



St Margaret Ward
Catholic Academy



NEWSLETTER SUMMER EDITION 2022

**"Let us remember we are
in the presence of God"**

BTEC Business and Digital Information Technology (DIT)

As part of the qualifications for Business Studies and DIT, students work has to be externally moderated. The department would like to congratulate those students for the impression that they made on the external moderators.

DIT students had to develop an information point that could be used at a stadium. The moderator commented...

“your pupils have produced some excellent work, and deserve a huge ‘well done’. Please pass this on to them, it is not often I see work of such a high calibre.”

Business students were required to pitch a business idea which they had to research and plan. The moderator commented “What was great to see was the level of effort at attempting the financial forecasts, including break-even; then using it to analyse the businesses potential success!”



Y11 Leavers....

On Thursday 12th and Friday 13th May, we held our annual celebrations to mark the beginning of the GCSE exams on the following Monday. Over two days, the year group and staff came together, shared memories, reflected and celebrated five years of friendship and camaraderie.

We started the events on Thursday 12th with the traditional shirt signing; it was lovely to see all the students involved and sharing the experience, writing personalised messages to each other that they will be able to look back on, in the years to come. For the second year, we asked our students to come into school, “Dressed to Impress” on Friday, their final day before the GCSE exams started.

On Friday, students spent time with their tutors and had the opportunity for professional photographs taken in friendship and Fidei groups.

For the second part of the morning, Mrs Poole led us with a poignant and reflective final liturgy, that included a tribute to our friend, Joseph Wakefield, who was taken from us far too soon. We reflected on the changes that have taken place over the five years since the students joined us in September 2017, both globally and within school. The students actively took part through readings and the accompanying music.

We then moved on to our final celebration assembly which contained the traditional subject achievement awards, 100% attendance awards, and even some not-so-traditional ones based on memories, jokes and amusing situations over the course of the final year in school. We had winners in the categories including “Most likely to dance at a wedding” and “Dynamic Duo”, to name just a few... We also had our “Pupils’ Choice”; the Year 11 Fidei Groups each chose someone who they felt fully embodied the school motto of “Excellence is a habit”. The winner was Ashton R from 11-2.



At this point, we changed the atmosphere of the assembly to be a bit less formal and completely representative of the year group. We had a fabulous leavers’ video, put together by Miss Fallows, that contained photos all the way from Year 7 to the final days of Year 11, including memories from pre-COVID trips to France and The Netherlands – we even managed to include their Year 7 school photos, taken on their first day with us back in September 2017!

At the time of writing, we have the return of “The Prom” to look forward to on Friday 1st July. On behalf of everyone, I would like to thank Mr Pearson for all the hard work, time and effort he has put in to making this an unforgettable night.

Our Year 11s have set a fantastic example to lower school students over the course of this year and are a credit to themselves and their families. We have enjoyed having them as part of our school community and we are proud of the young people they have become. We wish them all the best for results day in August.

Year 10’s visit to the Staffordshire University Art and Design Degree show

On the 9th June Miss Terry and Miss Leese took our Year 10 and 12 Art and Graphics students to visit Staffordshire University’s Degree show. Students enjoyed a tour around the degree show before being able to participate in some Fine Art and Fashion workshops. The tour really opened up their minds about the types of creative degrees that are on offer, from Fine Art, Illustration, Graphics and Surface Pattern, to Fashion, Comic Art, Transport Design and Animation, plus many more! They had the opportunity to speak to some of the students on the courses, as well as some of the lecturers. The experience gave them a great sense of what life is like to be an Art and Design student and how a degree in a creative subject could lead on to exciting careers in different creative industries. Staff and students had a lot of fun testing out our skills in fashion design drawing and poly print making. We wished we could have stayed even longer.

Some of our students had not even thought about applying for University but by the end of the day, we were thrilled to hear that so many of them can’t wait to apply. The hard part will be deciding which exciting course to opt for!



Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Expedition training sessions have taken place. There were lots of sessions held in school including what expedition kit to bring, cooking and eating when camping, pitching tents and very importantly map reading and navigation. Those doing the Bronze Award have completed two practice days around Deep Hayes Country Park and Greenway Country Park. This prepared them for their remotely supervised 2-day expedition in the Roaches area on the 11th and 12th of June.

The group started at Tittesworth Reservoir where they were split into teams to walk to Gradbach Campsite following a route that the teams had planned and prepared. As this was their qualifying expedition the teams had to be self-sufficient and independent, carrying everything they needed for the two days. At the campsite they put up their tents, cooked a hot meal and camped there for the night.



On the Sunday morning they walked back to Tittesworth in their teams along a route that included a steep climb up onto the Roaches. All participants successfully completed the twenty conditions required and our assessor was very pleased with their performance all weekend.

Silver Award participants have completed their training sessions in school and three days of training walks and overnight camping in the area of the Roaches. They are now busy preparing for their Qualifying Expedition around the Dovedale and Manifold Valley area.

These expeditions are challenging and rewarding experiences that require lots of preparation but never fail to provide memories that last a lifetime. Any questions about D of E expeditions then please contact jwhincup@smwca.org.uk



Harry Potter

On Thursday 28th April, 65 Year 8 students went to the Warner Brother Studio Tour with Drama, as part of their “Harry Potter and Design Scheme of Learning”.

Students had a wonderful day exploring both studio spaces to see how set, props, costume, make up and special effects from the movies had been designed and created.

Students got to view not only original set from the movies but also take part in some “green screen” digital photography; creating the illusion that students were flying over Hogwarts on their very own broomsticks!

“A wonderful day was had by all and every member of staff commented on how utterly amazing our students were. Thank you to all who came.” - Miss O’Neill



Castlerigg Manor Retreat

From the 6th to the 10th June, about 50 of our Year 7 Students from St Margaret Ward went on retreat to Castlerigg Manor in the Lake District. They enjoyed activities such as hiking through the wonderful countryside, playing sports, a simulation game focussed on injustice, as well as sessions looking at the Saints, understanding themselves better and a wonderful time spent with Jesus in adoration, which for many of our students would have been their first experience. A good number of our students haven’t been on a residential retreat before and they engaged with the activities and the staff there really well, experiencing new ways to pray and enjoying time spent with friends which they have dearly missed in the last few years. The students wanted to share their experiences and the fun they had with many highlights, including one of our students who was desperate to have a bucket of water thrown over his head! Here’s some of the things they said:

‘The staff were so friendly and made us feel welcome’

‘I didn’t expect the views, they were beautiful, their garden was also amazing’

‘It was a one-time experience many people don’t get to do’

‘It was overall a good experience and the sights were amazing, plus the staff were super friendly.’

Art National Saturday Club Graduates

Two of our Year 10 GCSE artists Dan H and Lyd C have been attending the Art National Saturday Club at Staffordshire University every Saturday this year. They have worked with experts in many creative areas offered at degree level including Architecture, Fashion, and Surface Pattern Design, and participated in workshops to learn about a variety of methods used at degree level.

The work produced has been displayed in an exhibition at Somerset House in London, and Dan and Lyd attended a graduation ceremony for all club members held at The Savoy Hotel on The Strand as part of a day trip.

This has been a really valuable enrichment experience, and we would urge students to apply for places next year when the club re-launches.



With that, our last residential retreat of the year is over, with around 100 students across the year groups taking part. With the success of our new retreat program this year, we are excited and hope to take many more students to help them deepen their faith next year!



Cross Cultures Programme with De La Salle Santiago Zobel School

The students involved in the Cross Cultures Ambassadors’ Program, with De La Salle Santiago Zobel school in the Philippines took part in a final celebration event on MS TEAMS. This involved students delivering a short speech about their experience of the Cross Cultures Ambassadors’ Program.

It was lovely to hear about what they had enjoyed and the skill they had developed by taking part in the program. The students were also very excited by the prospects of an international exchange in the near future.

We are now in the initial stages of a proposal for the Cross Cultures Ambassadors’ program for the next academic year.



Collegiate History Project

Mr Bland from the History department has been out visiting a number of Collegiate primary schools to help them with their History projects. At St Wilfrid’s the Year 5s completed a Civil War project where they had to pick between the Parliamentarians and Cavaliers before writing a piece of work based on the artwork, ‘When did you last see your father?’ At St Joseph’s pupils wrote diary entries based on the school log books whilst at St Peter’s pupils looked at the Shang Dynasty and its impact on the wider world. Over the coming year such activities will happen in all our partner primary schools, which are designed to help develop interest, skills and develop our collaborative curricula further.



“When did you last see your father?” painted by William Frederick Yeames, 1878

Food Bank Collections Summer 2022

As part of our commitment to the Lasallian value of Concern for the Poor, this term we have been collecting Food and donations for our local parish Food bank. There has been an amazing response from students so far, with Mr Corrigan’s office regularly full of tins, jars, bags of pasta, rice and lots more! Fidei groups have been contributing together, as well as some amazing donations from individuals and families. This has really strengthened our relationship with our local parish as well, who have been really grateful for the donations. Prior to the COVID19 lockdowns, the demand for usage of their Food bank was significantly less than what it is now, with around 17 families regularly using the service. Therefore, the efforts of our students to care for those struggling in our community has been really greatly appreciated. Well done SMW!

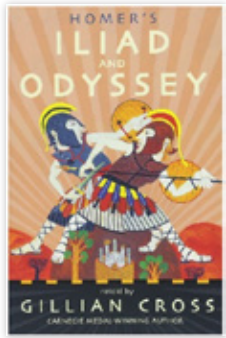


Pupils have really enjoyed the project and the opportunity to cover events they may not have had a chance to look at. Topics are deliberately planned to cover areas outside of what is typically taught. This has also been an excellent chance for us to work collaboratively across the Collegiate and really bring history to life. Mr Bland has a number of future projects planned with our partner primary schools and has been preparing lots of resources to enable students to enjoy aspects of history from across the centuries. Mr Bland and the History department are working to enhance History teaching in all schools to enable our students to become first-class historians and develop a love and understanding of the past.



New Transition Unit for English!

Colleagues from across the Newman Catholic Collegiate have been excited to deliver a new transition unit for English throughout the summer term. Year 6 students across all the Newman primary schools have been reading and studying Gillian Cross' retelling of Homer's 'Iliad' in preparation to join St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy in September. In Year 7, students will then study the second half of the text, the 'Odyssey'. The unit was produced by SMWCA colleagues Miss Bullock and Mr Shelley and shared with primary colleagues at an event in early June. We hope all students enjoy these exciting tales filled with myth, magic and monsters!



White Water Writers Presentation

On Wednesday 15th June, Richard Seymor from White Water Writers came into school to present our Year 8 and 9 novelists with their copy of a novel they wrote.

The process began last summer when a group of Year 8 and 9 students wrote a novel in a week. They were guided through the process of planning, writing and editing by the incredibly talented experts from White Water Writers and then their work was whisked away to be professionally published.

The result was two compelling novels; 'Ink' written by Year 9 students Paige H, Ayousha K, Douglas P, Krishna R and Dewmi W, and 'Calm Before the Storm' written by Bobby M, Elody O, Charlie W, Fiker G, Sophie R-H and Talya A. The novels are available to borrow from the school library or can be purchased on Amazon.



We have had a busy few months in STEM!

The STEM clubbers worked hard on their CREST Award and most have now been awarded with their certificates. They have now moved on to a new project and are helping Mr Birkin with the planning of the flower beds. They have looked at which flowers are most suited in various conditions, measured up and are now looking at beginning work on the picket fence. Who knew that we could find so much STEM in gardening?

We have also received CREST award certificates for the pupils who took part in investigating plant growth during Science Week. These pupils did all of the work in their own time and have done an excellent job of it! In May, we took five Year 10 students to Stoke Sixth Form College to compete against eleven other schools in the STEM Olympics. The work they did was phenomenal and they won first place! We are so proud of their hard work and cannot wait for the delivery of their trophy.

Year 9 were really lucky to be able to take part in the Toxic Popcorn workshops with Next Engineers. They had a great time trying to save the world from Toxic Popcorn and Ben, who was delivering the workshop, was really impressed with their hard work. Next Engineers are working with GE to provide some great opportunities for our budding engineers and we will be sharing this information with Year 9 over the next few weeks.

Finally, Year 8 and STEM club, visited the Big Bang Fair in Birmingham. They had the opportunity to take part in lots of different STEM related activities with their friends. We had some very excited students who were absolutely amazed by some of the things they saw, in particular, the Planetarium.

As always, we have some really exciting plans for STEM so watch this space for more STEM adventures!

Year 9

This year has gone by in a flash for Year 9, it is hard to believe that in a couple of months' time students will be returning as Year 10's. I have enjoyed, particularly over the last few weeks, spending some time watching the learning students across the year group have been undertaking in their classes.

There have been many achievements both inside and outside school for the Year 9's to be proud of.

So, to mention a few....

Well done to Year 9 in their session with 'Next Engineers' who worked with GE to provide opportunities for future budding engineers. They were described by the session leaders as "a credit to us" who also told us there are definitely some future engineers in the year group.

The fantastic PE department have been working their magic and have been committed to giving the students the best opportunities to shine. Congratulations to the Year 9 and 10 Athletics team for their performance at Northwood Stadium, with two pupils Abbey B and Daniel L being chosen to represent the county in the 100m and 300m respectively.

Well done to the boys who attended the Commonwealth Games festival at Keele University, where they experienced taster sessions of Commonwealth sports, including boxing and basketball. Each received a t-shirt and were a credit to the school.

Hats off to the Year 9 and 10 Rounders team, who successfully took part in matches and tournaments.



Sports day

On July 8th SMW descended on Northwood Stadium for our annual sports day.

Fidei groups competed against each other for the coveted title of 'Year Group Champions'

Thank you to all students, staff and parents for making it such a special day in the sun. Plans are already underway to make next year bigger and better.

A special mention also needs to be said for the Year 9 boys who attended the Cricket Festival; between them they achieved lots of runs, run outs and played extremely well in positions that they had never played before. The boys who took part were Will T, Liam N, Joe I, Mikie F and Namayshan K.

Additionally, I wanted to mention the girls who took part in a dance show at the Regent Theatre, called 'Revival.' The show had a variety of different styles of dance. This of course took place outside of school but reflects the hardworking attitude of students at SMW. Charlotte, Lexi, Maria and Samantha showed commitment and camaraderie throughout a tough schedule of rehearsals and shows.- Miss Lander



Year 8

During the past year, there have been many achievements we would like to celebrate in Year 8. We have participated in many charity events such as the fun run and the collections in Fidei time for the food bank; students and families have shown incredible generosity and for that we thank you.

Our students have had the opportunity to participate in several residential trips such as the retreat at Savio House, they were also very excited to take part in our end of year trip to Ullswater Outward Bound Centre. We hope that we are lucky enough to have as many opportunities as possible in the coming year. We also had sports day to look forward to, which was the first that Year 8 have been able to take part in. It has been a joy to watch them pull together as a Fidei team, picking races to join in with and creating wonderful banners. Year 8 have had a fantastic academic year, having not completed a full school year since Year 5. They have taken this year in their stride and worked collectively to help each other overcome many challenges. I know that Year 8 will continue in their success into Year 9 and I am excited to watch them flourish.

PE Achievements

We were very proud to see our leaders collect awards at the Stoke on Trent Leadership Academy awards at Port Vale FC. Our leaders produced a fabulous presentation detailing what SMWCA have achieved this year which was presented by our Barclays Game Changer, Hera, to an audience of 300 people.

As the city’s chosen Barclays Game Changer (one of 35 in the country) Hera was asked to present her Football story in the Directors’ box at Port Vale FC. She delivered a fabulous presentation to future football activators and teachers from across the city.



Football activators on film

Due to the success of the Game On football activator programme at SMWCA, the FA have decided to make a film about what we have been achieving on the programme this year. This will be used on the FA website but could also be featured on Newsround and Match of the Day. Pupils were filmed by a camera crew completing leadership activities from the Game On programme, playing football and were interviewed about the impact the programme has had on them and others.

Maths: MyTutor

This term, the Mathematics department at St Margaret Ward has been thrilled to secure a fantastic opportunity for our Year 10 students. Through the COVID catch-up funding arrangements we have entered into a partnership with a company called MyTutor who have provided 2 sessions per week with a personal online tutor. This individualised attention has allowed our students to target specific areas to improve and has been tailored to their personal needs in the run up to their final year of GCSEs.

MyTutor matches students with friendly tutors studying at the top universities who have all recently studied Maths at GCSE and A level.

They have all undergone a rigorous training program and genuinely understand how stressful exams can be! Our students were able to speak to and hear their tutor using a microphone headset which was also provided by SMW.

The department would like to thank our wonderful students for all their efforts and for being the best that they can be in Maths.



Prom

On 1st July, our Y11 students had their traditional end of Year Prom at Keele University. It was a brilliant occasion which marked the end of school life. As you would expect, they really went to town with arrivals on motorbikes, high performance cars and even classic cars.

In the hall, students were served delicious food, awarded prizes for categories such as ‘best arrival’ and ‘most likely to become famous’.

After the awards, students (and Mr Haynes) danced late into the night.

Thank you Y11 for making it such a special night and a brilliant atmosphere.

Year 9

Pictured above are Y9 students who were selected to take part in a festival to celebrate the forthcoming Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Students experienced taster sessions in a variety of sports, delivered by expert coaches. The event took place at Keele University.

It was a hugely successful day and links have been made to potentially get the coaches into the Academy next year to deliver coaching sessions after school.
- Mr Pearson



Super 8

After a hard-fought contest at Northwood stadium, our Y8 boys were crowned city champions in the Super 8 Athletics competition. Well done to: Patrick H, Santiago G, Josh L, Corey E, Emmanuel B, Isaac C, Harry R and Kieran N.



Careers: Big Yellow Apprenticeship Bus Tour

Yr11 students had the opportunity to find out more about apprenticeships on offer at Newcastle College, part of the Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group (NSCG). The big yellow school bus tours around to different schools educating students on what types of apprenticeships are on offer and joining in with the interactive activities. The Y11s thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the apprenticeships on offer and asked really thought-provoking questions. We hope to see all of our Y11s happily settled into their future studies soon!



Careers: Y10 Oxford University Residential Trip

In March this year, twenty Year 10 students were chosen to take part in the High Achieving Students Programme which is being collaboratively delivered by City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, Higher Horizons and Somerville College, Oxford University.

The programme has been designed to give students an exciting experience of possible progression routes through FE and HE, as well as lots of information, advice, and guidance.

The programme was officially launched on Wednesday 30th March 2022 at City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College, with the chosen group of Year 10s then taking part in a residential at Somerville College, Oxford University in early April, before returning to weekly workshops at City of Stoke on Trent Sixth Form in May. We were joined by two other local schools for the project, Thistley Hough and St Peter's, so it was a great opportunity for the Year 10s to mix with other local Year 10 students from across the city.

During the residential trip, students stayed in halls of residence at Somerville College, Oxford University, accompanied by their teachers and student ambassadors throughout, to experience university life at a university.

Students were able to access taster lectures with Oxford University staff in many different subjects including Science, English, History and Chemistry; with information, advice, and guidance sessions; social activities, and opportunities to get to know the city, we toured the different colleges in Oxford and enjoyed a sight-seeing tour of the beautiful city as well as attending workshops and tours in the Museum.

The entire trip was funded by our Careers partnership with Higher Horizons which aims to inspire students to see different opportunities that they could opt for within their future career paths.

The project culminated in a celebration event at the City of Stoke Sixth Form College with a presentation of certificates and celebration of students' achievements. It was an amazing opportunity and the Year 10 students were an absolute credit to the school and to their parents, they fully immersed themselves in all areas of the workshops and really enjoyed the experience, it was a fantastic project and the Year 10s would definitely recommend it to future Year 10 students! Thanks to Mr Jones who accompanied us on the trip.



Careers: Y9 Astrophysics Day at Keele University

On the 24th May thirty Y9 students enjoyed the opportunity to take part in an Astrophysics Taster Day at Keele University. The students were really excited to explore the new Stardome facility and hear all about the activities that take place on the Astrophysics courses at Keele.

The day involved workshops and tutorials where students immersed themselves in the life of an Astrophysics student at Keele University. Students enjoyed a visit to the Keele Observatory for an Astrophysics session and a visit to the Central Science Labs to see what it's like to study Geology in Space.

Year 9s also spent time learning about space in our Stardome planetarium, hearing all about how to get into HE and study these subjects and taking a tour of the University campus and meeting current students.

The total cost of the trip was entirely covered by our career's partnership with Keele University Higher Horizons scheme, all travel and workshops were included free of charge. We are really pleased to partner with Higher Horizons and hope that this leads to many more Careers trips in the future. Thanks to Mr Stevens and Mr Massey who accompanied the Year 9s on the visit.



Careers: Y8 Careers Employer Encounter Day

On Friday 10th June the whole of Year 8 celebrated their first Careers Employer Encounter Day, where they were off timetable all day to work with visiting companies to develop the basic employability skills of organisation, communication, team building and listening skills, skills that are needed for any future job role. We welcomed staff from local companies; Achieve Training, Natwest, Balfour Beatty and Staffordshire University to lead practical workshops for the Y8s where students worked as teams to develop their employability skills. The Y8s thoroughly enjoyed the experience and enjoyed meeting the visiting employers. Students also participated in a Unifrog activity during the day. Unifrog is a Careers platform that we use in school to record Careers activities for students. Students can access it from home with their login and search for information on local and national jobs, college courses and university courses and use the information to inform their future decisions. The visitors were really pleased with how the Year 8s managed the day and were impressed with the skills that they had to offer.



Y12 and Y13 BTEC Performing Arts and Dance students
Fundamental British Values Tour

As part of their BTEC Performing Arts course our Year 12 and Year 13 BTEC Performing Arts and Dance students have been on tour to the Primary schools! They have created a Theatre in Education performance piece for primary school aged students, based on the fundamental British Values of Democracy, Respect and Tolerance, Rule of Law and Individual Liberty. This can be quite a challenging topic to teach to primary school aged students so through their performance piece they have included ways to teach the values, helping the students to remember them and even quizzing them at the end of the performance. The tour has been a great success, the primary students have benefited greatly from the experience and it has helped to embed the knowledge being delivered by the primary schools. Staff were really impressed with the students' confidence in their performance and their ability to lead the primary school students for a workshop after the performance. The piece included the 'Respect Rap' which taught students lyrics about how to respect their peers and others around them.

"The British Values tour to the primary schools was amazing! It is a fantastic way to build confidence and gave me the validation that working with children is exactly what I wish to do for my future career. My favourite part was leading the workshop and seeing the enjoyment on the children's faces!" - Destiny Y13 BTEC Dance student

I am so proud of the Y12 and Y13 Dance and BTEC Performing Arts students, they were absolutely amazing. They were so confident and professional during the performance and really thought carefully about the production themes and content to ensure it delivered the British Values in expert detail. They taught the workshops with self-assurance and ease and it was lovely to see how they developed their leadership skills during the tour. Well done! - Mrs Page



Y10 & Y12 Staffordshire University Great Minds Bus Tour

At St Margaret Ward we celebrate Careers Week each term, as part of our Careers Week term 3 celebrations, we have welcomed Staffordshire University's Great Minds Bus Tour to our school site. On Monday 4th July over 170 students in Year 12 and Year 10 have had the opportunity to visit the bus to gather information about the courses and subjects that Staffordshire University offer, the difference between undergraduate, postgraduate, masters and PHD courses, a talk about student finance, a chance to meet student ambassadors and engage in a Q&A about student life at University - including the types of clubs and societies that they offer, as well as a chance to take a virtual tour of the Staffs Uni campus! The students absolutely loved the experience and enjoyed the opportunity to meet with the student ambassadors, it really opened their eyes to what university life could be like!



6th Form University visit

At the Keele Problem Solving day on 4th July, we had three sessions throughout the day involving different aspects of problem solving.

For the first session, we were given a sheet double sided with Maths problems and tried to solve them. It involved our knowledge of the circle equations and finding the equations of straight lines. An example question was a rhombus on a graph and we had to work out the equations for each side of the rhombus using the information of the graph provided.

For the second session, we learnt about Fermi and had to solve Fermi questions. For example, we had to estimate how many bricks would make a semi-detached three-bedroom house. This was very interesting as it used our Mathematical skills, but applying them to a new scenario we had not seen before. The last session involved solving a variety of challenging mathematical problems and this was an engaging tasks as there was a wide range of different skills required, making it a very enjoyable day!



This is an article written by Emily Z, Daisy-Mae G, Jess Cand Jathusha S about their trip to the Cambridge open day on July 8th

"Visiting Cambridge was an amazing experience. The standard of education, the quality of teaching and the atmosphere far superseded our expectations. The information given at different stalls during the day was very detailed and gave us lots of insight as to how life in Cambridge is for students in STEM as well as for prospective humanities students. It was really useful being able to explore the campuses and courses, whilst being able to somewhat experience what student life may be like. We experienced tours from students who attend the university and had great opportunities to ask them about their subjects, how to join and apply and what the course is made up of.

The students helped to explain the housing and colleges and how it all works so that we understood if we were intending on applying. We were able to explore the buildings following our guide and they explained what rooms you do certain things in and what years you use certain equipment. We were able to split up and go to the buildings that we were interested in so that we could make the most of our time and learn the information that we needed. Being able to speak to the specific teachers helped us to get the greatest insight into their subjects and made the prospect of applying seem easier. It was a really interesting day with a great opportunity to see what university life is like at Cambridge!"

London Trip Friday 15th

On Friday 15th 30 Year 12 students (History, Politics and Sociology) spent the day in London. In the morning we visited the world-famous Camden Market before travelling to Tower Bridge where we took a river tour from Tower Bridge to Westminster. We then completed a full guided tour of both Houses of Parliament, this included entering both chambers of the House. Afterwards we walked through Whitehall, passed Downing Street and then walk to Covent Garden via Piccadilly. This trip is often the first time many of our students have been to the capital. We have a real habit of bumping into famous people, in 2019 we saw Sylvester Stallone being chauffeured in a Rolls Royce and in 2017 we saw Simon Pegg and Nick Frost at a red-carpet event in Piccadilly. The whole day is an adventure rich in cultural capital and one our students remember for ever.



Transition

During the Summer Term we have welcomed all Year 5 pupils from our partner primary Schools in the Newman Catholic Collegiate to St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, providing them with a great opportunity to utilise our workshops, sports hall and laboratories.

All pupils have participated in Sports Sessions which have been led by our Year 10 Sports Leaders where they worked hard in teambuilding activities. Year 5 have also sampled practical subjects including using the microscopes to examine cells in Science, creating torches in Electronics and making badges in Art.

It has been great to meet Year 5 and we look forward to seeing many of them in our Summer School!



Year 13 art show

After several years of not being able to have an exhibition, we were finally able to hold our annual art A-level exhibition last month. The standard of the work this year is breath-taking. We would like to say a huge well done to all of our Year 13 students. We could not be more proud of what they have achieved. We look forward to hearing all about how they are getting on at university doing fine art and architecture. We are very excited for their futures.



Art Club

This term, our art club members have worked their socks off to create some stunning animal head sculptures of endangered species. They are almost complete and will be going along the Geography corridor as a reminder that we should look after our planet to protect these beautiful creatures from further harm. Well done to all of the students who come each week to work on their gorgeous sculptures. They have worked so hard, and I am very proud!

English - The Gareth Jones Award for Excellence

Two St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy students have secured top prizes in the city-wide 'Gareth Jones Award for Excellence' creative writing competition.

Talya A, Year 8, and Patricia N, Year 10, achieved first and second place respectively with their engaging and thought-provoking prose pieces on the theme of 'dreams'. They competed against students across Stoke-on-Trent to achieve the coveted award.

The Gareth Jones Award for Excellence serves as a lasting tribute to Gareth, who dedicated forty years of his life teaching within local schools, and devoted his career to raising standards for students across Stoke-on-Trent.

The winning entries were selected by Gareth's wife, Lynn Jones MBE, who will present prizes to the students at the end of the summer term.

All of the English department are incredibly proud of Talya and Patricia.

The Dreamless and her Dream

Yesterday, I dreamt for the first time in eighteen years. It was absurd, to say the least. Because after I'd matured, I never thought I'd dream again. My name is Jane Tailor. I have not dreamt a single dream since the age of four. I am now twenty two. It is currently Tuesday the seventeenth of July and the year is 1912. On Friday, last week, my mother passed away.

Right now, I am standing in the garden just outside the cemetery where they buried my mother. The sun is ob-scured by the smoke that almost always surrounds the city and it is very warm out today. I am dressed in a black dress, typical of ladies in mourning, and I have a small bouquet of fresh poppies that I have come to put on mama's grave. I have been given two days to grieve before I am expected back at my duties. As of present, the graveyard is silent.

Now, unlike I expected if I were ever to dream again, the dream I had yesterday was not the kind of dream one has when they are asleep or unconscious. It was more of what Ms Rosalind-my finishing school teacher-would have called a daydream...

A snippet of Talya's award entry



Congratulation to all of this years FA Game on Football activators from year 8 & 10 who have passed their training in delivery and marketing. Can't wait to see you in action next year.



Music: DfE Opportunity Area Celebration

On Friday 1 July our newly formed Saxophone Ensemble performed for the first time at the Opportunity Area Celebration Event at the Catalyst Building at Staffordshire University.

The event showcased the work of Stoke-on-Trent Opportunity and we provided background music during lunch along with other performers who are part of the City Music Service. We played a wide range of music and it was lovely to be part of such an exciting event.

Music: Stoke-on-Trent City Council Staff Awards 2022

For the second time this academic year the Jazz Orchestra were invited to perform at the 2022 Staff Awards at the King's Hall. The awards are a prestigious event and recognises and rewards those who work for the City Council.

We entertained guests for well over an hour with a wide variety of pieces ranging from "Counting Stars", to "Happy", to "See You Again", and "September".

It was an honour to perform at our fourth Staff Awards and we're already looking forward to the next one.

A HUGE thank you and well done to everyone involved, we can't wait for our Summer Soirée on Tuesday 19 July at 7pm.

School Physicist of the Year Award

On the 6th July, Keele University hosted the School Physicist of the Year Award evening. Barbara Grundy, from the Ogden Trust, was the keynote speaker and talked to the students, parents and teachers about their work in addressing the shortage of Physics teachers and the importance of Physics in our lives. This ranged from the 2021 Nobel Prize winners, who developed a physical model of the Earth's climate, quantifying variability and reliability predicting global warming to the work of a group of Physicists and Biologists working collaboratively to restore speech in a paralysed man by using brain waves and turning them into words on a computer.

Jahin (Y10) was nominated for the award of Physicist of the Year by his teachers and this is what they said about him:

'Jahin is a quiet unassuming young man who works hard in and out of lessons and maintains a strong interest in science. He is an active participant in science lessons and loves a challenge, working well independently, while also being great at collaborative work. He actively enjoys studying and learning and shows resilience in doing what is needed to get the job done. Jahin is a wonderful student who achieves through a combination of natural ability and hard graft with a particular love of Physics! Well done Jahin!'



Friendship day

At the end of the Summer Term, St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy welcomed its new cohort of soon-to-be Year Seven students for Friendship Day. It was a pleasure to welcome such an excited and nervous group of pupils to our school, and all pupils had the opportunity to make new friends and engage in many exciting tasks, such as icebreaker activities, badge making and hymn practise. The Year Seven pastoral team also provided the opportunity for each Fidei group to establish its own motto and pledge so that pupils could understand the importance of belonging to a community. We hope that the Year Six pupils get a good rest over the summer and we look forward to welcoming them as the new Year Seven pupils in September!

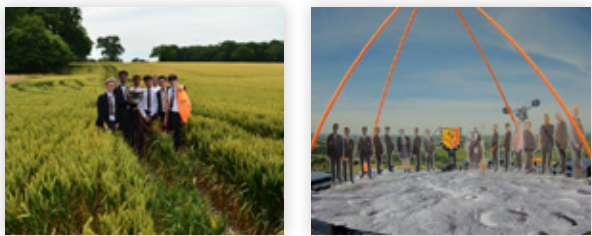
Y10 Young Engineers - Mission Success!

On Monday 11th July our Year 10 Young Engineer team finally got the chance to launch their capsule into space as part of the Young Engineer of the Year competition. They have been working hard on this all year in an after-school club and this was fifth time lucky as the previous four launch attempts were cancelled due to poor weather causing safety issues.

This time the team were blessed with glorious weather when they arrived at Leek Town FC at 9am and began to complete the rigorous list of pre-flight checks. This took a few hours and at 12pm the capsule was successfully launched and propelled into the sky by a giant helium filled weather balloon.

The next step was to hop onto the mini-bus and begin tracking the capsule using a range of GPS and radio devices. This had them heading towards Ashbourne at first and then in the direction of Uttoxeter. After 3 hours the balloon had sailed back down to earth using a parachute and had landed in a farmer's field in Sudbury just south of Ashbourne. They met a lovely farmer that allowed the school access to his land and also pointed them in the right direction. It wasn't long before they spotted the florescent orange parachute in the distance and the capsule was retrieved fully intact.

The students had an amazing day along with Mr Fryer, Mr Foster and Stephen Christey from Hobbs Computer Services Ltd whose local company kindly sponsored the team. The next step for the students is to analyse the data from the experiment and to examine the amazing video footage that was captured.



Year 10

Throughout this term, Year 10 students have been focusing on revision skills and looking at methods which will support them in improving the quality of their independent revision, and in turn their performance in assessments. During Fidei time, students have taken part in sessions in which they have been taught about six research-based learning strategies. These six strategies are dual coding, elaboration, concrete examples, interleaving, retrieval practice and spaced practice. We believe, that by equipping the students with the skills that they will have gained during these sessions, they will be able to make effective use of their independent revision time.

As part of the focus on revision, parents and carers were invited into the Academy to join Mrs Poole and Mrs Salt in a revision workshop. The workshop was designed to help equip parents and carers with the knowledge and skills to be able to support their children in their revision. During the workshop, parents and carers undertook some practical examples of revision tasks that the students can utilise at home.

The support of parents and carers in the revision process is vital in ensuring maximum success for the students and we would like to thank those who have taken part in the sessions so far and look forward to seeing many more of you at the workshops in the new academic year.



Our Trip to the Peace Conference

On Tuesday 12th July, we attended the Peace Conference organised by Borderlines at the New Vic theatre in Newcastle. This conference was being held to remember the victims of the Bosnian Genocide, to explore the impact of the atrocity and to consider the role and importance of peace in a world that continues to face such devastation. The theme of the day was 'seeds of peace'; a motto used by victims of the genocide who do not view the past with anger but work for a future of peace and justice.

The conference started with a performance of 'My Thousand-Year-Old Land' which displayed the experience of Bosnian women in Sarajevo during the Bosnian war and after the fighting had stopped. The Bosnian war took place between 1992 and 1995 which led to the persecution and genocide of Muslims, particularly men and boys. By focusing on the women, in an all-female cast, the play was able to show the lasting impact on the Bosnian women as a result of the death of their male relatives. The cast contained descendants of Bosnian survivors and victims. They told us their stories using personal accounts and shared their experiences of the war and genocide. It was an emotional performance that makes you sympathise with the survivors and their journey as they lost their homes and loved ones through discrimination, persecution and injustice.

During the afternoon we had the opportunity to take part in workshops where we learnt about the war in even more detail and where we were given the chance to speak to the survivors, descendants of victims and members of the criminal investigation team who led the war crime trials after the war had ended.

They described the significance of identifying individuals using science and technology as well as explaining the humanitarian aspect of bringing closure to families who were and still are looking for their missing loved ones. Despite their suffering these women and mothers do not feel hate towards those who brought injustice to their families and community. In the final workshop, we were given the opportunity to write letters to the 'mothers of Sarajevo' who live together in a small community. They are still searching for their loved ones and live together as a sign of solidarity, unity and peace.

This trip has been an eye opener as we discovered so much about a war most don't know much about. People have endured so much suffering and pain; it was so inspirational to listen to their stories and their strength and bravery towards overcoming the horrors they endured first hand. We will never forget the experience we had today and we will always remember the victims of genocide.

Amelia R and Matilda R, Year 9



Keele University Chemistry

Thirty of our super scientists in Years 10, 11 and 12 were invited to take part in a day of high-quality chemistry laboratory sessions at Keele University using their modern research-standard instrumentation and apparatus.

The day contained two exciting interactive sessions:

- Purification of paracetamol using recrystallisation, followed by analysis using thin layer chromatography
- Analysis of compounds using IR & NMR spectroscopy

Both of these sessions link straight into our A Level Chemistry. The sessions were fantastic and gave an ideal opportunity to experience a little bit of university life.



FA girls football

The Football association came to school to film the Year 8 and 10 Barclays Football Activators for the Barclays "Game On" Programme. The team of girls have been training to market and deliver football sessions to female students and have done a fantastic job of running their own football club and tournaments this year. The FA were so impressed they asked if they could come and film them for promotional use on the FA and YST website.

The Activator girls and participants from Years 7 and 8 were absolutely amazing and a real credit to the school. All the organisers, camera crew and producers were amazed by the fantastic display the girls put on and how well they conducted themselves in the interviews.

Congratulations girls - you were fantastic!



Message from Mrs Farrer

"Every day will not be a good day, but there is something good in every day"

After so many very good days, I just wanted to say thank you to all of the staff, students and parents connected with SMWCA, for making my time here so rewarding.

I started teaching in September 1984 and 38 years later it is with a happy and grateful heart that I step away from the role I have enjoyed for the last 8 of those years.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege getting to know you and working with you during my time here. I could not have asked for a better place or group of people to finish my career with.

Thank you for all the support, companionship, friendship and laughter! You have been an inspiring and wonderful group of people who have made my time here very rewarding. I finish grateful to have had the opportunity to work with you and share so many happy times.

I have always said that SMWCA has a soul and I can genuinely say that all of you make this a great place to work and learn. Thank you to everyone for showing me kindness, sharing your wisdom and for creating a place I have been happy to spend my working hours.

Starting a new chapter is always challenging, as it begins by ending one, but it is not goodbye as I hope to come back after October half term for two days a week to work with the safeguarding team.

I wish each of you the very best for a successful future. I leave with friends, memories and lessons learned from all of you. You have made this place more than just a job.

Thank you and good luck to everyone linked to the family that is SMWCA.

See you soon

Mrs Farrer x

Design and Technology

It has been a busy term and year in Design and Technology across all subject strands; Product Design, Food studies, Electronics and Graphics.

Our Year 11's have worked really hard to produce their Non-examined assessment work which contributes to a large weighting for their final grades. They've then gone on to revise thoroughly for their exams which have now been completed. We wish them all the very best for their future.

Our Year 10 have been focusing on the attainment of knowledge and skills in order to prepare for their penultimate year.

Key Stage 3 have enjoyed focussing on the attainment of knowledge and skills through our mastery curriculum. They have produced some lovely pieces of work from Clocks in PD, Masks in Electronics and Festival tickets in Graphics to Black Forest Gateaux in Food.

We are very proud of our innovative learners' progress and enthusiasm and look forward to another great year within D&T through 2022-23.

Ullswater Outward Bound Y7 and Y8 trip

From the 11th - 15th of July, 84 of our Year 7 and Year 8 students attended an Outward Bound trip to Ullswater in the Lake District. The Outward Bounds trips are organised and led to challenge students to build their resilience, team work, confidence and self-awareness.

Students took part in a range of activities including: gorge walking, cliff jumping, jog and dip, overnight expedition, orienteering, tunnels and much more. During the week, all students pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, more than they imagined they possibly could. At numerous points throughout the week we had tears and cries of 'I can't do this', yet through resilience, persevering and encouragement students achieved what they initially thought they wouldn't be able to (including Miss Bradbury). The week ended on the front lawn of the Outward Bound Centre where students took part in a water fight which everyone appeared to enjoy - including the staff (who might have enjoyed it a little to much)!

All students appeared to have a fantastic week and came away recognising that if they put their mind to a task and persevere they will achieve and succeed. They certainly learned that 'nothing that is worthwhile is ever easy.'

I would like to say a huge well done to all of the students who attended - it was our absolute pleasure as teachers to watch you grow in such a short space of time both as individuals and as a student community through your resilience, support and compassion for one another.

We have now secured funding and bookings up until summer 2025 meaning many more exciting opportunities to come in the future. Keep your eyes peeled.

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