



St. Philip Howard Catholic
High School

SIXTH FORM CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER

December 2015

“For unto us a son is born, unto us a son is given” Isaiah 9:6

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Keep the ‘Christ’ in Christmas

By Ray Baquiran

So much has been written about the commercialisation of Christmas that even the concept has become as cliché as the contemporary parodic celebration it attempts to address. No one can deny that Christmas, at least for many of us, has lost its true meaning. Year upon year, we are bombarded by wishy washy, emotionally inept ‘Christmas’ adverts that pull on the heart strings yet which frankly cannot be reconciled with the authentic origin of this sacred celebration.

Instead of appreciation for the reception of gifts, people now pressure their loved ones for the latest gadget or gizmo which no doubt in three months will either be abandoned on their shelf covered in dust or be wallowing in the deep recesses of a landfill site.

The dilemma of commercialising Christmas lies in the throw-away culture that inevitably follows. What meaning can we truly attain from ‘the most wonderful time of the year’ when its remnants are material objects which in their very nature fail to continually satisfy? This is the most obvious sign we are doing Christmas wrong.

So this Christmas, keep the ‘Christ’ in Christmas, heck keep the ‘Mass’ in Christmas if you’re a rebel like me. After all, what stemmed from that humble birth in Bethlehem two millennia ago is more radical than sliced bread.

As Christians, we celebrate the birth of our saviour, Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity. Let us do so by being with our loved ones, and reflecting upon the fact that at the darkest time of the year, the light of the world permeates the dark cloak of a world torn apart by violence and division.



‘TWINS! Josh and
Michael’s close shave’

BRITISH
COUNCIL

Ray and James at the
Foreign Office



Farewell to Mrs
Cartmel

Hair Today, Gone Tomorrow!

By Ray Baquiran

The 'Piam Brown Oncology Unit' at Southampton Hospital is the regional centre treating children and young adolescents with cancer and haematological disorders in the South East. In aid of the 'University Hospital Southampton' Trust which supports this specialist ward, two of our upper sixth form students Josh Ezard and Michael Thomas, went above and beyond with their fundraising efforts and shaved off their hair.

For Josh in particular, this act of philanthropic fervour was especially resonant. He said "It was in aid of my best friend's brother Connor who has recently been diagnosed with a form of bone cancer, and is being treated in the Piam Brown Unit".

Donations thus far have exceeded £400 and both Michael and Josh wish to express their gratitude for the support they have received. "It's good to give something back" said Michael.

This sustains the sixth form's proud tradition of charitable work, following on from the highly successful charity day and continued by upcoming events in the New Year!



Charity Day 2015

By James Holland



On 19th October, the feast of our patronal saint, St Philip Howard, the Sixth Form was transformed into a cornucopia of Star Wars characters, Barbie Dolls and even a huge banana for this year's charity day. The first half of the day was spent celebrating Mass with Bishop Richard, reflecting on the life and sacrifice Philip Howard made in order to live out his faith.

After lunch, every form group in the school had a stall, and so one hour and many cakes later, the impressive sum of £1,000 was raised for Chestnut Tree House Hospice, which provides care for sick children and their families. So thank you to all of you who helped make the day so successful!

Sixth Form Mock Examinations will be held from 11th – 15th January.

If you would like to get involved in Student Voice, meetings will be Thursday form time. All Year 12 and 13s welcome.

If you would like to be involved in producing the next newsletter, please speak to either Ray Baquiran, Isabella Samuels or James Holland. All help is welcome

Pride of the Czech Republic

In this year's annual Mock European Union Council hosted by the British Council in Whitehall, the school had the privilege sending two of their sixth formers, Ray Baquiran and James Holland, as delegates representing the Czech Republic. All the countries of the EU, other than Luxembourg (such a shame), were represented by students from across the country. The day was an opportunity to learn about the inner workings of how the EU operates and the implications proposed legislation and differing agendas have on the individual Member States.

Of the day, Ray said: 'I found the concept of the Digital Single Market particularly intriguing and ensured that during debate I accurately illustrated what the proposals meant for my adopted country. The so called 'coffee diplomacy' was an integral part of the day ensuring that I attained allies to concur with my proposal amendments during conversation over lunch.

James also said, 'I too found the day very interesting, especially with the topic of the Circular Economy (it is more interesting than it sounds). Before delivering my opening statement, I didn't think I would get too involved in the debate, however, after calling the Commission 'far too bureaucratic' I had to defend myself! Overall, the day was a fantastic experience, and one to be remembered for a long time, in fact Ray and I enjoyed the experience so much that we are in the process of planning a Model United Nations for local sixth forms'.

By James Holland



Safe Drive, Stay Alive

Year 12s were taken to a poignant presentation about road safety this term.

Before the actual presentation, we were put in a joyful and upbeat mood by a firefighter asking one of us to come up and dance on the stage. This was key to our experience because once hyped up we were suddenly hit by a sequence of tragic real life stories involving deaths of family members.

One elderly woman had lost both her sons to road traffic collisions. She described her first hand story in great detail and her bravery for doing so was commendable. We also were made to watch an intense film of a road traffic collision (RTC), which went into great on the long process required after a RTC.

Drink and Drug Driving was also highlighted in a film where a driver got out of his car on a main road and was hit by an oncoming car.

This was a shock for everybody and a big wake-up call to us as a generation who will be driving in the near future.

Overall, it was very well presented, especially considering how difficult it must have been to remember and share such events. It sent out a very valid and resonant message of safety which I'm sure we will all remember when we begin to drive.

By Toby Harman



Employment in School

Sixth Formers can be seen around school working as staff both in the classroom and during lunch time. The Inclusion Department has been employing year twelves and thirteens as teaching assistants twice a week to work on a one-to-one basis with younger students across the departments.

Sophie Arnold, year 13 TA said that she enjoyed being treated as an adult and giving extra support to the teachers -

“It’s been a great experience, I find helping students to improve really rewarding – pupils enjoy having someone closer to their age, they respond and are more motivated with extra help in the classroom.”

Students can also be found gaining realistic work experience in the canteen at break and lunch times, aiding the full-time catering staff in its daily running.

By Isabella Samuels

Year 12 Psychology trip to Chichester University

The Psychology department visited Chichester University earlier this term to experience university life and gain an appreciation of studying the subject degree level. They were given the opportunity to have a campus tour, explore the course and have a taster talk on abnormal and positive psychology – discovering new and rare mental disorders and treatments.

The subject has been a continuing source of interest for its students over this first term, year 12 student Sophia Langley has said that she has enjoyed “understanding how we think, the reasons behind people’s behaviour. Whether you’d like to study the subject at university or not, having an awareness of the basics of psychology is fascinating.”

By Isabella Samuels

Christmas Prizes

(As voted for by the Sixth Form)

Best Christmas Jumper – David Logan Nose

Best rendition of ‘Jingle Bells’ – David Logan Toes

Best Mince Pies – David Logan Hose

Most accurate reindeer impersonation – David Logan Snow

Best Santa look alike – David Logan Grows



'Now what the hell ya suppose is eatin' them two guys?' Goodbye for now Mrs Cartmel!

Hello Sixth Formers,

After one and a bit years of you lot being my babies (creepy, perhaps, but not untrue) I'm actually leaving in the middle of January to have one of my own!

This is definitely an exciting time for me, but also important for all of you in a couple of different ways. It shows, for starters, that being around SPH Sixth Form students hasn't completely put me off the idea of having kids, so contrary to popular beliefs about teenagers you clearly aren't that bad.

It also means, however, that I won't be around for a bit... year 12s, I will be back to see you through your A-Levels; year 13s, by the time I return to school, you lot will have set off into the glorious and colourful sunset of adulthood! While I'm getting to grips with the joys and challenges of motherhood, you will be beginning your own adventures in your careers, at your universities or on your gap years.

There are such exciting times ahead for all of us, and I wish all of you the best of luck in your exams and in your futures. I will pop in for a visit, possibly with baby in tow, so make sure you're behaving yourselves! Remember to always be kind to each other, work to the best of your ability, and make time for your family.

Mrs Cartmel a.k.a Miss Bennet

"You predicted the pigs would die Martha Corey!" The Crucible

Goodbye to Fr. Andrew Moss

The Newsletter Team would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you and goodbye to Fr. Andrew Moss. Fr. Andrew is the assistant parish priest at St. Richard's Church Chichester. He has celebrated Mass every week in the Friday lunch time Masses for three years now. We wish to thank him for his dedication in providing this sacrament and wish him well in his future ministry.

Julie the lunch lady Christmas message

Hello, this is Julie from the canteen. I would just like to say, I've really enjoyed serving you guys – you all come in with your bright smiling faces. I wish everybody a happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Love your favourite lunch lady

'Congratulations Alex Towler'

The Sixth Form would like to congratulate Alex Towler on her amazing achievement in being accepted into the 'Honeywell Leadership Challenge Academy' (HCLA)! Alex who is in year 12 is a dedicated and hardworking student which means this great feat came as no surprise.

HLCA participants have the opportunity to learn from the best. Students participate in real-life astronaut training and learn from scientists, former astronauts and engineers who provide first-hand accounts of professional experiences.

We wish her well in future ventures going to 'infinity and beyond!'



A word from Ellie, Year 12.

Being new to the sixth form, I was very anxious about starting in September. It was a new experience for me and I went in not knowing what to expect.

On my first day, everybody was very friendly and inviting and helped me find my way around. The teachers were amazing from the start and helped me with any problems I had. It made the start to the sixth form easier and helped me through.

So far, after the few months of being part of St Philip Howard, I have had many opportunities to be involved with clubs and activities which has helped me make new friends and enjoy the experience even more. There are clubs for a variety of sports including basketball and netball which engage with all years helping to feel part of the community.

Everyone has helped me feel settled and I will continue to enjoy my sixth form experience.

