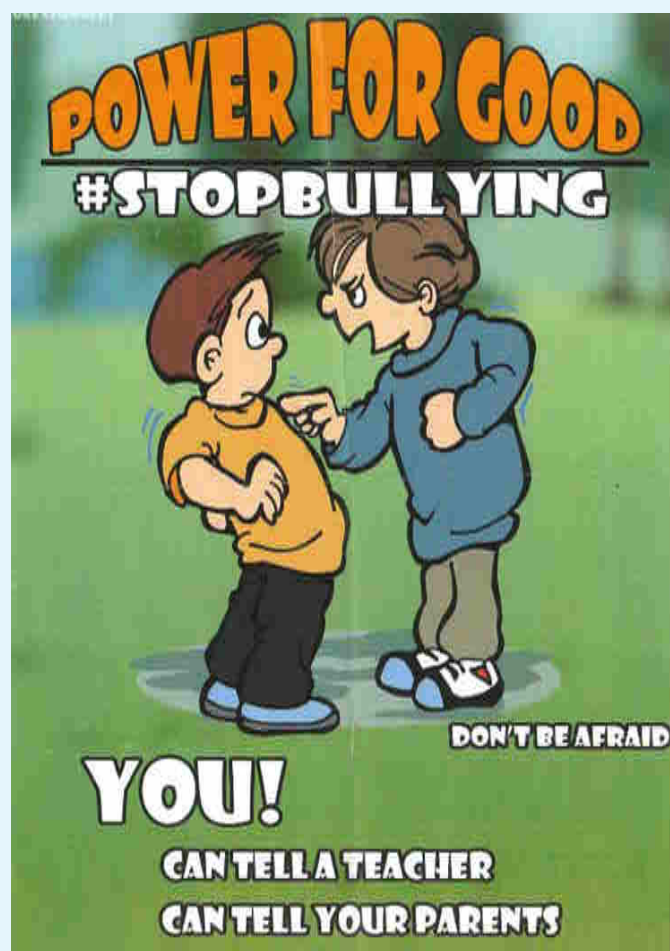
The various types of bullying were explored in all of the sessions and, very importantly, the responsibility of everyone in the school community and those at home to work together to prevent our young people experiencing bullying was highlighted.

The winner of our annual Anti Bullying Poster Competition this year is Luke Chambers, Year 9. Well done Luke!

We have shared the presentation delivered by "BullyBusters" on the school website. Please have a look as it gives useful advice to young people and parents about online bullying in particular.

"CYBERBULLYING is bullying using technology. This means things like prank calling, sending nasty text messages and posting on hate sites as well as forwarding horrible emails, sending round humiliating videos."

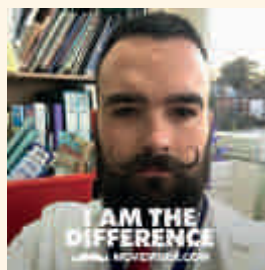
Mrs Fay



## MOVEMBER 2017



It has been a number of years since I last took part in Movember. So this year, I decided to give it a go once again to raise some money for an amazing charity that supports men's health. When I decided to give it a go, I read some alarming facts about the nasty diseases that are killing young men across the country. For example, did you know that 47 % of men diagnosed with testicular cancer are aged under 35? Or that 1 in 8 men in the UK have experienced a mental health problem and 3 out of every 4 suicides are men. And prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men in the UK.



Movember started off as a charity raising money for testicular cancer. Over the years it has evolved and now supports a variety of charities supporting men's health. It seemed a no brainer when decided to raise money for this charity. They pledge to reduce the number of young men dying by 25 % by 2030.

I had a bit of a head start as I have been growing and grooming a lovely thick beard since early summer and there was no way I was starting the month clean shaven as the rules stipulate. This meant I was able to groom and sport a well-curved handlebar moustache. At first, I was dubious with the worry of the stick I would receive in work. However, the pupils and staff have been nothing but complimentary. It is a shame the same cannot be said for my family...

By the end of the month, I had raised £85. This is £15 short of my £100 target. Nevertheless, I would like to thank all of my friends and colleagues who have donated to this cause. If you would like to visit my page and donate to the charity, you can find my Mo-Space through this link: <https://mobro.co/joehepworth44?mc=1>

Mr Hepworth  
Head of Spanish

## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 7th November, pupils in years 12 and 13 took part in the UK Senior Maths Challenge. The top 60 % of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3. This year 40 pupils entered the challenge with 2 Silver and 8 Bronze certificates awarded. There is also a prize awarded to the 'Best in Year' and 'Best in School'.

Zac Mullins achieved a Bronze certificate plus the 'Best in Year' certificate for year 13.

Callum Vinue achieved a silver certificate plus a certificate for 'Best in Year' for year 12 and 'Best in School'.

Congratulations to the certificate winners and well done to all pupils involved.

Miss Arends, Director of Maths



## TRAINING DAY FOR TEACHERS IN DE LA MENNAIS BROTHERS' SCHOOLS



On Sunday, November 13th Mrs Barker, Miss Lindop and Bro. James left for Brittany to take part in a training day (Mon. 14th) for teaching and non-teaching staff in schools and youth movements that are part of the De La Mennais Brothers' network in France and England (the Mennaisian Network). They were joined in France by the Head and Deputy Head of the Brothers' school in Southampton (of which Bros. Francis and James are former pupils), their school chaplain (a retired parish priest) and Bro. Francis himself from here at SFX. As a prelude to this trip the two Southampton staff had already come up to Liverpool on the last day before half-term in October to join in our staff INSET day.

The training day in France aimed to help staff have a better understand of the spirit or "charism" of the Brothers' founder, Jean-Marie De La Mennais, so that they can help the Brothers to keep that spirit alive in their schools and youth movements. The seven themes for the day were all based on ideas close to the Founder's heart. They were each presented using high quality video clips that included short interviews with adults and young people from throughout

the Mennaisian Network. For each theme there was then an activity for the participants to engage in. Bro. James gave simultaneous translation for those who didn't speak French. The themes were:

1. Creating a fraternal community
2. Helping young people to become responsible individuals
3. Personal experience
4. The importance of learning and teaching
5. The role of the teacher
6. Kindness and firmness
7. Serving the poor (poverty in all its forms)

All those involved felt that the day was a great success, helping us to gain a deeper insight into the Brothers' specific approach to working with young people. It also allowed representatives from the Brothers' two schools in England to get to know each other and to share experiences. This will hopefully lead to a much closer collaboration between members of our two school communities in Liverpool and Southampton.

Bro. James





## YEAR 8 CHAPLAINCY TRIP TO BRITTANY



In July, myself and a former student, Andrew Rowan, took a group of 5 Year 8 pupils on a 6 day "Chanter La Vie" adventure in Brittany (Patrick Benz, Ben Fagan Hill, Sam McCarthy-Farrington, Liam Mitchell, Louis Usher).

"Chanter La Vie" (Sing Of Life) is a youth movement which began in Canada over 15 years ago, starting life as an end of year concert for the participants of youth retreats run by "Villages des Sources" ("Villages of the Well-spring") centres around Canada. These retreat centres specialise in organising day and weekend retreats like those Chaplaincy groups have gone to for many years at Lowe House, St. Helens that help young people to understand a deeper level the themes we cover in R.E. lessons and PSHCE days in school, as well as helping the young to support each other through good times and bad. Their end of year concerts became a celebration of the journeys that the young people had been on over the past year. They would involve a combination of song, dance and personal testimony, the songs very often being written using the words of the young people themselves. This is how "Chanter La Vie" was born.

Through an encounter that I had in Canada 3 years ago with the founder of the first "Village des Sources", a Sacred Heart Brother, Bro. Jean-Guy Gendron, his team started to plan for a trip from Canada to France in the summer of 2017 with a group of young people and adults to perform two "Chanter La Vie" events. I took our group of year 8s to join in with the second of these. Other activities during our trip included a visit to the Océanopolis Sea Park in Brest, a day out at Mont St. Michel and another at St. Malo, the latter two with the visiting Canadians.

At the Music Dept. Spring Concert a few months before we left, some of our Chaplaincy regulars (and other musicians) took part in a performance of "Life Is Beautiful" by the Christian band The Afters. This is the type of uplifting, positive song that is performed at the "Chanter La Vie"

events. Our 5 year 8s and our former pupil, Andy, helped me to lead a performance of this song, with the Canadians on backing vocals, during our concert.

During the final evening time of sharing and discussion between all the participants, French-speaking Canadians, French and English, many of our boys took the microphones to very movingly share their own thoughts on their experiences during those few days. We ended up being invited to go to a "Chanter La Vie" event in Canada in 2019! I will be starting to organise this trip over the next few weeks. Watch this space!

Congratulations to the 5 year 8 pupils who came. Thank you for being such a pleasure to take away. You were a real credit to yourselves and to the school.

Bro. James



## A VOICE WITH NO WORDS

Below is an article written by Daniel Spruin Year 10 who approached his English teacher about writing a short story. Below is Daniel's account on why he wanted to write a short story and where his inspiration came from.

### The Editor

I would like to raise awareness of stammering as I myself experience it in a day to day battle to build up my confidence. I have had a stammer since I was 4 or 5 years of age and I thought that I was the only one who had a stammer. On average, around 60 % of people across the world do not know what a stammer is and I would like that figure to decrease as I want everyone to know what a stammer is and how people who meet someone with it can deal with that person i.e. making them feel like they do not have to be rushed. I want to speak publically about stammering.

A stammer is a type of speech disorder in which people try to say a word and they can't say it clearly for example 'b-b-ball'. A stammer affects boys more than girls so for every 4 boys that stammer there is 1 girl who stammers. Worldwide

around 68 million people stammer and 58 % of that figure is male. In childhood between the ages of 2 and 5, 5 % of children experience stammering. Children can inherit this disorder off a family member but this might not be the case with some children.

I have been researching stammering and these websites have made me realise how important it is we make people more aware of the condition.

<https://www.ninisppeech.com/stuttering-facts-and-stats/>  
<http://actionforstammeringchildren.org/>  
<https://www.stammering.org/>

I have written a short story about a child who is starting primary school (see below). He doesn't know that he stammers until he stammers on a word. He thinks that he has a friend that understands him but the person, Sky, is part of his brain in which when it can't handle something for the first time it begins to go into fright mode and he imagines someone who protects him from being physically abused by other children.

## A VOICE WITH NO WORDS

Suddenly, Sean awoke. Sweating and panting as if something had taken him. 'Beep beep' his alarm sounded. 7:00 time to get up. Calming down a little, he went downstairs to the kitchen. His new uniform was staring at him and making him seem scared which never helped seeing as to him, starting primary school was like being held hostage. His mum was trying to be nice to him for a change but she never normally is. Jack, his brother, too lazy to even think about getting out of bed was starting secondary school. Finally, his dad was coming in off of night shifts in a local firm, walked past Sean and just ignored him. Sean got ready for his first day of primary school.

He took his normal route that his dad showed him. Walking past the two dogs who everyday looked like they were planning to rob a bank, snarled as he walked past and walked over the green, green grass towards his school. When Sean arrived at school, he was immediately shown his seat in his new classroom. He took off his coat and the teacher was taking the register and it got to his name. Twenty-eight pairs of eyes were glaring at Sean as if he was the prey of fourteen vultures. Blinking faster than the speed of light and sweating, he answered, "Y-y-y-y-yes-s-s-s, M-m-mi-s-s-s". Everybody in the class burst into laughter but in the corner of his eye he saw a girl. Not laughing, just staring at him. That girl was Sky. A normal girl, who just lived across the street from Sean in a small terrace house, went over to Sean and hugged him. The black clouds covered up the sun which sent out positivity but Sean was sad and the sun was defeated.

During break time, Sean (who was accompanied by Sky) was asked to talk to his teacher about what happened during registration. The teacher asked Sean if he had experienced anything like this before. He shrugged his shoulders. The teacher had no idea what it was that was causing it. Sean had a stammer which is a type of speech disorder which affects boys the most. When you try to say a word but it doesn't come out as clear as you expect. Sky knew what he had. Even though she never showed it, Sky herself had a speech disorder. She was mute. She never talked her whole life and she wasn't planning to. When Sean went outside, he turned the corner and was immediately stopped in his tracks by a huge boy with brown hair, hazel eyes and spots on his face which made him look like an ogre, which in Sean's eyes was what he was. The boy said to him, "Where do y-y-you think you're g-g-going?" He whispered something to Sky. The boys surrounded him and laughed. One boy said, "Who are you talking to?" to which Sean replied "Sky". There was nobody there.

Sky wasn't real. She was a part of the brain in which if somebody is scared, they make up fictional characters to protect them.

He was all alone.

Daniel Spruin Year 10



## YEAR 8 ENTERPRISE DAY

On Friday 24th November, Year 8 pupils took part in their first PSHCE Day that focused entirely on Enterprise. The year group took part in a session ran by external visitors. I asked Tom Carr \* Champion) if he would write an account on the day and tell us all about what he and his peers got up to. Here is his account on the day:

As we entered the 6th Form Common Room we set ourselves up for an easy day but we were so wrong. We started by picking a Project Manager for each team and then the project manager had to fill out a performance sheet of how they thought their team would do.



Shortly after, we were given 4 pieces of blank paper and instructed to make a spider diagram of every company that we could think of but there couldn't be any companies that would be in competition with each other. This challenged our initiative and encouraged us to use our brains and teamwork. We then picked the type of company that we would partner with if we got the chance. It was very creative and I enjoyed it a lot. We were given 20 minutes to complete this task. Sir then picked groups at random and asked them to present their spider diagram to the rest of Year 8. Lucky enough we didn't get picked. We were then given the task of writing a letter to the company we had chosen telling them what product of theirs we would add to Kidzania and the amount of money they would get. We tried several times to find the right company but we got there in the end.

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*After a short break we were refreshed and ready to go. We had an A3 piece of paper lying on our table and thought to ourselves "what was this?" It turned out we had 40 minutes to make a banner, put all of our information on a poster and make a speech based on how we were going to present our product on social media. We were determined to win and show everyone what we could do.*

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40 minutes later, Sir read out, table by table, the groups that had to come to the front and present their idea. We were praying it would be us going up to the front and presenting our fantastic idea to the whole of Year 8. Lucky enough we

got picked and stood up in front of the judges (Mr Glover and Mr Green). We presented our idea and our advert and it went well. We absolutely smashed it. The judges then went over to a separate table to deliberate and pick one winner. We crossed our fingers (and toes) and hoped it was us.



10 minutes later the judges came into the hall and stood in front of Year 8. All students drum rolled, the winners were... Homes under the Hammer by Max Miveld and his team mates Jevvie Mehmeti, Jamie McGuire, Joe Mooney and Shaun Middleman.

Overall we were happy in how we did and enjoyed the day so much. We would like to thank the outside agency for giving us the opportunity to be businessmen for the day!

Tom Carr Year 8





W I N T E R 2 0 1 7



# SFX Music Department



## Exam Success

Congratulations to the following students on their music exams:

- Charran Williams Y8 – Grade 2 Singing
- Jonathan Malone Y9 – Grade 2 Singing
- Joseph Adedunwo Y9 – Grade 3 Singing
- Nathan Capper Y10 – Grade 2 Clarinet
- Matthew Clarke Y10 – Grade 3 Singing & Grade 1 Classical Guitar
- Jake Foster Y11 – Grade 4 Flute
- Daniel Barr Y11 – Grade 2 Classical guitar
- Callum Dixon Y12 – Grade 3 Theory
- Liam Ash Y13 – Grade 3 Singing

## Music Department News

This last year as ever has been very busy with various activities going on, obviously the highlight being the college choir tour to Italy. The build up for the tour was very positive, in particular the family quiz & bingo night at the college club. The tour was extremely successful in which the choir were a credit to the college and they sang their hearts out at both Pistoia & Lucca Cathedrals. Everything went according to plan and the boys are now eagerly awaiting to what and where the next tour is going to be. I'd like to thank all the families and staff that continually support the department and the boys, without their support certain events and activities can simply not happen. The Summer Proms & Autumn Recital were well attended in which all the boys performed professionally, many thanks again to all that help in any way support these events; it means a lot to our young talented students! Mr. Stokes.

### Save the Date!

**Music for Advent & Christmas**

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm**

**Spring Concert**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm**





## Choir Italy Tour 2017

During the last week of the summer term, the college choir was in Italy on tour performing in prestigious venues such as Lucca & Pistoia Cathedrals. Below is an account of the tour from year

**9 chorister, Francis Rowe:**

The Italy tour was the highlight of last year for me. We had so much fun going round Tuscany, including Pisa, Florence, Siena and San Gimignano. We stayed in Montecatini Terme, which is in the province of Pistoia (Italian Capital of Culture 2017).

### Monday

After the successful flight journey we had a look around Piazza del Miracoli and had a look around the Leaning Tower, the Baptistry and Pisa Cathedral. It was a great day and a beautiful city. After dinner, we took a steep cable car ride up to Montecatini old town and had an hour of

### Tuesday

We took the train from Montecatini station to Florence. It is a lovely, historical city with diverse culture. We had a look around the famous Uffizi Gallery, the Florence Baptistry, climbed up Florence Cathedral bell tower, which is 85 metres tall and visited many other interesting places. We held our first concert in Pistoia Cathedral later that night.

### Wednesday

We travelled to Siena by coach in the morning and then met with our tour guide who took us around the city pointing out the many interesting facts about the city's history. We then took yet another coach journey to San Gimignano, in which we visited the gruesome, yet still intriguing, Torture museum and Death Penalty museum. Afterwards, we had time to grab a bite to eat and look round the various souvenir shops. After our meal at the hotel, we then went to Lucca Cathedral for our final concert, which was well attended with over 200 people present.

### Thursday

Thursday was, while not the most historic of visits, the most fun as the group travelled to the Acqua Village in Cecina. We had around six hours to go around on the waterslides and grab a bite to eat. It was, in my opinion, awesome. We then had our last dinner of the trip and went for a great night of bowling.

### Friday

Friday was very tiring as most of us woke up at around 4:00am to get ready and check out the hotel at 5:15am. It was an end to an amazing trip and a great way to end the school year.

I learned a lot on that trip that I didn't know about, such as the history and culture of Tuscany. We also learned some stuff about torture and punishment that we really did not need to know but it was still fun to learn.







## Where are they now? Jake Carter

### Who Are You?

Hello, my name is Jacob Carter, I am 19 years young and I was born in Liverpool in 1998. I was a student at St Francis Xavier's College from 2009 – 2016 and I am now a Singer/Songwriter living in County Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

### Explain your time at SFX?

My time at SFX was filled with great memories and laughs. I like to think I was well behaved throughout my years at SFX, although I'd say some teachers (not mentioning any names) might have other ideas. However, I did enjoy my time at the college and often look back and wish that I could relive some of the best moments.

### Who were your favourite teachers and what were your favourite lessons?

Favourite teachers is definitely a hard question... I was always into music from when I joined the college to when I left. I also spent most of my later years in the music department so I would have to say Mr. Stokes and Music lessons were one of my favourites. There were plenty of other lessons that I used to enjoy. Mr. Burkes Geography lessons were always enjoyable and I also remember Latin with Mr. Slattery, which was one of the most fun-filled, and laid back classes I ever took. Other favorite teachers I can remember include Mr. Green (History), who managed the best Cricket team to ever grace SFX, and Miss Arends who had the pleasure of teaching me maths for most of my time at SFX.

### Memorable Occasions

I have hundreds of wonderful memories from my time in the college. The best ones are definitely the times I spent on stage performing for pupils, parents/guardians and teachers. These termly performances shaped the way I perform and act on stage to this day.

### What Do You Do Now?

I am now literally living my dream as a singer/songwriter with my own band. During VETorm I gigged all over the UK, but mainly in the North of England in different pubs, restaurants and clubs, doing what I now see as my apprenticeship for what I am doing today. This along with performing a lot on the SFX stage has definitely helped shape my personality and confidence both on and off the stage. (Cont.)



I now live in Northern Ireland and have my own band under the name of 'Jake Carter'. We have played a number of spectacular gigs since forming in April this year, some of which include my own headline tour in some of Ireland's most prestigious venues and Summer festivals to thousands of screaming festival-goers.

Since leaving the college I began to take songwriting a lot more seriously. To date, I have written a number of songs and have released my Debut EP: "Three Things", which contains all self-penned songs. This reached to number 9 in the Irish iTunes charts on the day of its release, which was unbelievable and totally unexpected for my first release. I often get asked what genre my

music falls under and the usual response is 'pop, with a hint of Nashville', although my latest releases are definitely more current and pop influenced.



excited about!

Some perks of the job include being a regular on TV and Radio which was definitely daunting at first but I like to think that I am a lot more settled and relaxed when doing this.

December this year I will also be starring as Aladdin in the first ever Arena Pantomime to take place in Ireland; 'The Spectacular Aladdin'. Although I have never acted or danced before, I am thoroughly looking forward to getting stuck in to the role and bringing my best Scouse Aladdin impression to the table. Also Jasmine is being played by model, Nadia Forde, which is definitely something I am

### **Advice For Upcoming Students**

Being in the public eye, I often get asked the question, "What advice would you give someone that wants to join the music industry." The reply I always give, which is not only fitting for the music industry, is to follow your dreams no matter how hard it may seem. I am thankful that I get to do what I love each and every day and I have definitely achieved some of my dreams and goals that I set at the start of my SFX career.

Thanks, Jake





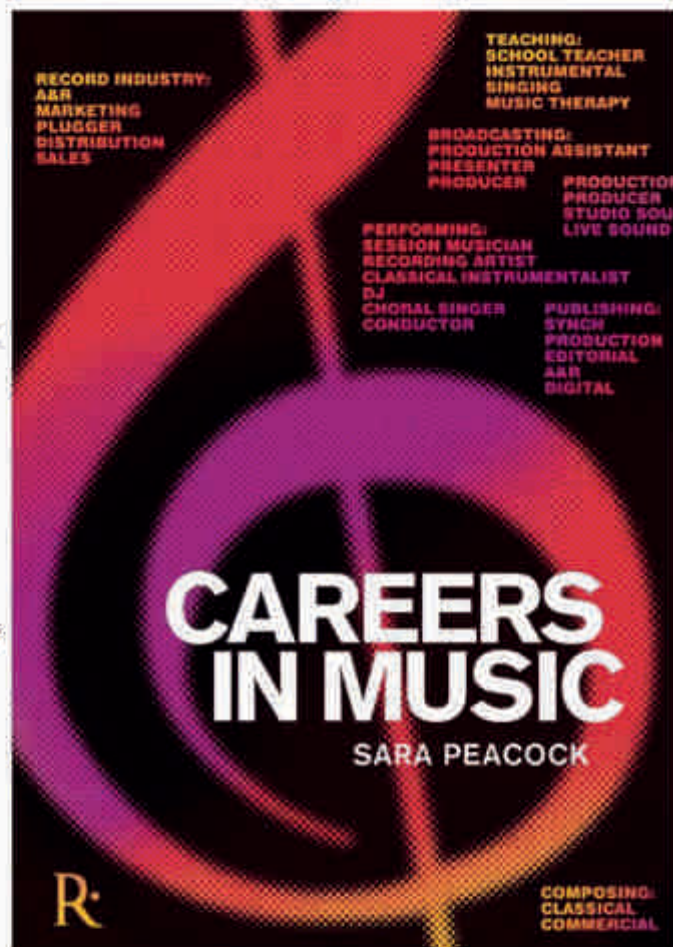
## Music Book Review: Careers In Music by Sara Peacock

This is a really excellent introduction to the realities of the music industry. It is published by Rheingold Education and is primarily aimed at teenagers who might think that there isn't much to do in terms of a career in music.

Music is a thriving and attractive industry full of opportunities for careers in a broad range of disciplines, but can be tough to break into. It is refreshingly realistic about the range of jobs that count as 'music' jobs and how possible it will be to attain your goals in each area. Many musicians naturally seek performing positions, but with opportunities in promotion, publicity, law, publishing, producing, management and more, there's a wealth of vocational options for anyone with the right skills and passion for music. Some of the jobs that are covered are working for record companies, music therapy, teaching music, and working in music publishing. It spans many genres of music in which you can make a living.

Backed up with plenty of page-long opinions from people working in all sorts of different fields of music, each possible job avenue gets a thorough summary. This covers a description of what the job actually is, what sort of career path you might try to follow if that's your ideal job, also the pros and the cons of that job.

This is an excellent easy-to-read overview of the reality, rather than the fantasy, of paid jobs in music.



This book is available to borrow from the music library at the back of MU1, if interested please see Mr. Stokes







**MONDAYS 3:10 – 4:10PM**  
**MU1**

## DJ WORKSHOP

WITH DJ MARK ARMSTRONG

Ever wondered what it's like to be a DJ, could you be the next David Guetta or Martin Garrix? If you are into or interested in DJing then come along to MU1 on a Monday evening for an hour workshop with Liverpool based DJ, Mark Armstrong.

[Head of Music to Arlene Clegg](mailto:Head of Music to Arlene Clegg)



## St. Francis Xavier's College Music for Advent & Christmas

Tuesday 19th December, 7:00pm



A service that reflects the tremendous Christian message of the change from darkness to people's lives to the Light of the World coming when Jesus Christ our Lord and saviour was born.

Our school chaplain, Bro James will lead the service. The college choir will be singing seasonal favourites along with some well known carols and Gregorian chant.

Mulled Wine & Mince Pies available after the service

St Francis Xavier's College, Cathays, Cardiff  
Midweek 101, Next, L22 2DD



## MUSIC TECH LAB



Apple Music



GarageBand

If you are available to be taught all music skills, you can come along to the Music Tech Lab on a Monday evening for an hour workshop with DJ Mark Armstrong.

FRIDAY 11th NOV – 10:00AM



## "DO YOU WANT TO LEARN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?"

If the answer to the above question is yes, then come down to the music department to find out more details about lessons.

Here at SFX we cater for all instrumental needs as well as voice lessons and as a department we are proud to have an extremely high pass rate in graded musical examinations, which count towards UCAS points!



# We want your unwanted musical instruments!

Do you have any unwanted musical instruments lying about in the house that you are looking to get rid of? If the answer is yes, then why not donate it to the college music department. We will gladly receive **any** instruments as this will give lots of pupils opportunities to learn a specific instrument especially if they don't have that particular instrument. Please get in touch with Mr. Stokes or Bro James for further details.



## **SFX College Choir**

Rehearsals on Tuesday & Friday at  
3:10 to 4:10pm  
In the Rehearsal Room  
(next to the reception)

