

Welcome to the final newsletter of this academic year. It has been another great year for St Damian's. Below are some of the highlights of our school community. I hope that you are as proud of these as I am !

Music Mark Award

St Damian's are proud to become a Music Mark School Member in 2018/19! Mrs Evans and Year 10 BTEC Music pupils are shown here with the award which recognises *"a commitment to providing high quality music education for all children and young people"*.



BTEC Music Trip to the School of Sound Recording



On Friday 26th October, Year 10 BTEC Music pupils went on an educational visit to the School of Sound Recording, Manchester. They had a tour of the campus and attended a workshop where they learned about mixing and sequencing techniques as part of their BTEC course. Pupils also had the opportunity to take part and perform in their very own professional studio recording session!

Forthcoming Musical at St Damian's

We are pleased to announce that our next school production in July 2019 will be... (drum roll please)... MATILDA THE MUSICAL (IN 20 MINUTES)! Auditions are currently being held, please see Mrs Evans or Mr Tuck for more information.



Charity Starts at St Damian's ...

The school are currently asking students to bring in toys and gifts to be donated to Manchester Children's hospital. The response, as always, has been fantastic! Mr O'Loughlin and Mrs Jinks will be taking the presents down to the hospital during the last few days of term. This is always a very worthwhile, but sobering experience.

On Thursday 20th December St. Damian's will be holding its annual Christmas jumper day. Students are asked to make a small donation and to wear the most Christmassy jumper they can find. We look forward to seeing who can make the best impression!



Year 10 STEM Leaders

A group of Year 7 students meet with Year 10 STEM leaders once a week during form time for additional support and encouragement in Science. Thanks to the STEM leaders for their fantastic work with these younger pupils. STEM leaders develop their communication and leadership skills necessary for their futures.

We all understand that Christmas can be a time filled with joy and hope, but many families will need extra support over the festive period whilst school is closed. We would just like to make you aware that the following services are available over the Christmas and New Year period:



- Anthony Seddon
- Mind
- Off the record
- Infinity Initiatives-pay what you can café (Mossley Road A-U-L)
- Dukinfield Pantry - (Food Bank)

Also, you can access these websites for support for young people's emotional wellbeing:

- KOOOTH.COM
- Childline.org.uk
- CALMHARM (APP)
- Headspace
- Youngminds.org.uk

Wishing everyone a peaceful Christmas and see you all on 7th January 2019. **The Safeguarding Team**

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition



Congratulations to the students who undertook their GCSE Food practical during Year 11 mock fortnight. The students demonstrated their flair and ability to produce a range of high quality products. It was an absolute pleasure to be part of the process and watch the girls working diligently under the demanding constraints of the AQA specification!

eSafety

Despite all of his expertise in toy making and delivery, Father Christmas is no expert on eSafety. Many of the tablets, consoles, phones and games that he will deliver this year arrive without the correct privacy settings to keep your child safe online. It is important that parental controls are adjusted accordingly and can be used to:

- Block upsetting or inappropriate content
- Limit in-app purchases
- Manage which apps children are allowed to download

You can set up parental controls on individual devices and also on your WiFi router, depending on your provider. With a new device another recommendation is to turn off location sharing in the privacy settings. Internetmatters.org has useful advice regarding all aspects of eSafety including apps, games, social networking and setting up devices. Advice is organised into age ranges making it more relevant.

Educate Awards



Congratulations to Elizabeth Jones for winning 'School Support Star of the Year'. A remarkable lady who is St Damian's 'through & through' and a fantastic tribute for over 40 years of loyal and dedicated service to St Damian's. Well done from all of us. The award is very well deserved.

Retreat to Whitemoor Lakes

Year 11 had a great time at Whitemoor Lakes Activity Centre supporting each other & using their skills in physical challenges; abseiling, climbing, archery & zip wire. Lots of fun, spiritual reflection, fellowship & prayer. Also a very poignant visit to the National Memorial Arboretum. The members of staff who accompanied the group have said it was a privilege to spend the weekend with the most amazing group of young people. Who, throughout the weekend supported, encouraged and listened to each other respectfully.



Their manners and behaviour were impeccable, the respect they showed to us and each other made us proud to be accompanying them on this trip. We were amazed at how, during one weekend, pupils grew in confidence, self-esteem and their own personal development journey's. Special thanks to Fr Simon

Year 7

Mr Burtles would like to pass on once again how proud he is of the way Year 7 have started life at St. Damian's. The recent Autumn progress checks have shown just how positive the pupils have raised up to the challenge of Secondary school, with most students on or above target in the majority of their subjects. The Year 7's have got stuck into the extra-curricular life of the school, turning out in their dozens for Music, Drama and PE to try new activities or simply to improve on the skills they have. On a Tuesday evening students are using the school resources with Mr Burtles to complete homework, alongside excellent members of the Year 10 Pupil Learning Forum. If parents feel their child would benefit from an evening in school to complete homework then please let Mr Burtles know. Finally, a big well done to Mrs Sutton's form 7SSN, who had the daunting honour of the first form to deliver a form assembly. Their assembly on Advent really set the barometer high for other forms to compete. Mr Burtles would like to wish all the parents and carers of the fantastic Year 7 pupils a Merry Christmas and a Happy and rewarding 2019.



Duke of Edinburgh

We have an exciting year of Duke of Edinburgh ahead of us. There are over 30 students in Year 9 who will be completing the Bronze award this year. It was an incredibly difficult selection process as the applications were of an outstanding quality. Over 20 students in Year 10 who successfully achieved Bronze last year are hoping to achieve their Silver Award this year.

Students will be navigating around Cheshire and Derbyshire in the Summer months, but before then are completing the other parts of their award. Pupils are volunteering with local charities, scout and guide

groups, marshalling at their local Parkrun and coaching younger pupils in sports. There is plenty to keep them busy until the expedition takes place. Wish them luck!

SVP Party

Our SVP party took place on the 13th December and we were delighted to welcome over 70 members of our local community. This is a highlight of the year for many and they really look forward to this annual event.

Many talented pupils from all the year groups gave splendid performances, to the delight of the audience. Our guests were then waited on by our polite pupils who kept up a constant supply of festive food and drink. This was followed up by our delighted guests being presented with hampers and biscuits



Money

Can we please remind parents that we don't have any change in school, please ensure that you give your child the correct money to update the revalve machine (or even better do it online) for food from the dining room – we can't change notes for dinner money/bus fare.

Young Carers

Our Young Carers enjoyed a festive treat when we visited the Manchester Christmas Markets.

The pupils were given the opportunity to browse the stalls and purchase presents.

We finished off our outing with a steaming mug of hot chocolate.



Young Carers Christmas Party

A truly festive feast was enjoyed at the Young Carers Christmas lunch



Young Carers in School's

A young carer is a young person who, without payment, provides help and support to a parent, sibling or other family member, who could not manage without them there. This could be due to age, physical or mental illness, addiction or disability. Young Carers take on practical and emotional tasks that normally would be undertaken by an adult. The tasks and level of caring undertaken by a young carer can vary, according to the nature of the illness or disability, the level and frequency of care required and the structure of the family unit.

A young person may engage in:

- Practical tasks (cooking, housework and shopping)
- Physical care (lifting or helping someone use the stairs)
- Personal care (dressing, washing, helping with toilet needs)
- Managing the family budget (collecting benefits and prescriptions)

- Managing medication
- Looking after younger siblings
- Helping someone communicate



Here at St Damian's R.C Science College we offer support for young carers. If you, or a family member needs support please contact Mrs Harrison- Young Carers Lead for more details. All contact will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Santa Dash



Our second Santa Dash took place on Sunday 9th December. There was an excellent turnout with a steady flow of visitors throughout, who all seemed to enjoy the St Damian's Christmas spirit. Over 30 participants in all

braved the elements and ran in the 5k Santa Dash or 3k Elf Dash. Many dressed as Father Christmas, Christmas Elves or Mrs Claus. There was a Christmas Market where members of our community sold a variety of homemade gifts and an extremely popular Father Christmas with lots of hot chocolate and mince pies. The chocolate tombola was a huge success with both the children and adults. The raffle was drawn on the day and all winners were delighted with their prizes. We raised over £900 which will be split between the Anthony Seddon Trust and Infinity Initiatives, a Charity which supports our local community.

STEM

The Science Department would like to introduce The STEM leaders. It's been a busy term where they have helped at open evening hosting many experiments to the prospective Year 6 students. Intervention is a big role for the STEM leaders which has started for the current Year 7 and takes part at the start of school. The Science competition 'build a model DNA structure' which was launched by some STEM leaders and the winner will be announced in the New Year.



Also watch out for the STEM newsletter which will be available at the start of the New Year.



Carol Service & Nativity

A fantastic turn out for our Christmas Carol Concert 2018. The mix of dance, drama, music and singing led for a very atmospheric performance of the true Christmas Story. Thank you to our talented and hard working pupils for making this such a huge success. Well done!



Sports Round Up:

Tameside Schools Netball League:	
Yr11	10 th place
Yr10	9 th place
Yr9	Runners up / 2 nd place
Yr8	Runners up / 2 nd place
Yr7	5 th place
Tameside School Girls Football League:	
U14s	3 rd place
U13s	3 rd place
U12s	5 th place
Tameside Schools Cross Country:	
U12 Girls	1 st place
U12 Boys	4 th place
U14 Girls	3 rd place
U14 Boys	3 rd place
U16 Boys	4 th place



Early Finish - School will finish at 1:30pm on Friday 21st December 2018. School buses have been arranged for this earlier time, although the Stotts 771 to Clayton and the STOTTS 775 are unable to accommodate this earlier time.

Diary Dates

Friday 21 st December 2018	-	School finishes at 1:25pm for the Christmas break
Monday 7 th January 2019	-	Pupils return to school at 9:am
Thursday 24 th January 2019	-	Yr 10 Parents Evening
w/c 28 th January 2019 -	-	Yr 9 Exams Week
Thursday 31 st January 2019	-	Yr 8 Parents Evening
Thursday 28 th February 2019	-	Yr 9 Options Evening

Finally, may I take this opportunity, on behalf of both the staff and the governors to wish you a peaceful and Holy Christmas and we look forward to welcoming the children back to school in the New Year, Monday 7th January 2019.

