

Welcome to the final newsletter of the academic year. This year has been another highly successful year in terms of ensuring your child gets a 'great' education. The following are highlights of our school community and I hope that you are as proud of our fantastic children as I am.

May Ball

Our first MAY BALL was a resounding success... we are delighted to announce that we raised an amazing **£1,635.97**



This is a small part of the fund-raising St Damian's is committed to every year; the culmination being SHARE DAY. We have also pledged to raise £5,000 for the Macmillan unit at Tameside General Hospital which we hope to achieve by the end of December 2017. We raise money all year round and if you would like to

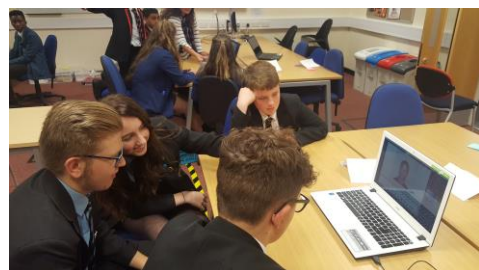


donate anything (money or gifts) throughout the year please contact Mrs Jinks on 0161 330 5974. Successful events like this do not happen without the support of caring and generous people and we cannot thank everyone enough for their generosity. Remember that all contributions are voluntary.

We were delighted to welcome The Mayor of Tameside, Cllr Philip Fitzpatrick and representatives Karen Houlston, the CEO from Willow Wood Hospice, and Dorothy Shaw from The Macmillan Unit at Tameside General Hospital. Both Karen and Dorothy spoke about their charities and how the money raised will be of great benefit and put to great use.

We had a breath-taking performance from Tre Amici, an operatic trio from Hull known for their flawless renditions (previously on Britain's Got Talent), who gave their time to support the charities - they were tremendous and '*stole the show*'. Other guests were Gary Bedford who supports charity events as a 'superhero', Jason Burrill (Actor and Big Brother winner 2016) Laura Alicia (model and reality TV star) and JSky (singer and fashionista); courtesy of Maria Patricia Nwoji (Laser Tattoo Removal Specialist as seen on Channel 5 and MTV Tattoo Disasters). It was a fantastic line up of people giving their time to support our May Ball.

Victory at the STEM Challenge Day



St Damian's students from Years 8 and 9 were fantastic competitors in the East Manchester STEM Challenge at Manchester University. They completed four challenges: programming robots, car building, diagnosing a patient



and creating E-fit images of criminals. Daniel McCluskey and Thomas Hoyle were members of the overall winning team, along with two students from the East Manchester Academy. These students worked brilliantly together during all the challenges.



Laurence Cull and Leah Worthington were section winners for the robotics challenge. The twelve students who competed really enjoyed the day and having the opportunity to collaborate with students from other schools.

Celebration Evening 2017

This is one of our best nights of the year and is a formal occasion when we celebrate the hard work, talents and achievements of our pupils. It is an evening where we both reward and inspire our great pupils to continue to excel in all their pursuits and is a memorable evening for the pupils and their parents. It makes me extremely proud and gives me great pleasure to mark the achievements of our students in effort, achievement, attendance and contributions to the liturgical, sporting and creative aspects of College life.

Musical students wowed the audience with some tremendous performances. The biggest Show Choir yet (over 120 pupils) opened and closed the evening, singing with character and enthusiasm. Saxophone Choir played fantastically in their first ever performance, followed by the Senior Ensemble, who delighted with their complex arrangement of Mozart's 'Eine Kleine Nacht Musik'. The Chamber Choir's rendition of Adiemus by Karl Jenkins was beautiful and moving with the Funk Band putting smiles on faces with their 3 pieces, most notably 'The Final Countdown'.

We are incredibly proud of all our musical performers, who have shown great tenacity and determination throughout the weeks of preparation, committing to many hours of rehearsals and many more hours of individual practice. We look forward to rewarding them in September with a day out to Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Rehearsals have now started for 'School of Rock' our next school musical, to be performed in December 2017. The main parts have been cast, but there are still opportunities for pupils to come and join in the stage cast and chorus. Please see Mrs Dickson or Mr Tuck for further details.

Good Luck to all our pupils who are taking ABRSM Music exams this term. We have great confidence in you and know that all your hard work will pay off. We can't wait to celebrate your achievements with you at the start of the next school year.

Drama: 'Kes'

The Year Ten Thespians put on an extract from 'Kes', written by Barry Hines and Allan Stronach. The central character, Casper, beautifully played by Mollie-Jo Wood, is a struggling, no-hoper schoolboy. The audience first see him being caned by the despairing Head, Mrs Gryce. Hannah Hodson, who played Mrs Gryce, brought an air of menace and brutality to the role. Returning late to Mrs Farthing's English class, Casper falls asleep whilst Anderson (Faith Roberts) is giving a talk about something factual, something 'that is really interesting. Faith's portrayal of the dim-witted Farthing, talking about how he filled up his wellies with tadpoles and then put his feet in them- 'it was like putting your feet into live jelly'- was a joy to watch. Casper is then woken up by Mrs Farthing and selected to give his speech. His classmates are in stitches at the prospect of Casper talking about something interesting, as they believe he leads a dull and drab life. To the astonishment of Casper's fellow pupils- Maria Norton-Monteiro, Shauna Griffiths, Caitlon Senior and Catriona Doyle- and to the even greater surprise of Mrs Farthing, Casper goes on to reveal that he has made his dream come true of training a hawk to do as he commands. Sophia Clegg who performed the role of Mrs Farthing, did a fantastic job of showing her compassion and belief in the ability of her pupils to succeed in the harsh environment in which they find themselves. The performance was comically enhanced by the idiosyncratic performances of each of the wayward pupils.

Dance: 'UV Light Dance Project'

This year was the first time that we had had put a dance on for Celebration Evening. The striking music for the piece was written by one of our former pupils, Cameron Ryan. Not only did Cameron write the piece, he volunteered to come into school to perform it live! The piece starts hauntingly with Renee Wilson leaping gracefully around the stage. Her co-dancers, Elyssa Shackleton and Alexandra Roberts, emerged from the wings on cue, bringing a powerful energy to the dance. The music became more powerful and the lights switched to pure blue, revealing the dancers' glowing body paint. The combination of the power of the music, the dynamism of the dancers and the

captivating UV body paint left the audience in no doubt that they had witnessed a memorable and thrilling dance. Even better, Cameron Ryan, our ex-pupil, had written and performed the piece in his old school with our talented dancers, bringing the past and the present together, proving that all involved had, indeed, believed and achieved.

Visit to Loreto College

A group of students went to Loreto Sixth Form College for a Creative Writing event. This included the opportunity to participate in a Creative Writing workshop. We also met other young talented writers from the college, who had been shortlisted after being judged by a panel of experts. This included special guest judge, Matt Drzymala, author of *The Bumpkinton Tales* series.

Our students enjoyed a wonderful experience and were thoroughly engaged during the 'Flash Fiction' session set up by one of the tutors, Mr Foulder. The work produced was of the highest standard and three of our students were awarded prizes for their work. Please read the winning entries below. We were warmly received by the college and we particularly enjoyed the pizza and cake. As always, the students were a credit to themselves and the school.

Oliver Cooney - The last breaths of a dying lover - Maybe. Maybe it was the way her eyes sparkled in the sun light. Maybe it was the way her hair cascaded off one shoulder. Maybe it was the way my hand grasped the pillow so tightly. Maybe it was how quickly her breath ceased. Maybe it was my fault. Maybe

Breanna Collymore- The Light - Frantically I woke up and my vision was blurred. A bright blinding light beamed into my eyes. I scrambled towards it but it kept moving away from me and slowly getting darker and darker. My heart beating so fast. I ran, the once bright light was now black darkness. Gone.

Elle Morgan-Crompton- Submerged - Drowning. It made a person's life change. Being forced under by the marrow-freezing water, sucking all the life out of you. It was a definite end, there was no coming back. That was until the decaying body forced itself above the water shedding its skin and revealing its essence.

Parents Information Night

St Damian's would like to say a big thank you to all the parents who came to support our Parental Information Evening. The guest speakers: Gary Hall from You Think - talked about parents sharing advice with their children about sexual health, Chris Henniken from Branching out raised awareness of the dangers of drugs and alcohol, and Ali Sparkes and Jo Turner from Youth in Mind who presented a session on wellbeing and mindfulness. Also, our own 'Social Media Saviours' presented a session on internet and online safety. A massive thank you to all agencies who delivered a fabulous evening, full of useful information, support and advice for our parents and pupils.



Young Carers

To celebrate 'Carers Week' our St Damian's Young Carers raised awareness by delivering assemblies to Years 7 & 8.

Pupil Learning Forum

Thank you to the Pupil Learning Forum for all the hard work that they have done this year. Amongst many other things they have provided invaluable support to Mr Trimble during maths form time intervention, helped the Head of Year at after school homework club and led assemblies on presentation in books. The Pupil Learning Forum have been a delight to work with this year, they should be proud of themselves. The current Pupil Learning Forum are currently in the process of electing new members for the next academic year and we look forward to introducing our new Pupils Learning Forum next academic year.



Year 6 Induction Evening

On Tuesday 20th June we were delighted to welcome the children who will be joining us in September. Parents, carers and children had the opportunity to hear Mr Logue talk about the high standards, expectations and achievements of St Damian's. Ms Joyce, Assistant Headteacher and Miss Salt, Head of Year 7 also delivered some key information about the importance of the form tutor, homework, school planners, attendance and uniform. It was a lovely evening to help ease the nerves of the parents and the children before they arrive in September; there were smiles all round

Art Exhibition



The annual Art and Design Exhibition took place on 12th June this year. It celebrated the excellent work created by the GCSE class which displayed a wide range of themes, materials and personal ideas that the pupils developed during their two year course.



The Liturgy Group have spent this term focusing on Share Day. They have welcomed visitors from the 3 main charities - Macmillan, Willow Wood and The Kingfisher School - into school to speak to different year groups about the money that is being raised and where it is going. Members of the group have been visiting assemblies and forms to try to enable students to raise as much money as possible. The Liturgy Group will also be representing the School at St. Gabriel's High School in Bury, where members from other schools will share experiences.

Duke of Edinburgh, Bronze Award

Currently we have 26 Year 9 students working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at St Damian's. As



part of the Award students must complete 6 months volunteering, 3 months developing a skill and 3 months developing a physical activity as well as a 2 day expedition. This term students completed both their practice & assessed expedition sections of the award. Students initially



spent 2 days on a practice expedition in the Hayfield /New Mills area of the Peak District walking the Sett Valley trail and camping at Linnet Clough campsite overnight. Students were required to navigate along a given route to the campsite using an Ordnance Survey map, carry all of their own equipment, pitch their tents and cook themselves a substantial meal. Their final assessed expedition took place in and around the Castleton and Edale area where students climbed the famous Mam Tor. Although some found the navigation and hiking sections of the expedition tough, everyone kept a positive attitude throughout and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. All students passed the expedition, worked together as a team, developed lots of new skills and grew in confidence. Well Done!

Aspire Day 3rd July 2017

Our pupils took part in our third Aspire Day of the year. Workshops included topics such as the Environment, Careers, and Finance. Our pupils were lucky enough to have talks by the Armed Forces, Marks and Spencer, Willmott Dixon, NatWest and Cadent. Some of the skills covered were team work, managing a budget, employability skills, CV writing and Interview skills. Pupils commented on how useful the day was and prepared them for the future with vital skills. Many thanks to all our guests for making it such a valuable day for our pupils.

Year 10 Construction

Year 10 BTEC Construction group attended Tameside College as part of their course. The class worked with the tutors at the college to create a timber frame showcasing four different joints. They were able to get hands on and learn a lot about the Construction industry. All pupils were excellent and mature throughout the sessions and successfully completed the unit of work! Well done!



Literacy Awareness Week 2017

Literacy Awareness week was held recently to promote the importance of pupils' literacy skills in all curriculum areas. Each day there was a Form Time focus on a 'Word of the Day', its meaning, synonyms and examples in sentences. This year's words were 'discombobulate', 'serendipity', 'belligerent', 'ardent' and 'euphoria'. Forms also discussed 'Quotes of the Day', taken from novels, short stories and drama, such as Harry Potter, Aesop's Fables, Winnie the Pooh and Macbeth. A new resource for staff, 'Top Tips to Help Pupils Learn Spellings', was launched to support pupils learn tricky spellings by using a variety of techniques. Departments delivered various literacy related activities linked to reading, writing and spoken communication. Some examples include: **History:** writing frames and key words for activities linked to Queen Elizabeth; analysis of rhetorical devices in Martin Luther King's 'I have a dream' speech; examining adjectives in sources and developing arguments about the cause of war. **Art:**



descriptive writing about the Bayeux Tapestry; key words and definitions; using effective annotation in project work. **English:** a drama focus on modern plays such as Willy Russell's 'Our Day Out' in Year 8 and a Shakespeare focus in Year 7. The department also trialled a 'No Pens Day Wednesday' to focus developing skills in spoken communication. **Maths:** pupils worked on Venn diagram

problems, interpreting diagrams and answering questions on them. **Geography:** reading articles about using satellites to monitor volcanoes and assess the impact of climate change. **RE:** Year 7 wrote poetry about the Creation story and presented their poems to the class with prizes awarded for original and descriptive language. **Science:** starter exercises used 'command' words and the Science Literacy board was used as a resource in lessons.

Finally, a display in the piazza revealed staff's favourite books, characters or quotations. Hopefully, this will help to inspire pupils to read for pleasure. Miss Toole, college's librarian, is always happy to help pupils select a book which they may enjoy.

Welcome to Wonderland

Earlier this year, Year 8s were given the opportunity to enter a competition called 'Welcome to Wonderland'. They were required to write a story fewer than 100 words that was still coherent and related to the title. We had some fantastic entries with over 80 pupils entering into the creative spirit. 49 pupils were eventually selected by the competition organiser to be published in the anthology. It is great to see such creativity and enjoyment in writing. Congratulations!



Zoolab



There has been lots going on in Geography: on Wednesday the 28th June the tropical rainforest animal company 'Zoolab' were in school to deliver a biodiversity workshop to all Year 9 Geographers. They got their hands on some exotic creatures and learnt about why it is important to protect the natural habitats of animals. All of our Year 10 Geography students will go on a data collection fieldtrip to Colwyn Bay on the 6th July to study the physical process of long shore drift, which will prepare them for their summer examinations next year.



Prom- Leavers 2017



Our Year 11's have completed their GCSE exams and can now look forward to their Prom on Friday 7th July at the White Hart Hotel, Lydgate. Vintage buses will leave school promptly at 6:15pm and take the pupils to the venue. Parents are very welcome to wave their children off and watch them arrive at the White Hart.

The prom is a time to reward each and every pupil for attendance, behaviour and the hard work put in during the run up and completion of the GCSE exams and to reflect and celebrate one last time with the year group that is, the Class of 2017. Look on our facebook and twitter pages to see pictures of what we are sure will be an amazing evening.

Share Day



St Damian's Share Day is always one of the highlights of our calendar. This year it will take place on Thursday 20th July 2017. The day will consist of pupils and staff dressing up, a fun run (or walk) up to Hartshead Pike, a disco and entertainment. 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; The Macmillan Unit at Tameside General Hospital, Willow Wood Hospice and The Kingfisher Special School hydrotherapy pool. These charities do a lot of work to support those who are facing difficulty in their lives. ***Students are asked to wear fancy dress, however as parents it is your responsibility to ensure your child is dressed appropriately. St. Damian's reserves the right to exclude any pupil from participating in this event if they are dressed inappropriately.***

Already pupils are excitedly setting up sweet stalls and planning lots of activities throughout school. We will keep you up-to-date with how much is raised and how we raised it in September. Thank you for your continued support and kindness this year, it has been extraordinary and very much appreciated.

Alzheimer's Society Cupcake Day



On Friday 16th June, we supported the Alzheimer's Society by taking part in their cupcake day. Staff kindly donated cakes and these were sold to the pupils and staff - the amount of cake that was donated was amazing! We had so many donations, that we had lots left and we were able to do another cake sale the following week. The total amount raised for this fantastic charity was **£357.65**. Thank you to all the staff and pupils for their support.

Reminder for Parents of St Damian's 5 Simple Rules

If our community is going to continue to thrive then we expect all pupils, staff and parents to follow our FIVE simple rules. These are accepted, transparent and importantly enforced. These five rules are;

- **Respect:** For each other, our staff and our environment. This core value permeates throughout St Damian's at all levels and is at the heart of everything we do
- **Correct Uniform:** Pupils should be proud to be at Damian's and indeed are ambassadors for the school. Wearing the correct uniform is an outward sign that they love the school. Uniform also includes: no jewellery is allowed to be worn in school. This includes, but is not exhaustive, no earrings, no make-up, no fake tan and no false nails. Extreme hair styles are also not permitted. Hair should be natural looking and not too short.
- **Mobile Phones/ICT Gadgets:** Mobile phones are not allowed in school at any time of the day. If students are caught using them, which is rare, they will be confiscated and parents will collect them from reception. This is school policy. Smartwatches and other ICT gadgets are also not allowed during the school day. This rule has been in place for 5 years and has been very successful.
- **Chewing Gum:** This is not allowed in school. As a community, we want to ensure our environment is clean and tidy. Chewing gum will be confiscated and an after school issued. It is also important to note that the school does not promote 'energy' drinks and these should not be in school either.
- **Eating 'Zones'.** Again, to keep the school environment tidy for your children, there are areas in school where no eating is permitted. Food will be confiscated where this happens. Pupils will be told where these areas are and they will be clearly sign-posted.

Non-Uniform Days

Can I please ask that parents ensure their children are appropriately dressed when there is a non-uniform day. We reserve the right to ask a student to go home and change if we feel their outfit isn't suitable/appropriate for school.

Time to say Goodbye ...

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to three long serving members of the St Damian's Support Staff. Combined they have worked at St Damian's for 75 Years !

- Janet Whittaker has been with us for 24 years
- Gail Wright has been with us for 18 years
- And Pauline has been with us for an amazing 33 ½ years

I am sure you will all join with us in wishing them all the very best of health and happiness in their retirement.

Contact Details

Please make sure that school has your correct and up to date contact details i.e. mobile number, home and work's number, it is important that the school can contact you if the need arises.



Term Dates 2017/2018

AUTUMN TERM	First Day	Last Day	
INSET DAY	*Tuesday 5 th September 2017		School closed
Autumn 1 st Term	Wednesday 6 th Sept 2017	Friday 27 th October 2017	Pupils in school
Half term holidays	Monday 30 th October 2017	Friday 3 rd November 2017	School closed
INSET DAY	*Friday 24 th November 2017		School closed
Autumn 2 nd Term	Monday 6 th November 2017	Wednesday 20 th Dec 2017	Pupils in school

SPRING TERM	First Day	Last Day	
Spring 1st Term	Wednesday 3rd January 2018	Friday 16th February 2018	Pupils in school
<i>Half term holidays</i>	<i>Monday 19th February 2018</i>	<i>Friday 23rd February 2018</i>	<i>School closed</i>
INSET DAY	*Friday 16th March 2018		School closed
Spring 2nd Term	Monday 26th February 2018	Thursday 29th March 2018	Pupils in school
<i>Easter Holidays</i>	<i>Friday 30th March 2018</i>	<i>Friday 13th April 2018</i>	<i>School closed</i>

*Easter Sunday is 1st April 2018

SUMMER TERM	First Day	Last Day	
Summer 1st Term	Monday 16th April 2018	Friday 25th May 2018	Pupils in school
MAY BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 7th May 2018		School closed
<i>Half term holidays</i>	<i>Monday 28th May 2018</i>	<i>Friday 1st June 2018</i>	<i>School closed</i>
Summer 2nd Term	Monday 4th June 2018	Friday 20th July 2018**	Pupils in school

***STAFF INSET DAYS: (school closed to pupils)**

Tuesday 5th September 2017, Friday 24th November 2017, Friday 16th March 2018

** It is anticipated that autumn term 2018/19 will commence Monday 3rd September 2018



Early Finish - School will finish at 1:30pm on Friday 21st July 2017. School buses have been arranged for this earlier time.

Finally, on behalf of Mrs E Jones [Chair of Governors], all the governors and the brilliant staff at St Damian's, we all wish you a happy summer we look forward welcoming everyone back on Wednesday 6th September 2017.

Mr Logue