

Ethos

a community newsletter



A MESSAGE FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the School

I would like to begin by wishing you all a happy, blessed and Holy Easter. During our Lenten preparations in school this year we have come together as a Catholic community to encourage our young people to recognize the significance of the Lenten Season. Both in the chapel and around school there have been Stations of the Cross as a focus of prayer on a daily basis. Our year seven students have all taken part in a class liturgy with time for personal prayer in the chapel. Students have prepared and led Morning Prayer for pupils, staff and parishioners every Tuesday on the theme of Lent. Collective worship with tutors and in assemblies has also reflected on our journey to Easter. Social action has focussed on the School Youth SVP group organising a Food Bank Campaign, whilst the CAFOD group has organised a 'Small change to make a big Change' campaign.

In Holy Week itself, Stations of the Cross have been available every day in the chapel, and tutors have spent time with their groups, leading students in daily Lenten worship. Each House has also participated in a special Lenten liturgy. We hope these many activities will have helped students depart for the holidays, prepared for the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. I hope your own celebration of Easter at home with your family is a special one.

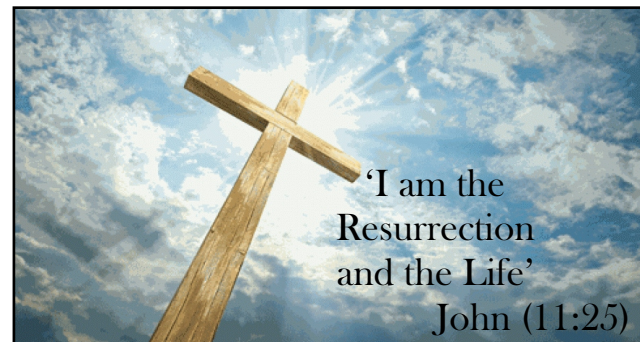
The term seems to have passed incredibly quickly. As ever I would like to congratulate all students on their continued hard work over the previous few months. I know those students preparing for examinations in particular will no doubt have further work to do over the holiday. However, I hope they manage to rest too and come back refreshed for the new term.

Thank you also to parents and those at home for their continued support of our young people in their endeavours. Our students benefit immensely from this support, and I am sure you will join with me in keeping them in your thoughts and prayers over the weeks to come, as examinations approach.

Once again I wish you all a happy and peaceful Easter, and look forward to welcoming students back after the holidays.

Mr D Juric


Headteacher



Holiday Dates

- 29th March - Final day of spring term
(students leave at 3.20pm)
- 30th March – 15th April Easter holidays
- 16th April - School re-opens for start of term
- 7th May - School closed (Bank Holiday- one day)
- 25th May - Final day of half term
(students leave at 3.20pm)
- 26th May – 3rd June - Half-term holiday week
- 4th June - School re-opens for start of half term
- 29th June - School closed for students (INSET Day)
- 20th July - Final day of summer term for students
(students leave at 1:15pm)

GCSEpod has been launched with Y10 and Y11 pupils to help them to prepare and revise for their exams. Look out for details on the school website with further links and "How to" guides.




KEY FEATURES

- Watch online/offline
- Organise revision with bespoke playlists
- Keep up with homework
- Memorise key information

HOW DO YOU WATCH YOURS?

- In class
- On the bus
- At the gym
- On holiday



THE MORE PODS YOU WATCH, THE BETTER YOUR GRADES WILL BE

SIXTH FORM NEWS

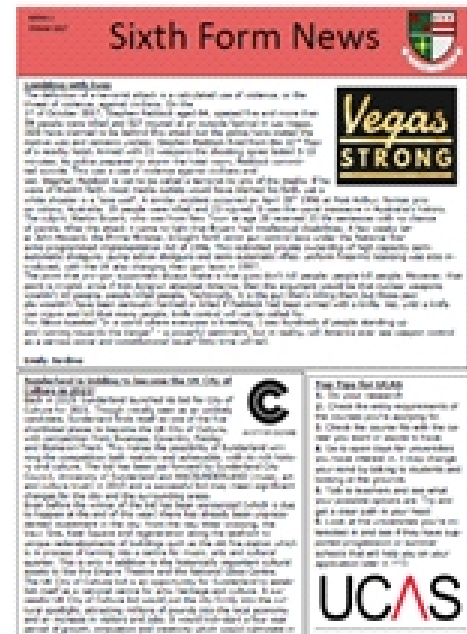
Students have hit the presses with the launch of the Sixth Form Student Newsletter last October. Many journalistic careers started with student led publications and budding hacks have turned their creative energies into a tangible product. The editorial team led by Millie Whiteford and Ethan Pratt have now produced three editions with the fourth due to be published just before Easter. The editors have cast their net far and wide and captured many talented writers across 6th Form. Even more heartening is the inclusion of some great writers in Year 11. A real case of succession planning as Millie and Ethan will hand over the reins this summer as they leave St Robert's to start their university courses.

The three editions have been a real sense of collaboration and include a number of staple items alongside commissioned pieces. Each edition has seen interviews with members of the 6th Form Leadership team plus a focus on a particular university. Edition two saw a great interview with elite female cyclist Genevieve Whitson who delivered presentations on nutrition, training plans and her career highlights to GCSE and A Level PE classes.



The next edition is an exciting celebration of International Women's Day and will have an all-female writing line-up. All editions are published online in the 6th Form section of the school website.

If you are interested in helping to produce future 6th Form newsletters please see Mr Bayne for further details



CAFOD UPDATE



CAFOD stands for the Catholic Agency For Overseas Development. They are an international development charity and the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales.

We stand beside people living in poverty whatever their religion or culture. Through local Church partners, we help people directly in their own communities, and campaign for global justice, so that everyone can reach their full potential.

Our School CAFOD group are currently doing a loose change appeal and any money that is donated is going to be doubled by the government. Each tutor group is taking part and we are striving to make as much money as possible.

If you wish to join our CAFOD group please see any member of the CAFOD group or see Mr Taylor in the chaplaincy office. We meet every Tuesday in the chapel please feel free to become involved. Just remember, Your small change can make a BIG change.

HOUSE TOTALS

St Aidan House Points: 3889
St Cuthbert House Points: 4572

SPRING TERM

St Hilda House Points: 3738
St Godric House Points: 4779

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2018

On International Women's Day 14 of our Year 8 girls were given the opportunity to attend a National Science Roadshow at Newcastle School for Girls. Led by Fran Scott, best known for her demonstrations on the BBC show Absolute Genius with Dick and Dom, the road show explored the variety of careers available for young females in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

Aimed at inspiring the girls to consider such routes, they witnessed a number of innovative ways that Science can be used in industry. From creating smoke rings and controlled explosions to the use of fire for special effects the students were shown how careers in science can be far from the stereotypical job. Evidenced by Helen Sharman the first UK astronaut to visit space and Fran herself, the only female science presenter on children's BBC and a well known pyrotechnic, the students left with a new found knowledge and enthusiasm for a career in a STEM subject.

Although throughout the show the girls were encouraged to think about their future careers, they were reminded that it is OK not to know what work opportunities or career pathways they would like to pursue just yet. The most important message was that rather than think about specific jobs, they should think about which types of activities they would enjoy doing every day.

The school is still accepting new admissions to our Sixth Form for September 2018. Interested parties should contact Mr Bayne for further details.

NORTH EAST TEENAGE BOOK AWARD

A group of Year 9 pupils took part in the prestigious North East Teenage Book Award 2017-2018. NETBA was set up in 1999 due to popular demand; schools wanted a similar programme to the Carnegie Greenaway Book Awards to engage and challenge readers but one which was closer to home, one where our young people could make their own voices heard while discovering exciting new authors and have the opportunity to meet those authors for themselves. The aim of the award is to make young people more aware of the quality and variety of exciting writing available to them as readers of young adult fiction. The award culminates in an evening of celebration of reading and it provides an opportunity for the authors to meet their avid readers.

Miss Armstrong encouraged a group of young people to meet fortnightly in the library where each pupil read as many of the books from the shortlist as possible.

The winner of this year's North East Teenage Book Award is Paper Butterflies by Lisa Heathfield! The award was announced at The Centre for Life in Newcastle in front of a capacity crowd of 300 student enthusiastic judges, their librarians and teachers.

The event was heightened by the fact that all of the shortlisted authors had made the journey to Newcastle for the awards ceremony. After several months of reading the books, debating, researching the authors, and the difficult task of picking a winner, the group were thrilled to meet the authors in person.



LIBRARY RESOURCE CENTRE

The Library Resource Centre is a welcoming space that supports students through a wide range of information and resources, including fiction and non-fiction books, newspapers and magazines, revision guides as well as well as 30 networked computers.

Harry Potter Book Night

This year's Harry Potter Book Night took place on Thursday 1st February. Activities included; The Sorting Ceremony, Quick Draw Challenge and Petrified Potters!! The event was an opportunity for Yr 7 and 8 pupils to discover and share the magical world of Harry Potter. Watch out for Harry Potter activities next year.

Scholastic Book Fair 8-11th October 2018

The Library will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair from Monday 8th to Thursday 11 October. This is a great opportunity for students to choose from over 200 books from leading authors for children and young adults. The Book Fair is not only a great opportunity for students to add to their book collection but also an opportunity to earn 'free books' for the school. All purchases made during the Book Fair contribute to the number of resources the school is given. Last year we raised £732.78 for school books. Thank you to everyone who supported last year's book fair, we hope to see you all at this year's fair.

Pupil Librarian Training Scheme

Pupil Librarian Training Scheme is a project delivered by the School Librarian and School's Library Service. The scheme started in January 2018 and is delivered every fortnight in the school library, during lunch time period. There are eleven pupils involved in the scheme this year. The purpose of the scheme is to raise awareness of the school library and benefits pupils by:-

- ☐ Improving their research skills
- ☐ Widen their book knowledge
- ☐ Improve their organisational skills
- ☐ Create displays

Each pupil involved in the scheme will record their progress in a journal and once completed will be presented with a certificate for their Record of Achievement in the Summer Term.



Flying High with Reading - World Book Day Competition.

St. Robert of Newminster students were extremely enthusiastic about entering our school into the World Book Day Competition Flying High with Reading. Miss Armstrong, Literacy Coordinator and English teacher, first saw this opportunity for us to create something special in order to celebrate and promote our collective love of reading.

The Library team is always looking for new ways to engage our students with reading and I was very impressed with the excitement our regular library users showed when I approached them with this project. Our idea took off immediately, as students were creative and decided to focus on an aeroplane in order to demonstrate how we really 'fly high with reading' in our school. After this, the volunteers kept flooding in, with the pupils really taking an interest in how they could best show their love of books through discussion, art and creativity.

The process involved splitting pupils into groups so that everyone would have an input, with some focusing on drawings, others in thinking about our school approach to reading, and some pupils promoting the competition around the school. We had our foundation and ideas and then started to think about the designing and building of our aeroplane. This was an important task in which we decided the DT department would offer important support and they were more than happy to oblige. Mr Johnston the DT technician discussed the design and structure of our aeroplane with the students. He then impressed everyone by producing the product in record time, only two days!

The creative stages started with us painting the plane white. After this, we could decorate our reading aeroplane to include sketches of our favourite authors such as Alan Gibbons, Anthony Horowitz and J K Rowling looking out of the windows on their creative journey, plus many words and quotations that show how our school really engages with reading. The students are supported with their reading endeavours through various initiatives including: Accelerated Reader, reading groups such as the North East Teenage Book Award and even our themed activities in the library such as Harry Potter Book Night!

St Robert's students have worked as a team to produce a work of art that symbolises the importance of reading to them as individuals. Through their aeroplane design concept, the students appreciate that reading can really take them anywhere, quoting fittingly on the side: 'St Roberts pupils travel the world through books', 'To read is to fly' and 'Reach for the Stars with St. Robert of Newminster readers.' Although we were not fortunate enough to win the competition the students involved worked very hard to complete the deadline, however, they did enjoy the challenge and had fun during the process. Each pupil involved has also received a certificate from World Book Day organisers.



Ms Simpson
LRC Manager

Opening Hours

Mon - Thurs 8.15 ~ 4.15pm
Friday 8.20 ~ 3.30pm

The Library has a strong focus on reading for pleasure. Book based activities are planned regularly to support reading and literature.

YEAR 8 LANGUAGE AMBASSADORS

When we heard that we had the chance to be Language Ambassadors for our year group, some people might have been a bit sceptical. We, on the other hand, were all for it! After a strenuous application process proving our experience, personal qualities and how much we love and wanted to learn more about France and French culture we got accepted as the Language Ambassadors for Year 8. Although we help a lot more than just our year group...

'But what is a Language Ambassador?' we hear you ask. We are a small group of students who love languages and want to make sure other people love them too. We might only play a small part in the day-to-day work of the Languages Department, but we think our contribution helps our friends and teachers in a really big way! From making sure all our equipment is top-notch, from coloured pencils to bilingual dictionaries, we make sure every student in every year group has the best chance to get the most out of learning a new language. We are even reading Harry Potter with a member of the Sixth Form, Ethan Pratt. If there are any errands that need doing, we're your guys (and girls) even if it's just making sure our really hard-working teachers can have a few minutes to themselves, without an aspiring polyglot asking them even MORE questions about France, Germany and Spain!

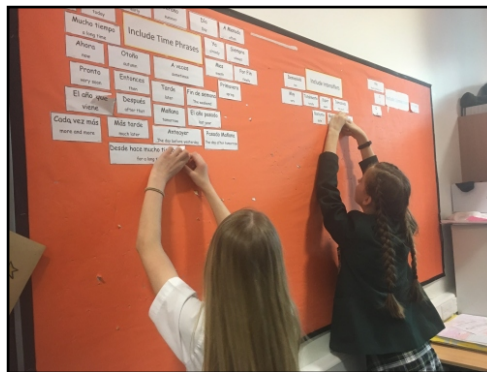
But the little ways we help every day isn't the main reason why we love being Language Ambassadors: It's because we can be just that ambassadors. We talk to our friends about languages we love, and the reasons we love them. We tell them about how being able to speak another language opens doors we couldn't imagine yet and can give us brilliant experiences and opportunities when we get older to really get the most out of life in a huge, vibrant, and multicultural world of adventure! Who wouldn't want that?

Of course, it isn't all work. As you can see, learning a new language can be a really magical experience...

Being a Language Ambassador is magnifique / großartig / magnífico / brilliant, and a great way to give back to a school that gives us so much. So to any other students reading this: what are you waiting for?

The St Robert's Language Ambassadors of Year 8

(Core Team: Abigail Newman, Anna McLeod, Deagan Robins, Charlie Urwin, Matthew Shevlin, Esme Graham, Emma Lindsey, Blake Hall, Madeleine Davison, Marc Sinaguinan)



BOOK AMNESTY 16 - 20 April

The LRC is holding a Book Amnesty between 16 - 20 April. Books are expensive and a priceless resources, we need books back so they can be used by other pupils. If you have any overdue books belonging to the school library, please arrange for them to be returned or renewed as soon as possible.

Pupils may borrow two books at a time. Each book is issued for a two week period and the issue date is stamped on the inside of each book. Books can be renewed by either returning the book to the library or asking the librarian to renew. The book will be extended for a further two weeks. If a book has been lost it will need to be replaced so speak to the librarian.

We want all students to have a wide choice of books to borrow and read, and when a book is retained past its due date, or lost, it limits availability.

If anyone has read any books which they would like to donate to the library see the librarian.

JOHN PAUL II AWARD



Participating in the Pope John Paul II Award has inspired us to become better members of the community and allowed us to develop qualities that have helped our applications to university. Some of the activities we have completed include: The Reading Mentor Programme, whole school fundraising events and preparing and delivering year group liturgies. Everyone who participated thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and we would recommend this award to everyone. If you would like to get involved or require further information, please see Mr Taylor or Miss Salmon in school.

The John Paul II Team



SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

Recently, Year 12 Politics students attended an 'Insights' lecture at Newcastle University which was conducted by John Bercow, the Speaker of the House of Commons. Throughout the lecture Mr Bercow highlighted the major role Parliament plays within our democracy and how, contrary to popular belief, Parliament is still a relevant force today within the UK's political system. All students found it informative and incredibly helpful to their classroom studies, as the examination of Parliament is an essential part of the work we conduct in school. I'm sure all Politics students are hoping to get another opportunity to go to another fascinating lecture at Newcastle University.



ROME VISIT 2018

It was a very cold and snowy night students and staff met in the school carpark for our 1am departure. The darkness was overcome by the excitement as the dawning realisation that next stop would be the Eternal City. The early morning flight from Manchester allowed us to catch up on a little sleep. We arrived at our hotel around lunchtime. It was a quick turnaround with suitcases hastily unpacked and then it's time to venture out and experience.



Our first visit was to Santa Maria Maggiore, Pope Francis' favourite church, and our chance to see up close the beauty and scale of Rome's architecture. The ceiling is gilded with gold gifted by Christopher Columbus to Pope Alexander VI. It is an understated exterior but such a spectacular interior, and certainly an excellent start to our pilgrimage. We celebrated Mass at San Silvestro in Capite with a very welcoming Irish priest and parish community. Now that our souls were nourished, it was time to feed the body. Our first meal at the Chef Express in the Termini station was very welcome. After a long day it was a reasonably early night to recuperate and prepare for our first full day.



Monday arrived and we battled through the commuters on the Metro to get our first sight of the majesty of the Colosseum. Nothing can prepare you for the scale of the Colosseum as you walk out of the Metro station and it's right there. Necks suddenly crane and eyes dart here, there and everywhere. Jaws drop, cameras come out.

We stood by the site where Julius Caesar was cremated after his assassination and walked in the tracks made by chariots 2,000 years ago.

After lunch it was up the hill to the basilica of San Giovanni Laterano. This was the site of the papal palace before the popes moved to Avignon in France. When they returned they established the Vatican as their home. The basilica is the Pope's church as bishop of Rome. Again, vast scale and beautiful mosaics behind the main altar.

No trip to Rome is complete without icecream and there's nothing nicer than an evening walk to Gialliotti's. The process is simple - pay first and choose either 2, 3 or 4 scoops. Then it gets complicated as you are faced with over 40 flavours of icecream. That's why we had to return later in the week.

Tuesday saw another full day exploring the city. First stop was the catacombs of Sant'Agnese towards the end of the metro line. A quieter part of Rome. We split into two groups to have a tour of the catacombs and see the burial niches used by the citizens of Rome. Once outside we visited one of the gems of Rome, the stunningly beautiful circular church of Santa Costanza. It was built as a mausoleum for Costanza, the daughter of Emperor Constantine, and is adorned by the most amazing mosaics.



We had the place to ourselves. 50 cents in the light meter and the colour burst into life. Back to the bustle of Rome and we visited the Pantheon. Built as a temple to all the gods and is now a church dedicated to Mary and all the Martyrs. Surrounded by a piazza lined with restaurants and cafes, and the focal point of a fountain.

We braved the cold and wet in St Peter's Square on Wednesday morning at the Papal Audience. The school received a name check in front of the assembled pilgrims, a chance to scream and shout and put St Robert's on the map. Students were excited to see Pope Francis so close as he toured the square before he spoke. In the afternoon we were delighted to meet Christopher Lamb, The Tablet's Rome correspondent. Hugely engaging, he told about his job and gave us a mini tour of the Vatican. Mr Bayne even managed to convince the Swiss Guard to let them have a photo.



Our last full day and we headed to the Vatican. A tour of the Vatican Museums, an overwhelming collection of works of art. The highlight was Michelangelo's work of genius in the Sistine Chapel. So much to reflect on - the Final Judgement with Jesus orchestrating the virtuous to join the saints in heaven and the damned being dragged down to their unpleasant fate, the creation story including Adam about to receive the divine spark of life or the place where Pope Francis was elected five years ago. Mr Bayne was in his element as he donned the headset and at least looked like an official tour guide. A new career if teaching doesn't work out for him.

Our visit to the basilica of St Peter's was overwhelming. The absolute genius of the work of Bernini in the colonnade in St Peter's square or the baldacchino (canopy) over the papal altar. It's impossible to choose a favourite. Not forgetting Michelangelo's sculpture of Mary holding Jesus after he is taken down from the cross, the Pieta. It was then time to ascend to the top of the dome of St Peter's. Over 500 stairs but a view to die for. The final night and there's only one place to go - the Trevi fountain. A busy place and the chance to throw your coins in the water to ensure that you return to the most beautiful city in the world.



Sarah Hutchinson reflected on her visit "Rome 2018 has definitely been the highlight of Sixth Form for me. Rome is a fascinating place to visit especially with Mr Bayne as our very own tour guide. Staff and students learnt a lot about the city and thoroughly enjoyed sampling the Italian delicacies including the extraordinary range of delicious ice cream flavours! Every day we experienced a completely different aspect of the city and even had the amazing privilege to attend an audience with the Pope. I feel very lucky to have had this wonderful opportunity and would love to return. Thanks to all the lovely staff and students who made the trip so memorable."

It's always a privilege to share the beauties of Rome with a wonderful group of students. Grateful thanks to Mrs Sturdy, Miss Lamb and Miss Boxer for their hard work and giving up time with their families during the half term. Thank you to all those who followed our journey on Twitter

- (@StRobertsREdept)



THE GREAT DEBATE

Year 12 students recently competed in a regional debating competition hosted at St Robert's by the History department. The event is co-ordinated by the Historical Association and requires Sixth Form students to consider an issue of national significance. This year the theme was based around the significance of the 1918 Representation of the People Act as this was the first piece of legislation that enabled millions of women and working class men the right to vote within Britain. Ten year 12 students put themselves forward to represent St Roberts and out of this group the History department selected three to compete against other schools across the North East. Our representatives were Hannah Bartlett, Ewan Lynn-Noble and Andrew McDonnell. Hannah Bartlett has written about the competition below.

"In January of this year, three year 12 students were lucky enough to take part in the regional heat of the National Great Debate competition. Posed with the statement "The 1918 extension of the British franchise was the most significant event in British democratic History"; Andrew McDonnell, Ewan Lynn-Noble and I were tasked with to prepare and deliver arguments in front of parents, students from other schools and the judge who was the regional chair of the Historical Association. The debate enabled candidates to speak with passion and confidence about their opinions regarding the above statement, with all involved enjoying themselves in the process. Unfortunately, we did not win the regional heat as a candidate from Durham High School for girls was chosen as the regional representative. All three of us would like to thank Mrs Harrison and the History department for their support and encouragement throughout the process".



THE INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

The International Chemistry Olympiad is an event organised by The Royal Society of Chemistry and is open to students across the country. This year, the 50th year of the Olympiad, around 6,000 students were entered by their teachers. Round one consists of a 2 hour exam paper which tests depth of knowledge of chemistry, sophisticated problem-solving, initiative and data-handling. Many of the questions and tasks are like those that would be asked of first year university students.

St Robert's entered 8 students for the Olympiad and we are very proud to announce that Joshua Montgomery, Daniel Smith, Matthew Fullard and Emilia Hepple were awarded Silver Award certificates and Bronze Award certificates were awarded to Charlotte Place, Shannon Quinn and Ross Myers. Nadia Karim also received a certificate of participation, having just missed out on a Bronze Award.



Mr A Higgins
Head of Chemistry

ST ROBERT'S REMEMBERS

To commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, Mrs Dunn on behalf of the History department co-ordinated a morning of reflection which allowed students to consider the significance of the Holocaust in both Historical terms and in today's society. The activities were planned and led by year 13 students who had participated in the "Lessons From Auschwitz" programme which is led by the Holocaust Educational Trust. As part of this programme four year 13 students participated in bespoke seminars and attended a trip to Auschwitz to experience the horrors of the Holocaust first-hand. These students used their knowledge to lead year 9 in their reflection and to discuss the importance of hearing the testimony of the survivors whilst they are still with us.

To mark Holocaust Memorial Day, Saturday 27th January 2018, Karen Pollock MBE, Chief Executive of the Holocaust Educational Trust, said:

"Holocaust Memorial Day is a chance for us as a nation to remember where hatred and prejudice in its most heinous form ultimately led the murder of six million Jewish men, women and children during the Holocaust, and in genocides that have happened since. We know that in a fragile world, with antisemitism and prejudice continuing to be a blight on our society, keeping the memory and lessons of the Holocaust alive is a greater challenge than ever before. The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is 'The Power of Words' let today be a chance for us all to stand together and speak with one voice we will remember and we will condemn hatred wherever it is found."

As part of the commemoration, year 9 students listened to the testimony of a survivor called Janine Webber. Her story detailed the treatment of herself and her family during the Nazi persecution. By hearing this testimony, our students have become "witnesses" to the Holocaust and have now been given the mission to continue to spread the message of how hope can conquer evil.



Written by Nadina Heavisides and Nicola Fallon (Year 9)

In January, we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day. All year 9 students took part in this special day and we are proud to say we have nearly 250 young people who 'remember' what happened to the Jews and their families and how they suffered from 30th Jan 1933 8th May 1945.

On Friday the 26th of January one of the survivors Janine Webber was invited to a school in the UK and spoke about her traumatic story publically to over 2000 schools on a live webcast, hosted by the Holocaust Educational Trust. It was very hard for her to go back and tell us of her past and what had happened to her family.

St Roberts began the morning with a talk from the sixth formers explaining what the Holocaust was and how people were affected before moving on to show us a video about speaking out and how by saying one word really can make a difference. Before Janine's live broadcast aired, we were told about our sixth form student's trip to Auschwitz. Just after 10am Janine's live broadcast began and we all became witnesses to her story. All of the students felt privileged to be one of the very last people of our generation to hear a survivor's testimony.

Here is a link to Janine's survivor story <https://www.het.org.uk/survivors-janine-webber>



Dear God

We thank you for the gift of self-expression. Let us always use our words to help those without a voice and immortalise the memory of those who lost theirs.

We pray, that on this day, we use our voice for the power of good to spread your message of love and compassion throughout our community.

Let us remember that the words said about us, do not define us; the words we say, do.

Amen



HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
DAY TRUST



After the Remembrance Event on 29th January, year 12 Historians conducted a series of assemblies with all year groups. These assemblies focused on persecution around the world and enabled students to reflect on how individuals have the power to prevent events like the Holocaust from happening again. As part of this assembly the students wrote the prayer below.

The History department was proud of the maturity and the conduct shown by all students involved in the commemoration of the Holocaust and we hope that the memory of Janine's story stays with them for years to come.

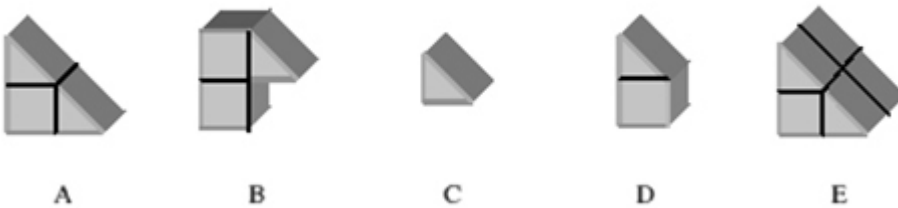
MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE 2018

The Intermediate Maths Challenge returned to St Roberts again for another year. This time we saw more than 80 pupils take part in this massively competitive challenge. It requires high levels of problem solving skills but also strategy as students can see themselves penalised if they answer the latter questions wrong. The same test was given to students in schools across the country, so our students were effectively competing against them. The top 40% of students in the country receive bronze, silver and gold awards. St Roberts saw an improvement from last year with an impressive thirty-seven awards, consisting of five fantastic gold awards, sixteen superb silver awards and sixteen brilliant bronze awards! This overall is six more awards than last year!

Congratulations to all that took part in the competition and demonstrated their ability and love of maths. A special mention must go out to those students who achieved gold awards. Those students are Matthew Walsh, Katherine Bontems, John Connolly, Jude Rushworth who are in Year 11 and Kami Elstob who is in Year 9, what a fantastic achievement!

How would you do? Below are a sample of the questions students had to answer (without a calculator!).

Four of these shapes can be placed together to make a cube. Which is the odd one out?



In a certain year, there were exactly four Tuesdays and exactly four Fridays in October. On what day of the week did Halloween, October 31st, fall that year?

A Monday B Wednesday C Thursday D Saturday E Sunday

A solid wooden cube is painted blue on the outside. The cube is then cut into 27 smaller cubes of equal size. What fraction of the total surface area of these new cubes is blue?

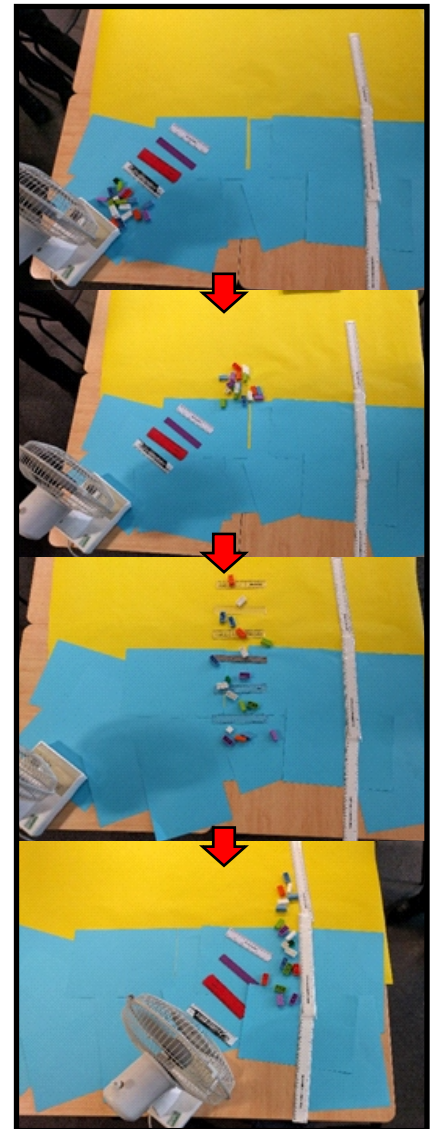
A $\frac{1}{6}$ B $\frac{1}{5}$ C $\frac{1}{4}$ D $\frac{1}{3}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$

MODELLING IN GEOGRAPHY

In geography there are many theories and concepts that have to be learned; a model will attempt to fit these to a real life situation and make them easier to understand. Geographers have created land models to show how a 'typical' city is laid out. One of the most famous of these, the Burgess or concentric zone model has been skillfully recreated in 3D by some of our Y7 pupils.



Similarly the process of Long shore drift where sand is moved along the beach by waves hitting the coast at an angle has been modelled by some Y10s. Using Lego, a fan and some rulers they have demonstrated how the effects of the prevailing wind on the swash and gravity on the backwash moves sediment along the beach and is then trapped by the groyne.



ST CUTHBERT- DURHAM HOUSE



Durham House have chosen HCPT as our charity this year and are fundraising for Group 53, one of the North East groups which has its roots in Washington. The Group Leader, Roz came into school during assembly to talk to us all about their week in Lourdes. HCPT is a registered charity offering pilgrimage holidays, to Lourdes in the south of France, for young people from around the UK and further afield.

So far we have raised £500

Every Easter over 1,000 children enjoy a fun and safe week in Lourdes, staying in hotels with their volunteer helpers. They are supported by volunteer doctors, nurses, helpers and priests. Every year has a theme and this year the week is centred on 'You are special'

From the start of the trip, the emphasis is very much on ensuring that all the children have a wonderful fun-filled week. Each child travels and stays with a family group. The group will be visiting a number of Lourdes attractions, including the Grotto, the house where Saint Bernadette grew up, the "Cachot" where she and her family were living at the time of the apparitions, and some of the many museums in the town.

Group 53 will also take part in:

- ☐ Easter Sunday Mass: the week in Lourdes kicks off on Easter Sunday for many with a Mass and lots of singing.
- ☐ Tuesday evening Torchlight Procession: this is a wonderfully visual and emotional event. All the pilgrims in Lourdes are invited to come together for a torchlight procession, singing along, and on Tuesday night HCPT leads the procession. There is a great sing-along at the end.
- ☐ Thursday Trust Mass: over 5,000+ members of HCPT, the Irish Pilgrimage Trust, and other international groups come together in the Underground Basilica. For many this is the highlight of the week. This is streamed live, see if you can spot any staff!
- ☐ Most groups have a day out, travelling by coach. The Group's destination is Gavarnie, high up in the Pyrenees. This is a spectacular venue where some days groups make snowmen and other days it's shorts and t-shirt weather!



YOUTH- SVP

We are a newly-founded charitable organisation in school which works to support the needs of the struggling members of both our school community and the wider community in Washington. So far we have grouped together fundraising ideas and are currently offering a chance for pupils to donate cans for local food banks and loose change for our partner, CAFOD. We are currently looking to grow our charity and would like your help to do so. Please speak to Mr. Taylor or any member of the YSVP. We meet every Tuesday P4 lunch in the chapel.



SPORTING

ACHIEVEMENTS

TEAM
ST ROBERTS



WASHINGTON SPORTS HUB

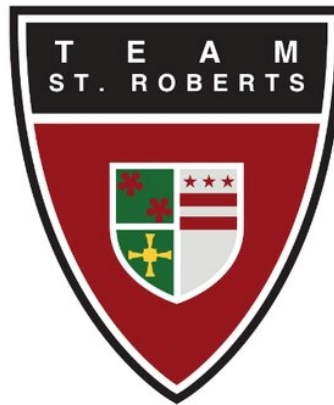
A new Washington Sports Hub website has been launched. The site highlights all the local sports club in and around the Washington area. It is hoped teachers, students and parents will use the site to find out how they can continue their sport outside the school environment.

www.sportsthewinner.com



GCSE PE TRIP TO DERWENT HILL

Following the initial cancellation of the first proposed trip due to the adverse weather from the 'Beast from the East', the PE department valiantly rearranged 2 trips on 2 consecutive weekends to Derwent Hill Outdoor Adventure Centre in Keswick. This trip allowed 58 KS4 pupils the opportunity to be assessed in Rock Climbing. Due to the weather conditions, much of the assessment was done at the Indoor Climbing Wall at Keswick but we did manage for a short time to climb on the natural crag faces of the Lake District. Pupils performed admirably well and will be able to use their marks for GCSE practical assessment.



TEAM ST ROBERTS BRANDED CLOTHING

Team St Robert's branded clothing will be launched after the Easter holidays. We have teamed up with TotalSportNE (Sunderland) to produce a series of Nike garments. These items are going to be made available to those students who are on exam courses, those students who regularly attend training and finally those students who have represented the school in competitive games. Details of prices and items coming soon.



RUGBY

Both the girls and boys Rugby teams have had plenty of competitive matches this half term. The Year 7 boys have ended their league campaign finishing a creditable 2nd. Both U14 boys and girls Rugby competed in the All Schools Rugby Festival at the Newcastle Falcons ground. Playing against teams from Cumbria, Northumberland and Durham they performed well.

X-COUNTRY BRILLIANCE

Amy Leonard, Lucy Scothern, Matthew Phillips & Eve Quinn were all selected to run for County Durham at the England Schools X Country at Leeds. Amy Leonard finished a creditable 54th in national race containing nearly 300 runners.

NORTH OF ENGLAND ROWING SUCCESS

Josh Donaldson (Y7) and Eve Larsen (6th Form) won the North of England Indoor Rowing Championships. They have now qualified for the National Championships alongside two other sixth form students Matthew Phillips and Beth Hull. Fantastic achievement.



Male Sports Personality Of The Year	Female Sports Personality Of The Year	The Marian Smith Award for Sporting Endeavour
2005 - Peter Tonge	2005 - Gabrielle Foster	2005 - Sarah Fletcher
2006 - Paul Coughlin	2006 - Rebecca Matters	2006 - Rebecca Dick
2008 - Callum Norton	2008 - Bethany Curran	2008 - Ruth Finlay
2009 - Patrick Small	2009 - Rachel Edgar	2009 - Alicia Robson
2010 - Mark Purvis	2010 - Rachael Sayer	2010 - Rachael Edgar
2011 - Jason Clark	2011 - Rebecca Cairns	2011 - Jennifer Barker
2014 - Zach McCormack	2014 - Bethany Emmerson	2014 - Imogen Bosanko
2015 - Matthew Phillips	2015 - Sophie Miller	2015 - Faith Freeman
2016 - Aaron Ditchburn	2016 - Molly Elliott	2016 - Joseph Burke
2017 - Dylan Quinn	2017 - Molly Elliott	2017 - Georgia Massey

SPORTS AWARDS BOARDS

New awards boards have been put in place in the PE department. Since 2005 the department has held a regular Sports Awards evening. Those who have won the main awards are now displayed for others to see. These are Male and Female Sports Personality of the Year, the Marian Smith Award for Sporting Endeavour, Trevor Parkin award for Sixth Form, Jim Welch Award for Outstanding Contribution to School Sport and finally the Team of the Year.

U16 BOYS WIN FUTSAL TITLE

The U16 Boys Futsal Team (Jonathan Gray, Charlie McLeod, Lewis Johnson, Dylan Quinn, Jack Smith, Sam Carson) won the Tyneside Schools Event with a 4-3 final win against Durham Johnston.



YOUNG CARERS AT ST ROBERT'S



Spotlight on: Young Carers at St Robert's

Over the past year, I've been working with some of our Young Carers in school. Many students, parents, and staff are unaware of what a Young Carer is, and what we can do at St. Robert's to support students who are young Carers.

Who is a Young Carer?

Sunderland Carer's Centre defines a young carer as 'a child between the age of 5 to 16, or Young Adult Carer aged 16 to 25 who looks after someone in their family who has a long-term illness, disability, mental ill health or substance misuse problem that impacts on that young person. This may be taking on responsibilities, emotional/and or practical support that would normally be expected of an adult.'

What can a Young Carer do to access support in school?

Being a Young Carer may mean that on occasion, you need further support in school. There are a number of things you can do to access support:

1. Register as a Young Carer with Sunderland Young Carers. You may be able to carry a Young Carer's card. This can be done via the website www.sunderlandcarers.co.uk
2. Speak to Mrs McHale or Mrs Bowen we can help and support you in school.
3. Come along to Young Carers drop in sessions in school. Look out for messages about these on our Young Carer's notice board and via your tutor.
4. Make use of the fantastic support available via Sunderland Young Carers.

What next?

We working closely with Sunderland Young Carers. If you have any questions or would like to speak to someone at the school about your child, please contact Mrs McHale or your child's Head of House.

Alternatively, get in touch with Sunderland Young Carer's Centre:

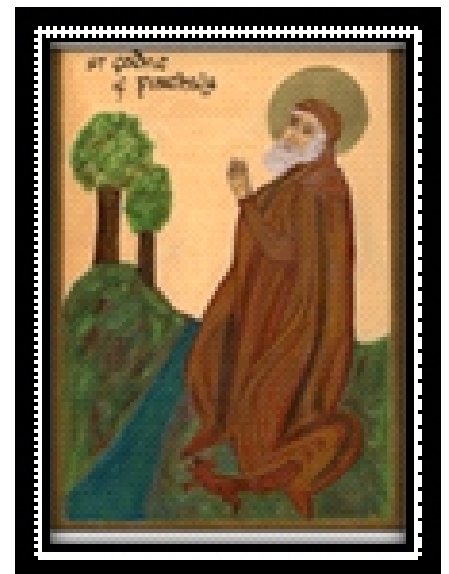
Tel: 0191 549 3768 contactus@sunderlandcarers.co.uk

ST GODRIC FINCHALE HOUSE STILL ON TOP

It's been a fantastic year so far for Finchale House, with a staggering 5306 Achievement points accrued so far this year. This leaves us way out ahead and on track to once again be the top scoring House on Achievement Points for the second year running. Students in Year 7 have settled in well, but students from years 7-11 during our end of term assemblies will be receiving award certificates for Bronze, Silver Gold achievements we may even have our first students achieving platinum which is 100 Achievements! What a fantastic effort.

I've witnessed some fantastic student led prayer activities in Tutor groups this term. Almost all of our tutor groups have had an opportunity to lead Assembly and what perfectly planned and reflective assemblies they have been. As always, I am extremely proud of the students in Finchale House who continue to live by the school motto 'let your light shine'.

Finally, it's almost time to say goodbye to our Year 11 students as their GCSE exams fast approach. I would like to wish all of our year 11 students every success in the future.



ZAMBIA MAKING A DIFFERENCE

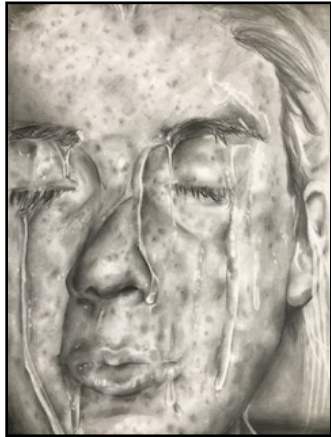
Every July, for the past 5 years, St Robert's Sixth Form students have had the pleasure to spend two weeks volunteering in Lusaka, Zambia. They see, first hand, the incredible work young Zambia's do in developing, engaging and supporting their local communities through the power of sport. Whilst out in Lusaka, we work with Sport in Action, a local NGO, who strive to engage young people in education using sport as a key motivating tool. They believe that engaging young students in sport, keeps them in education and enhances their life chances.

Our time in Lusaka, is split across three main sites; Burma Secondary School, University Teaching Hospital and Fountain of Hope, an orphanage and education centre for street children. It is at the University Teaching Hospital that we met Joan Nkhoma, the site co-ordinator and Sport in Action volunteer. Joan is so passionate about helping the 50 resident children and 150 extra day pupils that attend UTH and coupled with her enthusiasm, humbleness and kindness for others, immediately struck a chord with our values at St Robert's. Joan is an immense support to us during our stay in Lusaka, ensuring we are safe, enjoying our time and providing a huge source of fun and entertainment so it felt only right that we offered Joan the opportunity to visit us here at St Robert's.

On Sunday 18th March, Joan arrived at Manchester Airport to start a 3 week development programme organised by St Robert's in conjunction with Durham University. Joan is spending the first ten days working in the PE department, observing lessons, learning how our PE teachers deliver lessons and adding some Zambian spirit to the sessions. Joan is enjoying every minute of her time in St Robert's. Joan would like me to pass on her thanks to everyone who has made this exchange happen, especially the students who have fundraised the funds required. This will be a life changing experience for Joan and one which she will always remember.

Mr D Dent

ART SUCCESS



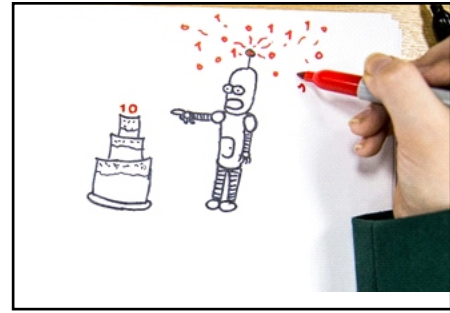
Talented Art students here at St Robert of Newminster entered their work into this year's Youth Arts Exhibition which went on display at the Art Centre Washington. This year the Art Centre received more than 170 entries including paintings, drawings, sculptures and photography from schools, youth groups and individuals from all over the local area. St Robert's is very pleased to announce that we had three winners across two of the categories. Kyra Sidhu won the 11-14 category, Amy Usher and Joseph Ridley won the 15-20 category, which is testament to their outstanding skill and dedication to their work. The Art department would like to congratulate all students who entered their work: all the work entered was of an outstanding standard.

A huge well done from the Art Department to all students!

FILM AND ANIMATION CLUB



Students in KS3 have been working with a specialist from Durham University exploring and making animations to help with their ICT and Computer Science studies. Having investigated several types animations, students have worked in groups to create an animated learning resource to help explain some of the more complicated and abstract areas of the curriculum. Students have experimented with frame by frame animation, hand drawn cell animation, and digital animation techniques to gain a real understanding of what it means to be an animator! The effort and enthusiasm of the students has been fantastic, and some of their work would be the envy of Walt Disney!



SAFER INTERNET DAY 2018

Tuesday 6th February 2018 was Safer Internet Day. This is an important day to remind students about the benefits and dangers of living in an online world. During the day itself there were competitions for students to help them discover and explore online safety topics. The winners were: Adam Noble - 8D2, Deecon Allan - 9F1 and Jack Pennal - 8D2.

In ICT lessons during the week students watched a series of films for Safer Internet Day 2018 that focused on healthy online relationships and digital wellbeing.

The films inspired conversations around how being online can make young people feel, helping them to consider the positive and negative effects being online can have on them and the ways to respond. The emphasis of the films was taking a minute to become aware of their feeling as well as the feelings of others before responding. For the older students the focus moves on to empathy and what it looks like online.

ST AIDAN LINDISFARNE HOUSE

It has been a busy term in St Aidan Lindisfarne House, with much to celebrate. We have had a number of really successful and prayerful House assemblies led by different tutor groups leading up to the Lenten Season. During Lent our house has focussed on traditional Christian values and decided to show one another that we care by delivering 'Random Acts of Kindness', reflecting upon the words of Pope Francis, *"Above all, I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew."* We look forward to the coming months in our House and wish all Year 11 students our best wishes as they embark on their GCSE exams and the next stages of their lives.



FRIEND'S UPDATE

The Friends of St Robert's are a group of parents / carers/ grandparents and friends who give their time to support activities and fund-raising at the school. They usually meet from 9.00am until 10.00am on a Monday morning.. Regular Friends of St Robert's are subject to CRB checks and any prospective participants need to bring photo ID to the meetings.



On an annual basis staff of the school are asked to bid for the funds that The Friends raise. Funds are then distributed according to need and availability. If you would like to get involved please contact either Mr Taylor or Mr McHale in school.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY **SUMMER 2018**

Year 7

27th June - Year 7 Parents Evening takes place (4:00 - 7.00pm)

Year 8

6th July - Year 8 grade report posted to parents

Year 9

April/May - Year 9 options Processing

Year 10 16th April (2 Weeks) -Year 10 internal mock exams

22nd June - Year 10 full report posted to parents

16th – 20th July - Year 10 Work Experience Week

Year 11

27th April - Year 11 Day of Celebration – Yr 11 retreat (am) and Record of Achievement (pm)

8th May - Year 11 exams begin - students attend school until their final exam has been taken

Year 12

21st May - A Level Mock Exams

16th – 20th July - Year 12 Work Experience Week

Year 13

27th April - Year 13 Day of Celebration

May - A2 exams begin

EASTER PRAYER

Loving Jesus

You taught us to show mercy through the story of the Good Samaritan.

You ask us to go and do the same, to be good Samaritans to others.

May we be your hands and feet of mercy, helping those in need through our actions.

May we be your eyes of mercy, looking with compassion on the world.

May our school be a community of mercy, showing love to others in your name. Amen.