



# Newsletter



## Number 32 - December 2014

Welcome to the December newsletter and the final one for 2014, it's been a busy half term and there's still plenty of time left ! We are looking forward to the Senior Citizens Christmas party and our own Carol Service to which you are invited (although tickets are at a premium), Christmas trips for the students and the Christmas Liturgies. By the time you receive this our very talented young people will have showcased their skills in the Talent Show, Year 11 Parents Evening will have taken place and Year 11 mock exams will have begun. I would like to thank you again for your continuous support in working towards St Damian's becoming the outstanding school I know it can become.

### THINK BIKE!

Can I please remind parents that some of our students use their bikes to travel to and from school. It is just as important, if not more, to remind everyone to keep an extra special eye out for cyclists. The roads around school are particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day and now we have the additional hazard of dark mornings and darker nights. Traffic is very heavy and everyone is in a rush, parents and students alike. Students on bikes are particularly vulnerable and often difficult to see, please take extra special care and it is also important to make sure that bikes are well maintained and have working lights and that students have helmets etc.



**Year 11 Mocks** Year 11 will sit Mock GCSE Examinations in every subject between the 1st and the 12th of December and students should be revising at home in preparation. The Mock GCSE results are very important in giving an accurate indication of how pupils will perform in their GCSE's in May.

**Year 11 Parents Evening** – A massive thank you for the overwhelming positive feedback and messages after Year 11 Parents Evening. 58 out of 59 returns (98%) by parents said they “would recommend this school to another parent”. Here are some of the comments (these are indicative of many of the comments).

- ★ ‘Just continue to be the excellent school you are’
- ★ Your staff are a credit to you and the school’
- ★ I am proud to say my child attends St Damian’s’
- ★ The attitude of the staff has allowed my son to progress and grow throughout his time here’
- ★ ‘Excellent communication’
- ★ ‘All staff are very attentive and are genuinely concerned for the future of the children’
- ★ St Damian’s is a great school, my son has been supported from the beginning’

**Behaviour, Uniform and Hair** - The behaviour at St Damian's by the vast majority of pupils is outstanding and I'm very proud of them. All pupils know and accept the high standards of behaviour, uniform and hair. Thank you to all the parents who consistently support the school in ensuring these high standards are maintained. May I remind parents that extremely short hair, 'lines in hair' or unnatural looking hair is not permitted. This has not changed in the past two years.

Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform each day, any student not in full school uniform will be referred to their head of year and could be placed in seclusion.

**Chewing Gum** - Please remember that chewing gum is not allowed on school premises and it is our collective social responsibility to keep our community and new school clean and tidy. There are plenty of bins around school to dispose of any gum/litter, please use them !



**Remembrance Day** - On 11<sup>th</sup> December, we had a special service in our Bereavement Garden to mark Remembrance Day. Our cadets led the service where we lay a wreath and said prayers for those who had been lost in the fight for peace. Also, representatives from all years came and tied white ribbons around our bereavement tree for loved ones who have died. It was a beautiful and prayerful service, as always our pupils were impeccably behaved and represented the school well.

**The Liturgy Group** have raised over £60 for the Ebola Victims by having a sponsored silence. The school is now in the middle of mission Christmas! A Key 103 charity that asks for donations of presents for youngsters in the Manchester area who



otherwise might not get a present. We still have 3 weeks to get presents in and St Damian's is acting as a drop off center so the whole community can get involved!

**Carol Service & Nativity** - On Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December we will be having our annual Carol Service with Nativity at 6.30pm in the school hall. It is a fantastic event that gets us all into the Christmas spirit. It is very family orientated and ends with mulled wine and mince pies – what could be more festive than that! Lots of pupils and staff are involved, two of our feeder primaries are joining us and it is a lovely way to get the Christmas season underway. We would love it if you and your family were able to join us. The last two years have been standing room only so for this reason we have tickets available from the school office. Please come along!



For Advent this year St Damian's are looking at how to put the Christ back into Christmas. Each form is looking at how the true meaning of Christmas can sometimes get lost and how, as both individuals and as a school we can change this. Each form will create a piece of work showing what they would do and this will be included in the Christmas Carol Concert backdrop. On the Tuesday before Christmas St Damian's will be having a "wear a Christmas jumper day", to raise money for mission Christmas and support the idea of giving presents to those who need them in our society. Last year this was very successful, with staff and students alike sporting some fantastic jumpers!

### **September – December 2014 PE / School Sport Success Stories**

#### **Netball:**

- Yr 7 Girls Netball Tameside Schools League Third Place
- Yr 8 Girls Netball Tameside Schools League Runners Up
- Yr 9 Girls Netball Tameside Schools League Winners
- Yr 10/11 Netball Tameside Schools League Runners Up



Congratulations to all of our hard working Netball teams!

#### **Girls Football:**

- U12's Tameside Schools League Third Place
- U14's Tameside Schools League Runners up
- U16's Tameside Schools fourth place

#### **Gifted and Talented Sportsmen and Sportswomen:**

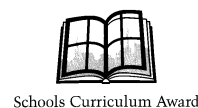
- Yr9 pupils Lauren Stanley, Aimee Stanley and Jessica Finan were appointed as the school new Sports Ambassadors for 2014/2015 – well done ladies. They will go on to assist PE staff with clubs and events and develop their leadership skills throughout the year.
- Two talented Yr9 Netball players Lauren Stanley and Brogan Slicker have been selected to play at county netball level – a fantastic achievement, well done girls!
- Our gifted footballers Phoebe Hollin, Emily Holt, and Holly Byrne have been selected to represent The Greater Manchester County Team. Good luck playing for your new teams ladies.

#### **Next Terms Competitions:**

- KS4 Volleyball Jan 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Jan
- KS3 Volleyball Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Jan
- Yr11 Volleyball 5<sup>th</sup> Feb
- Senior Netball Rally 26th
- Yr9 Netball Rally 5th March
- Yr8 Netball rally 12th March
- Yr7 Netball Rally 19th March

Tameside Schools Swimming Gala results will be announced in the next newsletter.

All the football teams have really impressed so far and have gone **UNBEATEN** after the first phase of league games. Well done to each pupil who has represented the school with not only fantastic performances, but also excellent manners and behaviour at St Damian's and whilst playing at other schools.



vs All Saints  
Yr 7 Won 2-0  
Yr 8 Won 5-1  
Yr 9 Won 5-0  
Yr 10 Won 5-0

vs Droylsden  
Yr 8 Won 7-5  
Yr 9 Drew 1-1  
Yr 11 Won 4-2

vs Mossley Hollins  
Yr 7 Won 7-0  
Yr 8 Won 3-2  
Yr 9 Won 8-2  
Yr 10 Drew 3-3

vs Copley  
Yr 7 Won 17-0

Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 are still in the Tameside Cup this year and *Well Done* to Year 7's who recently beat Holy Family (Heywood) in the First Round of the Greater Manchester Catholic Cup. League matches will start again after the February half term. Congratulations to all our talented and committed school sports teams!

**Year 10 Skating Trip to Spinningfields, Manchester on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014** Can parents and carers please return money and reply slips to the office by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2014.



**School Buses** - School will finish at the earlier time of **1:30pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014**. School buses have been arranged for this earlier time, however, the First Manchester 770 (Oldham, Waterhead Terminus) is unable to accommodate this time change. All other buses will be here at 1:30pm

**Year 9** The Year 9 pupils have had a fantastic start to the year and over 140 pupils are going on a reward trip to Cineworld to see the new Hunger Games film. *Well Done* Year 9



**The Year 10 Textile** pupils have been taking part in mini making activities this term. Their first task was to create a Christmas decoration for the Senior Management Team. Each pupil was given a design brief tailored to their customer who they had to cater for. Their outcomes were fantastic and Senior Management were very impressed with the high quality work created. At the moment they are working together to create a Christmas garland that will be displayed in the school. They have been amazing at setting up their own production line. I have been very impressed with their fabulous attitude and ability to work together. *Well Done* Year 10.

**Year 11** have been working hard and we wish them every success over the next fortnight as they aim to achieve the best grades they can in their Mock exams and Controlled Assessments. After the Mocks, Year 11 have got their Christmas rewards trip to the Chill Factor to look forward to on the 18<sup>th</sup> December!

Well done to all our new Year 11 Prefects who have been given Prefect ties over the past few weeks. You have demonstrated that through hard work and determination you are making great progress and deserve to be recognised for this. To celebrate the end of a busy term, all Prefects have been invited on a free trip to the Trafford Centre for some festive shopping. The latest copy of the Year 11 Pupil Bulletin is now available live on the school website. This will give you the latest information about Year 11 and key dates for your diary.

**Carparking** - Once again could I please remind all parents/carers not to use the school car park before or after school unless you are collecting a child who is disabled, on crutches etc. This is increasingly becoming an issue and I am now concerned for the safety of your children. The car park is already extremely busy with school buses and the influx of cars at the beginning and end of the day is only adding to an increasingly dangerous situation.

**Dates for the Diary**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014  
Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014  
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Year 11 Mocks Begin  
Senior Citizens Christmas Party 11:30am – 2:30pm)  
Carol Service  
Christmas Lunch  
Liturgies  
Year Group Trips  
School closes at 1:25pm




# Cyberbullying!

## Advice for children:

- Make sure you use the privacy settings.



- Always respect others – be careful what you say online.
- Be careful what pictures or videos you upload. Once a picture is shared online it cannot be taken back.
- Only add people you know and trust to friends/followers lists online. When talking to strangers, keep your personal information safe and location hidden.
- Treat your password like your toothbrush- keep it to yourself and change it regularly.
- Block the bully – learn how to block or report someone who is behaving badly.
- Do not retaliate or reply to offending emails, text messages or online  conversations.
- Save the evidence. Always keep a copy of offending emails, text messages or a screen grab of online conversations and pass to a parent, carer or a teacher.
- Make sure you tell an adult you trust, for example, a parent, a carer, a teacher, or the anti-bullying co-ordinator or call the helpline like Childline on 0800 1111 in confidence.



- Most social media services and other sites have a button you can click on to report bullying. Doing this prevents a bully from targeting you and others in the future. Many services take bullying seriously and will either warn the individual or eliminate his or her account.

- While you are using your mobile phone make sure you also pay attention to your surroundings.

## Organisations that provide support to Parents, carers and children:

- The Anti-Bullying Alliance
- CEOP
- Childline
- Childnet
- The Diana Award
- Internetmatters
- Kidscape
- Get connected
- NSPCC
- Thinkuknow
- Young Minds
- UK Safer Internet Centre

## Keep Safe Online

