



# Newsletter



Number 30 - July 2014

Welcome to the final Newsletter of the academic year ...

**Meeting Parents** - As Headteacher I believe that 'working closely together' will ensure your child achieves their full potential. I plan to meet all parents of Year 11 pupils in September. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact my PA, Mrs Biggs.

**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 that 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.

Please ensure your child is in the correct uniform each day, from September we will only be able to lend items of uniform in very exceptional circumstances. This year a significant number of students have borrowed school ties etc. and not returned them, this cannot continue, any student not in full school uniform will be referred to their head of year and could be placed in seclusion.

Finally thank you for your continued support. I can assure you that the governors, my Leadership team and my staff are hard-working, conscientious and determined to ensure your child continues to receive the best education. This was recognised by Ofsted during our recent inspection in March 2014 when we received a very positive report, which is available to read on our school website.

**School Carpark** - I would also like to take this opportunity to once again remind parents not to use the school carpark when dropping off or collecting children from school. However, I do appreciate that for some members of our community it is vital that parents are able to get into the carpark. Places are already limited and it's very unusual for there to be a spare slot. We also have the additional congestion caused by the school buses dropping students off in the morning and collecting students in the evening. I am very concerned at the number of parents who still insist on collecting their children from the carpark and would ask once again, for parents not to bring their cars in – this is for the safety of your children.

**Celebration Evening 2014** - This year's Celebration Evening was a resounding success marking the achievements of our students in effort, achievement, attendance and contributions to the Liturgical, Sporting and Creative aspects of College life. Most notable were the achievements of pupils in each year group who maintained high standards of achievement and effort and who were awarded as follows:

Mossley Cup, 'Excellent Performance in Year 7', Shemiah Williams.  
St Ann's Cup, 'Excellent Performance in Year 8', Aimee Stanley.  
Headteacher's Trophy, 'Excellent Performance in Year 9', Joshua Howson  
Williamson Trophy, 'Excellent Performance in Year 10', Siobhan Doyle  
Father Kelly Cup 'For Outstanding Contributions To All Areas of College Life', Daniel Hayes.

For the very first time this year, we were also delighted to award the "Father Sheahan Award for Work in the Wider Community" to Shannon Marlow. Her charity work has included fund raising for local clubs as well as being the excellent role model she is to younger pupils in school.

We also awarded 'The Olympic Award, Inspiration to Others' to Megan Hand, whose perseverance and dedication to her studies is admired by all.

Finally - The Peter Jackson, "Young Leaders" award went to Megan Young, for being an outstanding role model in all areas with her key work in literacy. Tributes to the tremendous efforts and talents of our students formed speeches by Our Chair of Governors, Mrs E Jones and Mr Logue. The choir performed brilliantly throughout the evening culminating with "You'll Never Walk Alone" followed by "No Wars Will Stop Us Singing". We were also treated to a fantastic ten minute 'clip' from Matilda, performed by our Year 10 Performing Arts students. It has been a fabulous year and we look forward to celebrating with our young people throughout 2014-15.

**Year 10 English** - All students in Year 10 are to be provided with an independent extended learning project, to be completed over the summer holidays. This is vital preparation for the 'Of Mice and Men' examinations for both the English Language and English Literature GCSE's. Texts must also be purchased and are available from school at £5, as detailed in the letter sent home to parents. Thank you for your continued support.



**Year 6 Induction Evening** - Students from Year 6 who have been offered a place at St Damian's attended an Induction Evening on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June with their parents. The evening was a great success, parents were welcomed to St Damian's by Mr Logue, were introduced to the new Head of Year 7, Miss McManus and had the opportunity to buy school uniform if they wished and were also offered tours of the school which were conducted in true St Damian's style by prefects.

**Medical Information** - It is important that we hold all relevant and up-to-date medical information for each child. Each pupil has been given a Medical Information Form for parents/carers to complete. Could you please ensure you complete and return this form as soon as possible. Should you require any help or clarification please contact Mrs Hall on 0161 330 5974.

**News From RE:**



Savio House Y7 Residential Retreat: 49 pupils went on retreat to Savio House, Bollington on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June and we returned very tired, but content on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June. We had a great time relaxing and enjoying ourselves with friends as well as having some time for personal development, spiritual reflection and prayer. Those who attended the retreat have described it as one of the highlights of their school experiences at St. Damian's so far. We can't wait for the next one when this year group are in Y9! Many thanks to our pupils for behaving beautifully and getting involved with all the



activities – you did St Damian's proud again!

Another residential has been organised for Y11 to the Briars in Crich. This will take place Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014. If any current Y10 are interested they need to see Mrs Lutman for a letter before we break up for the holidays!

**Our Annual St Damian's Share Day on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014 !** St Damian's Share Day is always one of the highlights of our calendar. Last year we raised over £3,000 for Caritas, Francis House and Epilepsy UK. We are really proud of this. We want to at least equal that this year! The day will consist of pupils and staff dressing up, a fun run (or walk if you prefer !) up to Hartshead Pike and a disco. We will sell refreshments and treats in school and the aim is to have as much fun as possible as well as share the money we raise with this year's charities: Caritas, Reuben's Retreat, The Teenage Cancer Trust, Royal Manchester Children's Hospital Ronald McDonald House. We ask each pupil to donate £3 to take part in the day and each form completes the £10 challenge to raise even more and test their enterprise! Some forms are already skating ahead and hitting the £100 raised mark with fundraising activities such as car washes, tuck shops, film showings, maths challenges, cakes stalls, selling pop and ice creams and much, much more! Thanks to our fantastic pupils for their innovative and interesting ideas, to the staff for helping them and the parents for supporting them!!

**Pupil Chaplains**



6 members of the Liturgy team were commissioned as pupil chaplains St. Christopher's. This is recognition of the work that these students have been doing and the impact that they have made to the liturgical and charitable side of the school. They were commissioned on behalf of Bishop Brain; this is a great honour for both our students and our school – they are distinctive by their purple ties. We congratulate and wish them luck in their new role!



All pupils have now been given the chance to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All pupils took part in a special assembly led by the Liturgy Group and Pupil Chaplains and then had the opportunity to have individual Reconciliation. This was a very rewarding experience as it allowed them a chance to both reflect on their own behaviour and how it could be improved after receiving forgiveness. Thanks to Father Simon who heard over 400 confessions! We will be finishing off our year with celebration liturgies that look at Our Journey to Outstanding!

**High Ability Pupils** - On Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June a High Ability Workshop took place in school for all pupils in Y10 who are targeted to achieve 3 or more A/A\*. This was a great day for pupils led by Learning Performance, a national company specialising in delivering to students about how to prepare themselves for the future. The presenter was excellent, challenging our high ability students to 'Reach for the Stars' by focusing on how to learn, revise and prepare for exams covering: memory techniques, understanding and condensing, a – mapping, stress management and bounce - back ability. This empowered our pupils to take control and ownership over their learning improving their confidence, self - esteem and ultimately, exam results. As always the pupils engaged well and got involved. The evaluations of the workshop were really positive too!



**Attendance** - Reminder- On the first day of your child's absence, as parents, you are expected to contact the college, either by telephone (0161 330 5974) or e-mail [admin@st-damians.tameside.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-damians.tameside.sch.uk) **BEFORE** 9:00am. If you have any concerns with regards to Attendance or Punctuality please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Attendance Team - Mrs Hunter/Mrs Wright.

If the college does not receive a message and the pupil has a missing registration mark the parents are contacted via the text messaging system 'Keep Kids Safe'. This constitutes the college's First Day of Absence notification. If no reply is made by the parent or carer the attendance team will make contact by telephone. However, it is your responsibility to inform the college of reasons of absence.

**Whole school Year Group's attendance for 2013 – 2014:** Year 7 – 97.1%, Year 8 – 97%, Year 9 - 96.5%, Year 10 - 96%, Year 11 – 94% - we would like to congratulate Year 7 on achieving a staggering **97.1%**. We would also like to congratulate Form 7D (Mrs Dickson's form) who have achieved the highest attendance of **97.9%** for 2013 – 2014.

The national average is 95.7% so we really are doing exceptionally well, further evidence that our students genuinely are pleased and proud to attend St Damian's. Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated.

**Year 11 Prom** - Year 11 celebrated the end of their exams in true St Damian's style, with a "Glitz and Glamour" Prom at the Village Hotel in Ashton. As a Year group they travelled together on two Vintage buses from St Damian's to the Village, where they disembarked onto a red carpet, flames and the clicking of cameras, just like Hollywood. The pupils then sat down to a three course meal followed by awards and a disco, they also had the chance to have their picture taken in the photo booth and by the professional photographer. A great evening was enjoyed by all pupils and staff.

**Gardening Club** – Mrs Winterbottom would like to say a huge thank-you to all the parents who have contributed throughout the year to Gardening Club. Mrs Hennessy in particular has been outstanding!! The girls and I have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and look forward to a bumper crop over Christmas! Can I please remind parents who shop at Morrison's to collect the 'Let's Grow' vouchers again; they will be coming out in August! Last year the vouchers enabled me to get lots and lots of really essential equipment.

**Year 9 Boys in Title Triumph!** - Congratulations to the Year 9 boys team who managed to win the Tameside boys football Second Division title by remaining undefeated all year. The boys also managed to reach the semi-final of the Tameside boys cup, where they were narrowly defeated on penalties. Next year Mr Gregory believes that the boys can go one better and win the Tameside Premier league.

**The GCSE Catering Group** - In June the GCSE catering group carried out their first CA practical. Pupils were given the brief of 'promoting fruit and vegetables' in a range of recipes. The group worked tirelessly all day and 44 creative and challenging dishes were produced. Well done to the catering students for all their hard work and wonderful results!!



**Early Finish** - School will finish at 1:25pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. School buses have been arranged, the only school bus unable to accommodate the change of time is the First Manchester 771 Clayton bus.



**School Bus Service** - We have been informed by Transport for Greater Manchester that from September 2014 the 845 service has been withdrawn as sufficient capacity is available on service 864 for pupils from both services. Morning service 771 will be run by M Travel, the 864 will be run by Stagecoach and the 863 will be run by Belle Vue in the morning and GB Coaches in the afternoon. Please see the school website for timetable information.

**Fares and Igo Cards** – Details of fares on school services including Igo cards can be obtained from

[www.tfgm.com/buses](http://www.tfgm.com/buses)

**Sports Day** – Mr Logue congratulated Miss Guilfoyle for the superb organisation of this event, despite the cooler weather a great day was had by all. This is the first year, since moving into the new school that we have been able to have sports day on the fields and it was a roaring success, thank you to all involved especially Mr Tuck who provided the music ! Sporting achievements are too many to mention, below are a selection of excellence !

Sports Day Form Winners
7Y
8D
9M
10H
Overall School Winners 7Y

<u>Junior Girls Team</u>	<u>Intermediate Girls Team</u>
Hannah Lewandowski ( High Jump) 1 <sup>st</sup>	Agata Zachert ( High Jump) 1 <sup>st</sup>
Denver Pollitt ( Long Jump & relay) 1 <sup>st</sup>	Lily McGuinness (1500m) 1 <sup>st</sup>
Abby O'Neill (1500m) 1 <sup>st</sup>	Holly Byrne (200m) 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rebecca Hall (100m) 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Lucy Skermer (100m) 5 <sup>th</sup>
Junior Relay Team 4x100m – 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Amy Terry (Shot Putt) 5 <sup>th</sup>
Sue Ange Azinwi (Discuss) 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Senior Relay 4x100m - 5 <sup>th</sup>
Emily Holt (200m) 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Millie Woodward (Discuss) 6 <sup>th</sup>
Holly Jackson ( 800m) 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Nicole Fletcher ( Long Jump) 6 <sup>th</sup>
Jessica Finan ( Shot) 7 <sup>th</sup>	
<u>Junior Boys Team</u>	<u>Intermediate Boys Team</u>
Ellison Sales (1500m) 1 <sup>st</sup>	Daniel McGlashan (High Jump) 1 <sup>st</sup>
Lewis Cullen (200m) 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Joshua Howson (200m) 1 <sup>st</sup>
Bradley Jinks (Discuss) 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Wojtech (Discuss) 2 <sup>nd</sup>
David Wain (100m) 4 <sup>th</sup>	Gabriel Hanifan (Javelin) 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Hugo Booth (High Jump) 5 <sup>th</sup>	Keelan Broadbent (Triple Jump) 4 <sup>th</sup>
James Tomkow (Long Jump) 6 <sup>th</sup>	Adam Redfearn (Long Jump) 6 <sup>th</sup>
Mitchel Dootson(Javelin) 7 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Roberts (800m) 8 <sup>th</sup>
Joseph Hetlof (Shot) 8 <sup>th</sup>	

**Year 6 Induction Day** - On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July we were delighted to welcome the Year 6 pupils who have been offered a place at St Damian's in September. They spent the day with their new form tutors doing a selection of exciting activities which culminated in a Mass at the end of the day where the students were able to show off pieces they had prepared to their parents. All students were also given a guided tour of the school by Year 10 pupils and had lunch in the dining room.

**Term Dates 2014 – 2015**

**Term starts**

**Half term**

**Christmas**

**Half term**

**Easter**

**Bank Holiday**

**Half term**

**Summer**

**Close**

Friday 24th October 2014  
 Friday 19th December 2014  
 Friday 13th February 2015  
 Wednesday 1st April 2015  
 Monday 4th May 2015  
 Friday 22nd May 2015  
 Friday 17th July 2015

**Re open**

\*Tuesday 2nd September 2014  
 Monday 3rd November 2014  
 Monday 5th January 2015  
 Monday 23rd February 2015  
 Monday 20th April 2015  
 Monday 1st June 2015  
 \*\*

\*STAFF INSET DAY: Monday 1st September 2014 (Twilights to be decided).

\*\* It is anticipated that autumn term 2015/16 will commence Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015

**Diary Dates**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2014	Year 6 Induction Day
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Year 5 Morning
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	School closed due to industrial action for Years 7, 8 & 9, <b>open as usual for Year 10</b>
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Trips Day for All Years
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Share Day
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	Liturgies for all years Early finish at 1:25pm

Wishing you all a long and hot summer and looking forward to seeing you in September and to welcoming our new Year 7's into the St Damian's community.

