

THE ST DAMIAN'S TIMES



HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

What have the language leaders been up to?

We have an exclusive historical interview..

St Damian's turns 60..
And we're outstanding!

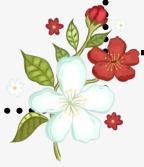


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Elizabeth Jones MBE



1940-2023

This year, the St Damian's community was met with the loss of our chair of governors. Mrs Jones, better known as Betty, was a loving, compassionate and integral part of our community. Betty worked selflessly and relentlessly throughout her life to serve and honour St Damian's as a place of hope and a centre of education. She played an instrumental role in the transformation of St Damian's into an outstanding school. She had been involved with our school community for over 40 years. The lifelong Manchester United fan began at the school as a bursar and became part of the Senior Leadership Team. Since 2011 she had served as the Chair of Governors and provided a strong leadership to the school.

About our community, Betty once said "It's like one big family - I always say we're a family. Everybody works for one another."



forever in our hearts



“The staff and I were very proud to have Betty as our chair of Governors, a role she has held since 2011 right up to her passing. However, we were also blessed to have such a remarkable woman leading the school. Her values and faith were strong and always made decisions based on what was right for the school community. These decisions were not always easy but Betty lived out her values in a calm, and stoic manner. Her legacy, an outstanding catholic community, will always be remembered. On a personal level, Betty was a great friend, a brilliant colleague and a wonderful role model who I admired greatly. I will really miss her and her words of wisdom.”

Mr Logue

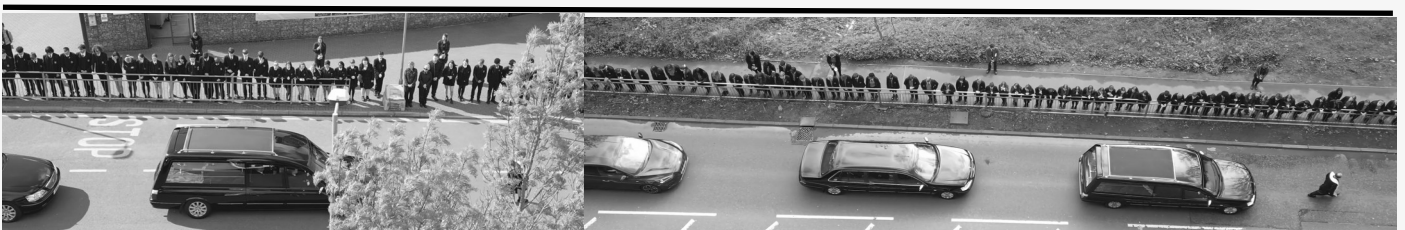
She was a familiar face to everyone in St Damian’s, she not only attended Governor’s meetings but was a regular visitor to the school, attending many different events during the year, both during the day and in the evenings.

During her time as Chair of Governors St Damian’s won many different accolades, and Betty enjoyed celebrating our success in Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham and London including the ‘National Governor of the Year Award in 2021’ and ‘Best Secondary School of the Year’.

Betty’s funeral was held at St Christopher’s Church and was attended by family, friends and colleagues. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful lady who meant the world to all those who knew her. At the funeral, St Damian’s was represented by our Choir, whose singing was sublime, a guard of honour who proudly lined the entry into Church and not forgetting all other pupils and members of staff who lined Lees Road in immaculate school uniform, with their heads bowed as Betty made her final journey. (Pictured below)

Betty’s memory will live on, she played a significant role in the planning of our new building and more recently the ‘Elizabeth Jones MBE Literacy Hub’ which now stands proudly within our grounds. Betty would have been exceptionally proud and overjoyed to hear that we were graded ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted again this summer. This accolade is yet another testament to the leadership and support that Betty provided us with.

Finally, we ask that you keep Betty in your prayers.



A MESSAGE FROM THE JOURNALISM CLUB

Dear all,

It has been a challenging year for our community. Starting with the loss of Mr Tuck; an incredible colleague, friend, and teacher who was adored by many. Personally, I knew Mr Tuck as a wise and friendly colleague, the one to ensure that there was always chocolate at English faculty meetings, and that detentions were put on if our students forgot their drama kits. However, most of all, Mr Tuck was a passionate, creative and kind member of our community. He had dedicated his life to teaching, having taught some of the teachers at St Damian's today. We will honour Mr Tuck's memory, in our conversations, drama lessons and in our prayers.

As you will read in this newspaper, we also lost two other important and valued members of our community; Mrs Jones and Calvin Giron. Their legacies live on and we will hold them in our hearts forever.

Our community has become closer than ever, having experienced loss amongst our governors, teachers and students. We have leaned on each other as friends, and supported one another with our faith, empathy and love. As a teacher, I can be sure that every member of staff in school has supported students with their wellbeing. However, I can also say that our wonderful students often support us too, whether it be a friendly smile, a 'thank you' or a handwritten note of appreciation. It really is the little things that make our jobs so rewarding.

After all of the adversity that we have faced this year, I am extremely proud to announce that we are ending the school year as an **outstanding** school. I have used my newspaper as a platform to celebrate some of the many achievements in our community. I pray that the next academic year brings us more happiness and success, and that in times of hardship; we continue to be a place of hope.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Journalism Club for helping me put this newspaper together, I also welcome any feedback from staff, students or parents. I would like to wish you all a lovely and restful summer.

Best wishes,
Miss Jameel

Lord of life and love,
As we give thanks for times past,
grant us courage to embrace the present, and grace to share the future.
In memory of loved ones dear, kindle their flame to shine in the dark and
light the path ahead.
Show the way that leads to life as we cherish days gone by, and inspire
us with the touch of love that faith and hope live on.

Amen



ST DAMIAN'S EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

This term, we decided to interview Mr McHugh. Mr McHugh is a fantastic teacher who always goes above and beyond for his students. A huge thank you to Mr McHugh for taking the time to be interviewed by our team, we know that you are a very busy person and we appreciate your time!

Mr McHugh's interview response

1. Why did you choose to teach history?

I have always loved History from being young and wanted to share that love for the subject. When I was at university, I took part in a scheme which involved undergraduates going into Drumchapel, a deprived area of Glasgow and trying to get boys interested in History. I loved that got me interested in teaching.

2. What do you enjoy most about your job?

It's the best job in the world! Its easy to forget that's we have so many outstanding students at St Damian's and it is a pleasure to teach them. Also, I get to work with my wonderful History team.

3. What do you wish more people knew about you/or your subject/teaching?

Everyone should study History – there is something to interest everyone - some people haven't discovered their topic yet. It could be shipwrecks, disasters, great inventions but History has something for everyone.

4. What is your favourite hobby?

I like going to shows. In the last year I have seen Les Miserables, Darren Brown and this year I am already booked to see two more.

5. What has been your most memorable moment in your teaching career?

School achieving outstanding was clearly memorable as so many had worked so hard to achieve it.

6. If you weren't a teacher, what would you do instead?

I originally wanted to be a pilot. However, lack of maths and science ability put an end to that plan. I'm not sure what I would – if I had my time again, I would want the same again please.

7. Do you enjoy travelling, if so, where is your favourite place to go?

Anywhere sunny. When I get there, I like to lay beside the pool! However, we always make sure we see some of the local area – visiting a Roman villa in Kefalonia was interesting.

8. What is your favourite book and why?

Being a historian, I would always go for 1984, To Kill a Mockingbird or Animal Farm. Anything by John Boyne would be good.

CELEBRATING ST DAMIAN'S

SPORTS



Mia-Jay took part in the British Weightlifting Competition and managed to finish 3rd overall. You are a future star!



Y9: TAMESIDE CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to our year 9 football team who ended up unbeaten in a 7 team tournament. Well done!

Y10: TAMESIDE CHAMPIONS

A huge well done to our Y10 football team who won the Tameside Cup after a penalty shoot out. The match ended 3-3 and the boys did brilliantly to hold their nerve to win with a successful penalty from Gene. Proud of you all!



A huge well done to the Year 8 netball team who finished second the Tameside Competition, narrowly missing out on first by just one point! You played some fantastic football, girls!

Y11: TAMESIDE CHAMPIONS

A massive congratulations to our year 11 football team who took the title with a convincing 4-1 victory. For the final time we are so proud of your footballing achievements and sportsmanship! Good luck in your future endeavours.



The girls pictured had an inspiring meeting with Barclays Footy Game Changers and their committee. The girls have huge plans for Girls Football at St Damian's and have already raised the profile of girls' football in school.



Well done to the Y8/9 girls football team after a convincing 3-1 victory; Zara and Sienna sealed the win. The girls showed great endeavour and effort as they played a neat passing game. Here's to a great season next year!
#Game Changers



RUNNING: TAMESIDE CHAMPIONS/RUNNERS UP
Our boys and girls relay teams represented St Damian's. The girls were crowned Tameside Champions with a perfect score of 5 wins out of 4. The boys were Tameside runners up after a close contest.

Go on girls!!

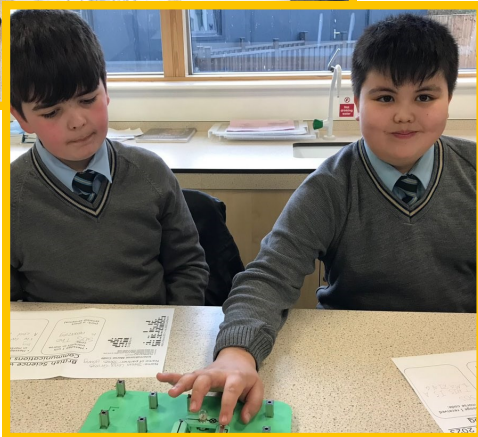
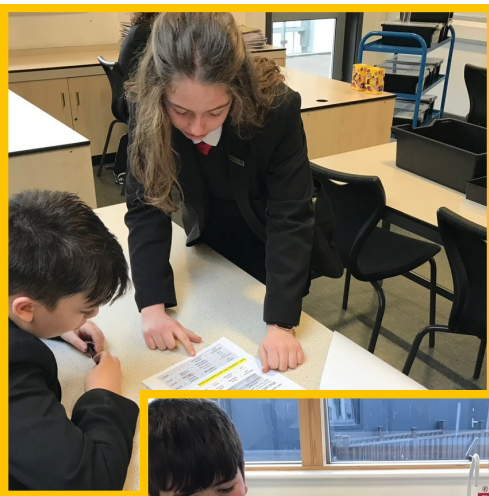
Winners of the **World Book Day** prizes, Mariah Y8, Leyla Y8, and Alex Y7. For the Book Swap Competition and the Guess the Teacher and Guess the Author Competitions.



Year 10 visited **The University of Sheffield**, to engage in a Careers Exhibition. All pupils were extremely well behaved & asked lots of relevant questions about the various options available to them post16 .

The **eco club** helped plant 215 trees on the school fields. In the long term this will help reduce the amount of CO² in the atmosphere. Students were excellent ambassadors for school.

This also met our Laudato Si' goals by helping to care for our common home



British Science Week 2023

Pupils built circuits & communicated via Morse code. The theme [#BSW23](#) 'Connections', pupils really responded, using their knowledge of circuits and applying it to communicating. Well done to Y10 STEM leaders who supported & Y7 winners Joshua & James

On May 21st several staff completed the Manchester 10k. This was to support Mrs Jinks and her 2 children, Lauren and Brad, who were ex-pupils, to raise money in memory of their father, Craig Jinks, who sadly passed away earlier this year. The day was very warm, but we managed to raise nearly **£2,000 for the Brain Tumour Charity**. Thanks to everyone who generously donated.



As part of our Pastoral Theme this half term, 'Staying Healthy', 8SRN and 8PGL took part in an early morning yoga class following a fruit tasting session. For some students this was their first time eating a pomegranate! The two Year 8 classes that were involved in the Yoga learned a number of new moves and were very impressed with Mr Greenall's ability to balance upside down!



We celebrated Pi day, the mathematical constant π and our Mathematics Department wore their Pi Day T-shirts. Pupils and staff enjoyed competitions and enriching activities.

Huge congratulations to all pupils who took part in the **Junior Mathematical Challenge**. Our students achieved 1 gold, 24 silver and 31 bronze awards! Well done!



We are absolutely delighted and honoured to announce that St Damian's are winners of the **Outstanding Progress in a Secondary School Award** at this year's Education Business Awards 2023. This is a fantastic achievement as we celebrate our 60th Anniversary. As many of you know, our incredible improvement journey started in 2010 when we were placed in special measures, and then for the first time in St Damian's history, we were judged 'outstanding' in 2017.



WHAT'S ON IN SCHOOL?

LANGUAGE LEADERS

are in the spotlight



The Year 10 Language Leaders, made up of a range of GCSE French and Spanish pupils, have been working hard with Miss Smith this year to achieve a Leadership qualification certified by SLQ Sports Leaders. They have embodied the St. Damian's Way through promoting a culture of diversity, inclusivity, and mutual respect. From making posters to advertise language-learning resources, to delivering short French and Spanish sessions to Year 8 forms, this year's Language Leaders have participated actively in the school community. Most recently, to achieve their leadership qualification, they planned and led a Spanish taster session to a group of Year 5s from St. Christopher's. This was a fantastic afternoon that represented their passion for languages and for serving others in the community. Below are some comments from some Language Leaders:



'Hi my name is Brooke and I am a member of the Language Leaders. Whilst being a part of this group, I have enjoyed every moment of it. Recently, we did a language taster session for Year 5s and planned activities for them to learn some Spanish. This went very well and both us and the Year 5s enjoyed it very much. I would definitely recommend joining Language Leaders in Year 10.'

'Bonjour! Je m'appelle Daniel et je suis un 'Language Ambassador' de St. Damian's! I believe that the most I've gotten out of being a Language Leader is that I have acquired the skill to teach others and adapt to learning from that. As I study French, I've forgotten quite a lot of Spanish - but I've been able to rekindle my knowledge with this experience. When teaching the Year 8s, I felt quite nervous at first but the pupils were able to keep us entertained and made the mood less awkward. This was completely new for me, so when I heard we'd be teaching Year 5 pupils also, I felt quite uneasy. This wasn't the case when it came to the day however. It was very fun to be a leader in both circumstances, and the tasks allowed us to enjoy the process.'



LET'S TALK ABOUT SEND

It is vital that we have healthy and honest discussions about special educational needs and disabilities (otherwise known as SEND). My aim with this segment of the newspaper is to celebrate people with SEND and to normalise 'talking about SEND' so that we can learn to have empathy for one another. However, it is also vital that we respect each other's protected characteristics and we do not ask personal questions about needs and disabilities. Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Allmand for being so open and honest about her Dyslexia. You are a brilliant role model and a true testament to the success that pupils with SEND can achieve.

What is Dyslexia? Dyslexia is a learning disability which affects skills involved in reading, spelling and writing. However, dyslexia does not affect intelligence.

I was diagnosed with dyslexia when I was 7 years old when I was showing signs of high intelligence but struggling to read. Then I was reassessed before by GCSE'S when I was 15 to gain extra time in my GCSE exam's.

My learning needs has not stopped me achieving my A-levels, degree and PGCE but I did need support to achieve these goals. My difficulties include spelling, reading and cognitive memory overload.

Everything I write needs to be spell checked and I do struggle if pupils ask 'Miss how do you spell' but google dictionary is my BFF.

I have to continue to improve my reading and I make sure I read a lot in my spare time. I am currently enjoying The Rising Tide by Ann Cleeves. I love murder mysteries.

In regard to my memory, I have to write everything down for me to remember/process the information. I have always found that I am exhausted at the end of the day and need a lot of sleep. I think that is because my mind is working 10x harder to remember, understand and process all the information I see and hear throughout the day.

I have found that my SEND need has made me a very creative and adaptive person. I have naturally developed strategies to over come barriers to learning. I think that is why I love being a teacher. I enjoy finding different ways for pupils to learn.



OUR VISION:

PUPILS WITH SEND THRIVE

Calvin visited school and got to spend time with his year 10 peers, Mrs Harrison and some of his closest friends.



CELEBRATING

Calvin Giron was a wonderful student who recently lost his battle with cancer. However, we would like you to know much more about him than just the disease that took his life.

Calvin was a popular Yr10 student who had many friends, he enriched our community with his kindness and humility. In school he was a quiet, hard-working boy who like many others faced the difficulties of online learning through Covid, yet always managed to complete his work to an exceptionally high standard. Calvin had shared his thoughts about going to university and his dedication to his studies illustrated that he would have managed this with great ease. We pass on our sincere condolences to his family. Calvin will always be remembered as part of our school community and will remain in our thoughts as the year group complete their time at St Damian's.

In the space of a few months, the St Damian's community raised £5,000 in fund-raising activities that will support his family. A **massive** thankyou to everyone for their support as this reflects what our school does best, showing generosity towards those that need it most.

After Calvin's passing, we held a special assembly for year 10 and we invited Calvin's parents back into school to join in with our celebration of their son's life. Year 10 spoke about the memories that they had shared with Calvin and let go of balloons in his memory.

Calvin was a good friend of mine, he was funny all the time, loved history (maybe a little too much) but always looked out for me. I first met him when I was in 7X2 Drama and I had no one to join a group with but he came up to me and we performed together and ever since then we became friends and we would meet up every day. He fought strong and showed courage on the last days of his life and lightened up the mood even though everyone knew what was going to eventually happen. Calvin was a friend that can never be replaced and will always have a place in our hearts.

Reuben Benny, Y10

Calvin is someone who is missed dearly by many throughout the school. He had so many talents and gifts still left to share with the world, and no one should ever have to pass away so young. He was our friend. His legacy lives on, inspiring us all to be better people everyday.

Finlay Hayworth, Y10

Calvin was a valued member of our school community who was always willing to help and support others and he will be sadly missed by everybody.

Mrs Harrison, Head of Year

Calvin had big dreams, he wanted to be an Aeronautic engineer. He was very energetic, full of life and loving and thoughtful son.

Mr Giron, Calvin's father

CALVIN



Staff and students worked together to raise money for the Giron family, some took part in a sponsored run/walk.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:

7 differences: How many can you find?



Butterfly. Flower. Ice cream. Sun smiley. Birds