

Newminster News



An enthusiastic team of ten embarking on their mission to Swaziland. Mr Miller and Miss Armstrong are pictured leading the Sixth Form expedition.



HEADTEACHER WELCOMES YOU TO OUR NEWSPAPER

I am thrilled to welcome you to this four-page supplement, dedicated to life at St Robert of Newminster Catholic School in Washington.

A team of students from Years 7 to 9 have worked tirelessly on writing, putting together and producing the supplement, and I send them both my thanks and congratulations.

With help and guidance from one of their teachers, Mrs Stebbing, and staff from The Echo, they have shown great independence, creativity and determination to produce an excellent end product.

We hope that the stories contained within these pages give a flavour of the life that goes on within our school, and showcases some of the tremendous efforts of our students, staff and the families and communities we serve.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone associated with the school for all they have achieved this year, and also to say to those pupils who will be joining us in September, either in Year 7 or the Sixth Form, how much we look forward to welcoming you to the school. Happy summer holidays!

Mr D Juric
(Headteacher)



Two hundred finger prints make the design of this Transition cross.

Year 6 pupils make their mark during Transition

From 26th – 28th June, St Robert's welcomed Year 6 students from across Sunderland for Transition Week.

They produced a colourful St Cuthbert's cross for our school chapel.

Helping to shape Swaziland's future

BY GRACE COCKBURN
Year 9 student.
twitter@StRobofNew

Eight eager students from St Robert of Newminster have dedicated to completing a 24-month programme of fundraising, planning, training and money management in preparation for a transformative expedition to Swaziland in the summer of 2017.

The developmental programme, managed by World Challenge expeditions, will help the sixth form students to learn about responsibility, leadership, planning, and teamwork as well as physical, mental and emotional confrontation.

World Challenge significantly differs from any other school trip as it is designed to be student-led, and an experience which places young adults in a strong position to make the most of their future careers.

Mr Miller, trip Leader, stated: "It's important to pupils because it challenges them to overcome barriers in society and live independently; not forgetting to have fun."

Fundraising events have occurred throughout the year to raise valuable funds towards the expedition, including bag-packing at a nearby supermarket, cake sales throughout the school year and car washing at week-

ends. The objective has been to raise a £2,500 fee for each student taking part, so they didn't have to rely on their families' pockets!

This summer, the team will depart for Swaziland, led by our teachers, Miss Armstrong, Mr Miller and a World Challenge leader, who will be ensuring the safety of our team.

Miss Armstrong told us: "I am looking forward to it."

"It will be hard and challenging but it is going to be life-changing by exploring and working alongside members of different communities"

Throughout the expedition, the students will al-

ternate roles such as leader, accountant, cook, health and safety officer and transport co-ordinator to operate efficiently as a team.

During the two-week expedition, they will complete acclimatisation activities, a four-day trek around Molotja and a project in accompaniment, with the Nkhanini Neighbourhood Care point.

This will involve building an outdoor education shelter for an orphanage.

Although there will be time for rest and relaxation, the students are particularly focused on the project phase where they will serve the needs of the community as much as possible.



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Open Evenings September 2018 Intake

**Year 7 - Intake are invited to attend our
Main School Open Evening on
Thursday 28th September from 6-8pm**

**Year 12 - Intake are invited to attend our
Sixth Form Open Evening on
Thursday 19th October from 6-8pm**



HISTORY: YEAR 10 STUDENTS UNDERTAKE AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP TO GERMANY

Guten morgen from Berlin

BY **ABBIE BAILEY**
Year 9 student
twitter@

From the 22nd-26th June, a group of 36 Year 10 students visited Berlin with their teachers, to further their knowledge of World War Two, related to the content of their GCSE History course.

Their exploration of Jewish history involved examining the treatment of Jews and other minorities under the Nazi government and visiting concentration camps such as Sachsenhausen.

Visits were also made to the Reichstag building and the historical landmark, Checkpoint Charlie, a guard house for the officials travelling from one side of the Berlin Wall to the other.

Villa Wannsee was another memorable stop on the trip.

This was where documents signed by Hitler, authorising the Jewish genocide, were

found in 1947. For students and teachers, it was a surreal experience to see everything they'd learnt in lessons brought to life.

Mr Brettell, who accompanied the trip, told us that his favourite parts of the trip involved, "going on a walking tour of the city and experiencing all of the sights. We had gone with a tour guide who commented on the skills of the students, which made me extremely proud to work at our school."

He also said the trip to Sachsenhausen, made a huge impact on him because the isolated, cold and grey atmosphere almost brought the horrors to life, resulting in a hauntingly real trip.

The pupils explained that their journey to Berlin gave everybody the opportunity to cement friendships and grow closer.

They expressed their thanks to the teachers who made this trip an enjoyable experience.



The Year 10 history students in front of the Reichstag building during their visit to Berlin.

Meet school's Newminster News team

Chloe Chapman – News Reporter;
Abbie Hill – New Reporter;
Luke Robson – Editor In Chief;
Grace Cockburn – Deputy Editor;
Grace O'leary – Deputy Editor;
Annie Bailey – Lifestyle Editor;
Eden North – News Editor;
Anna Barnes – Deputy Editor;
Ben Sutcliffe – Sports Reporter;
Amy Leonard – Sports Reporter;
Julia Amiol – Lifestyle Reporter;
Amelia Bell – Lifestyle Reporter;
Laura Walsh – Lifestyle Reporter;
Lorenzo Carsi – Sports Editor;
Supported by:
Mrs Stebbing,
Mrs Simpson,
Mr Green.



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Year 11 students Kate Maher and James Jobling at the Stadium of Light for the school's annual leavers' Prom.



Left to right, Emmett O'Leary, Alexander Moorhouse and Callum Cane.



Jack Hindmarch at the Prom.

Students let their lights shine at Prom

On Wednesday 28th July, St Robert's annual leavers' Prom was held at the Stadium of Light, writes **Grace O'Leary**.

This final stage of school life allowed our Year 11 students the chance to say goodbye in the most joyous way possible.

Jack Hindmarch, one of the students there on the night, said: "I was really looking forward to tonight, it was a great way to mark the end of the exams."

Another student, Kate Maher, exclaimed: "What can I

say? I was so excited!"

It was raining heavily as students arrived at the Stadium in transport, ranging from car, to limousine, to camper van!

Thankfully, the damp weather didn't dull the buzzing atmosphere.



CHARITY: CAKE-MAKING STUDENTS WORK WITH SPORT IN ACTION TO HELP KIDS IN AFRICA

'Good sports' help others

BY EDEN NORTH AND ANNA BARNES.

Year 8 students.

For the past four years, members of our Sixth Form College at St Robert of Newminster have travelled to Zambia to work with a non-governmental organisation called Sport in Action, attempting to keep children in school through sports.

On the 6th July, Mrs Fowler, Mr Dent, Mrs Peacock as well as students from Year 12, left for Zambia.

They will visit orphanages and schools, play sports with the children and go on a safari. The sixth formers worked hard to raise money through raffles, cake sales, sponsorships and local parish donations in order to go.

Compulsory education in Zambia ends when a child reaches the age of 14, and if they want to further their learning, they have to pay.

St Robert's works with three "schools" in Lusaka: Burma school, a teaching hospital for

children with special needs, and an orphanage called Fountain of Hope.

They teach a mixture of PE activities and specific sports, and Mr Dent, a regular participant in this trip, says that he "encourages the students to get involved; get stuck in, it's all about putting a smile on their faces."

Mr Dent said: "Every moment is memorable in a way, walking up to somewhere new, having everyone run up to greet you when they see you makes you feel good."

On last year's trip, the students were invited to the British Ambassador's house for dinner and drinks.

"We were formally recognised on an international level for our work and connections with the charities."

The success of the project is clearly visible. St Robert's is the largest single financial donor to the "Perfect Day Foundation" and Sport in Action. They act as a buffer between us and the schools in Lusaka – we cannot



Students greet some of the youngsters they met during their trip to Zambia.

directly donate money to the areas, but we can donate to the charities and tell them where we want our money to go.

The school has directly paid for a mini bus that enables the children to safely travel to events and competitions; upgraded asbestos-ridden changing room facilities in Munali for SiA-run activities and bought sports equipment for the Teaching Hospital.

The Deaf Girls' Netball team didn't have nets which meant they couldn't practice

shooting but "even then," Mr Dent said, "they were amazing."

Our school is the only secondary school in the Ideals Project, the other contributors being universities.

Our fundraising enabled a man called Steven Siame to go to university in Zambia.

Steven had a bad start in life, but managed to turn it around – he became a Peer Leader, and now teaches sport for children in the Fountain of Hope. Earlier this year he vis-

ited St Robert's and shadowed some PE and Languages lessons.

He is now a Level 1 football coach and can teach the other children.

After speaking to Miss Fowler, we learned that one of his main focuses in life was to live without fear.

This has made him a great inspiration to many people in our school.

As Miss Folwer told us: "Passing on happiness doesn't take any away from you."

It was a case of on your marks ... get set ... read



The Carnegie Group: Left to right, Ben Sutcliffe, Lorenzo Corsi, Julia Aniol, Chloe Chapman, Amelia Bell, Abbie Hill, Laura Walsh, Amy Leonard and Luke Robson.

This term, a select group of pupils from St Robert of Newminster School were given the opportunity to take part in a CILIP Carnegie Shadowing Group as a reward for their efforts in English throughout this academic year, writes **Chloe Chapman**.

The CILIP Carnegie award is given to the author of an outstanding book for children.

It was established in 1936 in memory of Andrew Carnegie, a book-lover who made a fortune and used it to fund public libraries.

Previous winners of the

Carnegie award include: Terry Pratchett, Neil Gaiman and Phillip Pullman.

Students have really enjoyed getting involved and they have discovered some of their favourite books while reading this year's shortlist.

Luke Robson, a Year Nine student, stated: "The awards are a great idea! I hadn't heard of any of the books until we started reading, but Railhead, by Philip Reeve, is already one of my favourites. I had really high hopes that it would win!"

There was a lot of diversity amongst the group, each pu-

pil had their own personal favourite. One of the Year Eight members of the group, Julia Aniol, said: "I think it's a really interesting opportunity and I think it has widened my knowledge of books."

"I thought Beck would win. It was my favourite because it has a deep meaning and you can tell the author expressed their feelings through it."

In the end, Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys won and, although not everybody had read this book, those who did thought that it was very deserving of the title.

Pupils pick pockets for parts in Oliver! show

On Wednesday 28th June, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 at St Robert of Newminster School battled it out in order to secure a role in this year's drama production – Oliver! – commencing on the 5th of December, writes **Abbie Hill and Chloe Chapman**.

Mrs Glancy, Head of Drama and director of the show, said that the reason for choosing Oliver! as this year's performance was on account of its broad appeal to any age and its large selection of roles.

This encouraged pupils to audition, for example; Abbie Bailey, a Year 9 scholar, stated: "I chose to audition as I have always desired the opportunity to perform in a musical and have a main part."

The process of auditioning involved preparing a song from the musical and singing a

short section from it, which followed a vocal warm-up.

Musical Director, Mrs Downey, explained that the casting of roles will be determined by the students' interaction, presentation and preparation as well as their singing talent.

The ultimate casting decisions could also be influenced by the scholars' capabilities to speak with cockney accents.

Throughout the auditions, students wishing to be cast as Oliver, The Artful Dodger, Nancy or Bet sang some of the classics from the show.

Overall, the auditions appeared to be a success with Mrs Glancy stating that she recognised a lot of potential on display.

With certain individuals really standing out from the crowd, St Robert's drama

production this year will definitely be one to watch!

● The summer concert, held on the evening of July 4th was a huge success.

The eclectic program, performed by St Robert's orchestra, choir, wind band and wind ensemble, was a fitting tribute to the staff and students' hard work over the spring and summer terms.

The concert included magnificent pieces.

A particular highlight came at the concert finale, when Kuba Lewandowski performed a haunting rendition of the popular jazz standard, Misty on the cornet. This was Kuba's farewell performance and was inspired by the favourite song of his teacher, Mr Marletta who, along with Mrs Downey, produced the event.



Kuba Lewandowski with music teachers Mr Marletta and Mrs Downey.

We love raising money to help support work of CAFOD

As a school community, St Robert's support the work of CAFOD.

Through bake sales, Sixth Form non-uniform days and sponsored activities, every year we aid CAFOD with donations to help people in poverty and in need.

As a religious school, we believe that helping others is key, therefore we love to raise money for a good cause.

CAFOD helps 14 of the poorest countries in the world to get supplies that they need.

Most of these countries have no water, poor sanitation and sometimes suffer droughts and famine.

CAFOD works with them to provide supplies and shows them how to get clean water and working toilets.

They also provide training on how to farm, and they help rural communities as well as the homeless.

They will stop at nothing to provide!

Whenever anyone donates to CAFOD, over 80% of the proceeds goes directly to the countries in need.

For example, when £1 is donated, 87p will go to a place that needs support.

The best services are provided to those most in need of care.

This is especially useful in difficult times such as when wars or natural disasters strike.

CAFOD take their every day mission from the words of Bishop Hilario.

He said: "CAFOD is the open hand of God."

We are aiming to help them to carry on this important work through our own charitable fundraising in school.

Are you keen on training to be a teacher?

St Robert of Newminster is a strategic partner of Trinity North East Teaching School Alliance.

If you are interested in training to teach through the School Direct Route you can apply from October 2017 for Primary and Secondary places commencing in 2018.



FOOTBALL: 4-2 VICTORY FOR ST ROBERT'S AFTER DRAMATIC PENALTY SAVE



The winning team with coach Mr Thompson.

Top team were on top form in Y10 cup final

By BEN SUTCLIFFE AND LORENZO CORSI.
Year 8 and 7 students.

At the end of April, St Robert of Newminster's Year 10 Football Team played against Framwellgate School in the County Cup final at Maiden Castle, Durham University.

The final score was

4-2 and it was said to be a great game. Dylan Quinn scored two for St Robert's whilst Taylor Richardson and Sam Carson scored one each.

The goalkeeper, Harry Hill, kept St Robert's in it with a penalty save.

Harry said he felt "confident" before the penalty and "happy" after his save.

It was a brilliant

achievement – only the fifth time that any St Robert's team of any age group has won the County Cup.

The Year 10 team manager, Mr Thompson, had never won the cup before and he said that he was extremely proud of the team to have come back from being 2-0 down to win 4-2.

Mr Thompson congratulated the team who he

said are all "sensible lads".

Enquiring further, Mr Thompson stated that the team's reaction to the final whistle was, "jumping around and hugging each other; the parents ran on to the pitch and were taking photos of them all.

The St Robert's Team twitter account posted pictures of the team and they were liked by a lot of

the students and parents involved.

When asked whether there were any plans for next year, Mr Thompson told us that it would be, "same again next year, they will be in Year 11 but hopefully we can keep up the winning." Next year there is also the exciting prospect of National Cups!



Chloe Chapman in action.

Importance of numbers in sporting life

Six to seven hours is the time Lucy Scothern spends training each week to move up the UK rankings for 800m, writes Lorenzo Corsi.

She is currently ranked at 29th with a time of 2:27.

Lucy achieved this at the BMC, and is also Regional Champion.

She was inspired by the 2012 Olympics and Christine Ohuruogu!

Five days is how long Chloe Chapman is spending in Holland for the English world school ski team trials.

Chloe competes in three alpine events and is currently ranked at 3rd in the dry slope series in the UK.

19th July was the day when sports day took place.

It was a great success and saw the four houses battling it out for the title of sports day champions.

Seventy was the number of people Catharine Smith went up against in her battle to get into the regional hockey team.

She succeeded, and now has the opportunity of more matches and possibly training abroad in the future.



Lucy Scothern.

Sporty students net awards at glittering evening



Miss Fowler presents Molly Elliott with the Female Sports Personality of the Year award for the second year running.

On Thursday 29th June, St Robert's celebrated our sporting successes by holding a glittering awards evening, writes Lorenzo Corsi.

Multiple students were nominated for their dedication and commitment to sport and received various awards for a wide range of sporting achievements.

Students are chosen to receive awards based on their success, attitude and contributions to the sporting life at school.

The PE staff believe that sports awards are important

for highlighting individual and team successes and giving children the chance to "let their light shine".

The awards are an incentive to get more students involved in sport, both inside and outside of school and, therefore, children discover new opportunities that could shape their futures.

The PE department told us: "School sport opens up multiple new opportunities and experiences at St Robert's; many students get a chance to try new sports."



Mr Langstaff presents Dylan Quinn with the Male Sports Personality of the Year award.



Catharine Smith.