

THE ST DAMIAN'S TIMES



The St Damian's Way

						
D	A	M	I	A	N	S
DIVERSITY	ACHIEVEMENTS	MUTUAL RESPECT	INCLUSION	ALL	NURTURING	SERVICE
is embraced as we are ALL made in the Image of God	are celebrated as recognition of our growing gifts	is the foundation of our actions	is paramount: we 'Believe to Achieve' for ALL	are called to be 'Faithful in all things'	our faith, talents, and values	is at the heart of our Catholic community

THE VERY FIRST EDITION OF OUR SCHOOL NEWSPAPER!

HAVE YOUR WORK PUBLISHED

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS!!

A HUGE WELL DONE TO THE JOURNALISM CLUB!

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A MESSAGE FROM THE JOURNALISM CLUB

‘Holiness does not consist of a few heroic deeds, but of loving a lot every day.’

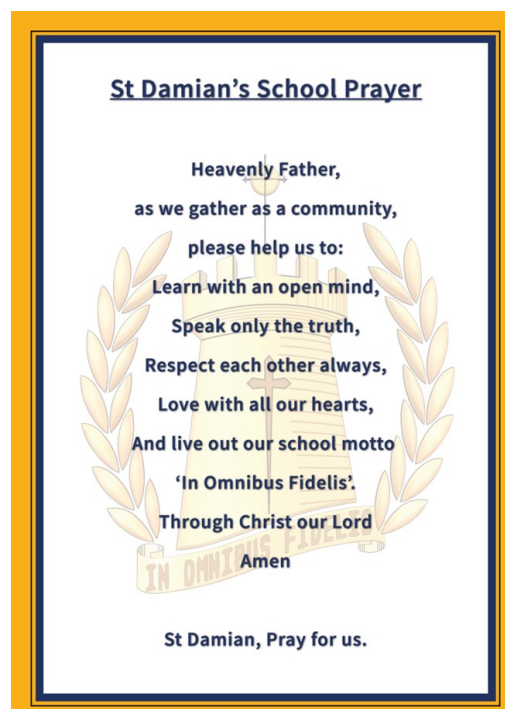
– Pope Francis

Catholicism is at the heart of all we do at St Damian’s. Therefore, to mark the beginning of this new venture, I would like to reflect on our school motto: *In Omnibus Fidelis*.

As a school, we pride ourselves in being faithful in all we do; loving one another and being kind, just as Jesus taught us. Jesus and Pope Francis alike have shown us how important it is to be inclusive and celebrate people from different backgrounds. Regardless of your race, sexual orientation, religion, gender or ethnicity, as Catholics we show the utmost kindness and respect to everyone.

Here at St. Damian’s and in our club, it is of paramount importance we create a safe space for our diverse peers, to ensure they feel comfortable and respected at all times. We hope that we are able to reflect our core values of respect, love and kindness in this newspaper.

Please take a moment to read our school prayer:



ST DAMIAN'S EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

This section of the newspaper features an exclusive interview with Ms Rowlinson. Ms Rowlinson is an esteemed member of the St Damian's community. She is the Ambrose Manager and is best known for the supportive atmosphere that she has created. Ms Rowlinson is a credit to the St Damian's community and we are all grateful for the dedication and love that she

Answers given by Ms Rowlinson

Q. What does a normal day look like for you while working in Ambrose?

A. 'When I'm working, there isn't a normal day. Every day is very different from the last. Something different and unexpected happens every single day.'

Q. What do you like about your job?

A. 'There are many things that I like about my job but one thing I like in particular is having the opportunity to get to know students for who they are and their personalities instead of knowing them on the basis of their academic performance.'

Q. Is there anything you dislike about your job?

A. 'There honestly isn't anything I dislike, the wide variety of things I do in my work is one of the reasons I really like what I do.'

Q. Is your job fun?

A. 'Yes, in my opinion my job is fun! The fast paced environment is what I find most enjoyable.'

Q. What's the most stressful part of your work?

CELEBRATING ST DAMIAN'S

Our diverse community is full of wonderful and talented people. An important aspect of the St Damian's way is celebration. We must recognise and celebrate members of our community and their outstanding achievements.



As a school we are absolutely delighted that Mrs Elizabeth Jones, our Chair of Governors, has been awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2022. Since 2011 she has served as the Chair of Governors and provides strong leadership to our school.

A wonderful recognition of her years of selfless dedication to education and more particularly, St Damian's. There is nobody more deserv-



— SPORTS —



Congratulations to the year 7 football team who are Tameside Champions!



Congratulations to our Y7 girls netball team. Winners of the Tameside SSP spring tournament!



Winners of the Manchester United Emerging Talent 7 a-side Competition at Carrington Training Ground. 120 schools entered the competition and St Damian's won the final by 5 points!



A huge well done to the Y10 football team who are Tameside Champions. The team held their nerve to win



We are proud to announce Head Boy and Head Girl:
Julita Joshy and Thomas Brown.

Congratulations to all of our newly appointed prefects! You are all deserving of the prestigious positions that you have been given.

Continue to fulfil your role as assets to our school, and keep inspiring our younger year groups by lead-

WRITING CHAMPIONS

Year 9 and 10 entered the Words for your World competition, which is a national writing competition for schools. The girls pictured (left to right) Martha, Ciara and Lily stood out from the rest.

Martha's letter was chosen as a winner from strong field of entries as one of two winning entries in the Year 9 category! Ciara was given a special commendation by the judges in the Year 10 category. Last but not least, Lily's letter was chosen as the runner up in the year 10 category. A massive well done to all three candidates, we are so proud!



STAR READER: EMMA

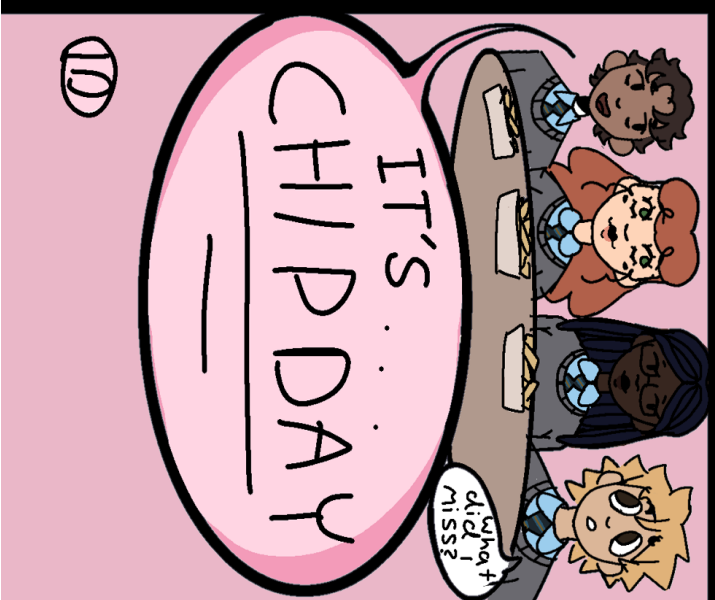
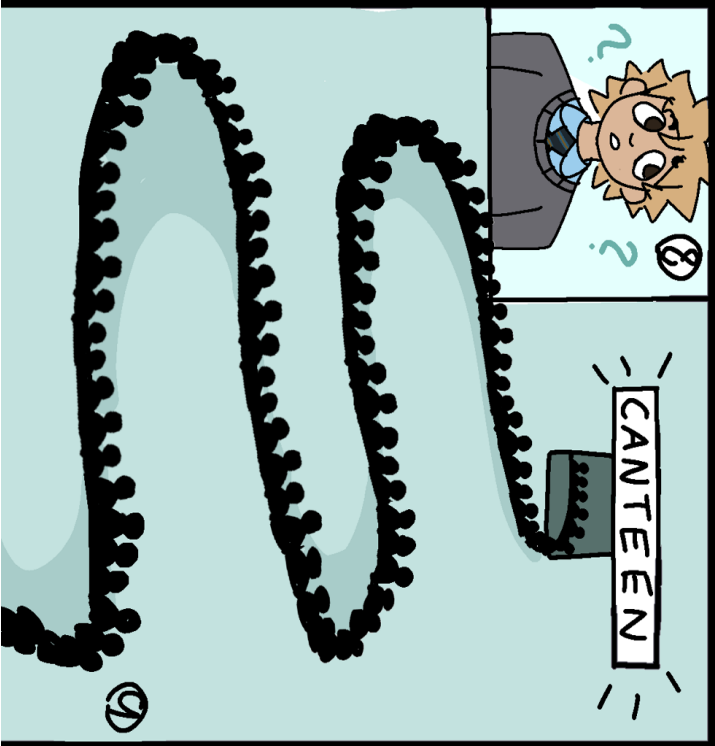
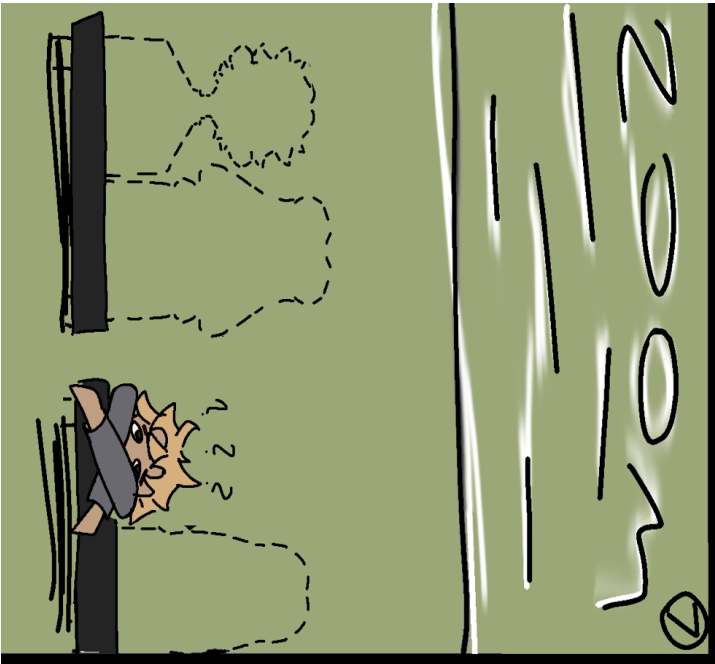
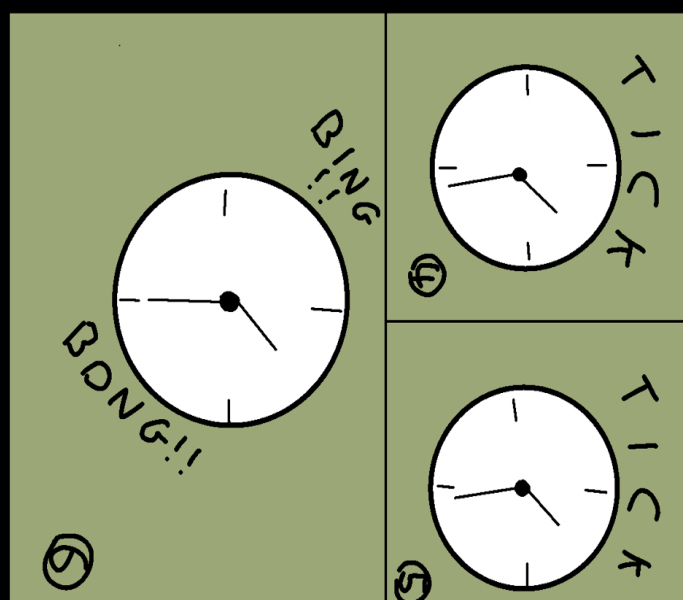
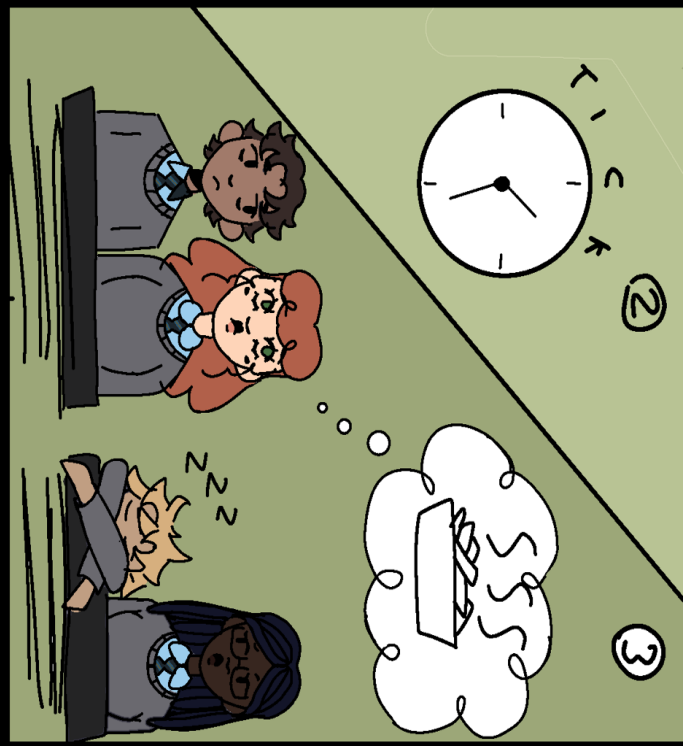
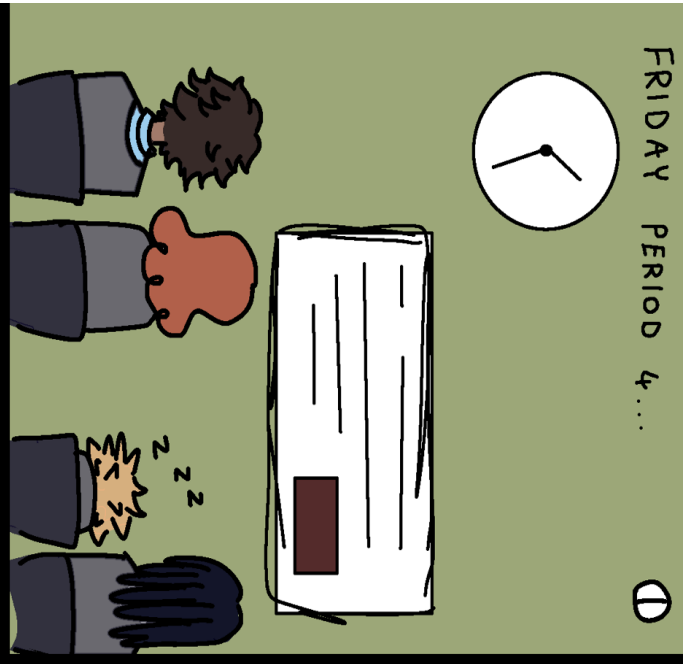
Emma has been using our online library to read and take quizzes on the books that she reads. So far, she has read hundreds of books and her word count is currently at an astonishing **11,197,860 words !!! WOW!** Just imagine the wealth of knowledge and vocabulary she has picked up. It is truly in-

DUKE OF EDINBURGH SUCCESS

Year 9 have recently achieved their bronze award! Shortly after, year 10 completed their 3 day expedition and achieved their silver award! The year 10s have done some long days with over 15km a day up some huge Peak District hills.

Miss Price, who oversees the award has said that both year groups were fantastic and she is 'so proud' of them. We are too! Well done to both groups.





This comic strip was illustrated by Lily Howard. Look out for more of Lily's incredible talent in our next newspaper!

A FAREWELL

To the class of 2022,

On behalf of all the school we would like to congratulate you on your time here at St Damian's. Your school life, especially the last few years, has needed you to show an unimaginable amount of perseverance and determination. In this current year alone, you have had to dig deep into your resilience to do well in your GCSEs that have undoubtedly caused stress. Considering the time you have missed at school, you have exceeded everyone's expectations, especially with the instant impact of covid. Going forward, we know for certain that whatever college you choose will be absolutely overjoyed with having such hardworking students. We hope that you take joyful memories along with you and continue to work hard toward your dreams. You will always be remembered as the year that never gave up!

We interviewed Y11 Head of Year, Mr Burtles. Here is what he had to say:

Q. What has being Y11 HOY taught you?

A. Mainly that the Year 10's can't start their revision soon enough. Year 11 goes so quickly, especially after Christmas. Year 10's need to plan their revision time from the end of Year 10.

Q. What challenges have the cohort faced and how do you think they have coped with it?

A. The main challenge has always been the time lost through COVID and the affect this has had on pupil's well being. Many pupils coped brilliantly and have just gotten on with school and the expectations of Year 11.

Q. What are you most proud of?

A. The way that Year 11 as a year group have 'got on with it'. Many pupils have recognised the work that they have had to do to just keep up, never mind catch up. Pupils have exceeded expectations and it is so pleasing to see!

Q. Do you have any advice for future Y11s?

A. Start revising as early as possible, try and get an idea of what you want to do post-16 as early as possible – this will give you something to aim for. Work hard, enjoy Year 11, it goes so quickly!

Q. What is something that you would like the year group to know before they leave?

A. I am so proud that you have overcome so many obstacles to sit your GCSEs in the best frame of mind possible. Hopefully your hard work will pay off and you will be successful!

STUDENTS' CORNER

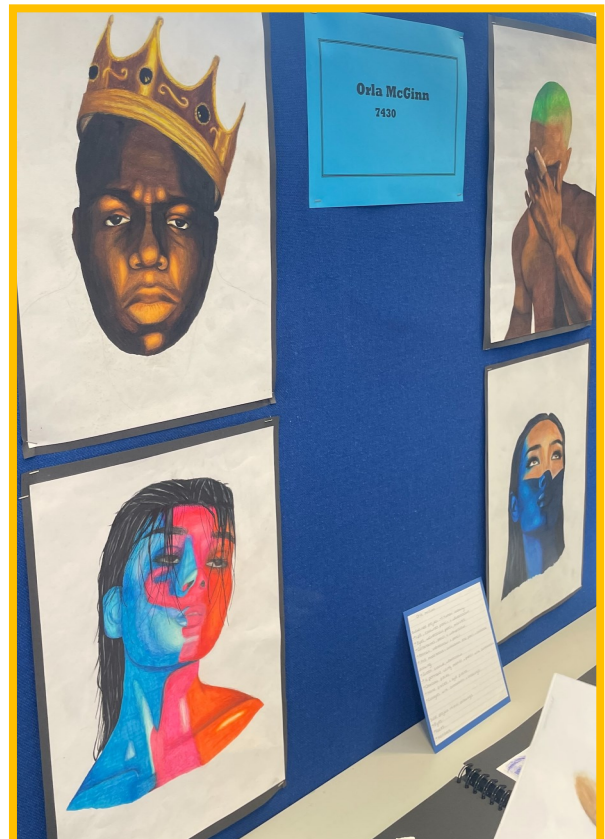
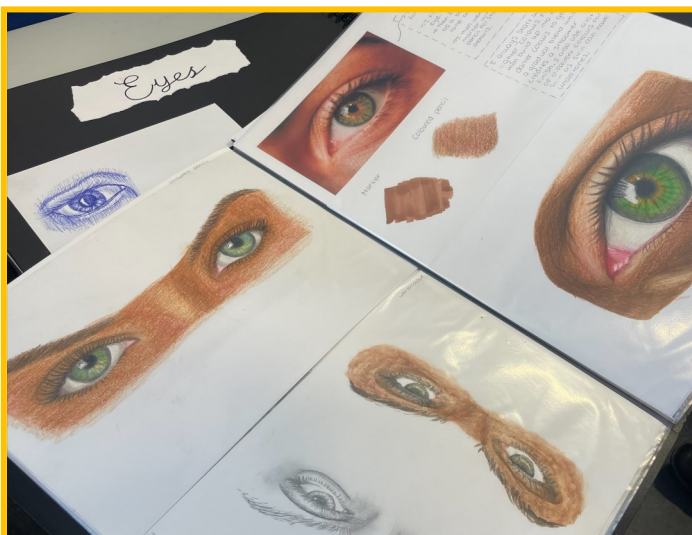
The following pages are dedicated to outstanding pieces of work produced by us, the students! We think it is important that we celebrate the talented, hardworking and resilient members of our school by showcasing their work.

We were blown away by the GCSE Art coursework this year! Congratulations to the Art GCSE class, your hard work and dedication was evidenced in the outstanding gallery that came together.

Pictured are the stunning pieces of art work, hand drawn by Aimmah Haq. Aimmah shows off her natural



Orla McGinn shares her exceptional talent in her realistic drawings. We are in awe of the realism portrayed through her delicate portraits. Biggie Smalls and Frank Ocean have never looked better, we love



The following piece writing was written by Maddie Brooks, year 9 have been studying war and conflict poetry. The text is an exemplary piece of creative writing that explores imagery, colour and emotion in an outstanding manner.

'War: A Reality' by Maddie Brooks

When the world in all its glory felt as though it was ablaze, all one could do was sit and watch the flames, which danced together in a whirl of red and gold, turning its surroundings to ash. It felt as though the air was thick with smog and suffocatingly hot, like a taloned claw wrapped around one's throat until the point of unconsciousness. The chaos, in streaks of vibrant orange and yellow, destroyed everything in its wake, leaving nothing but burnt structures and relentless grief. It consumed all in its path until the earth was at its limit, pleading for relief from the harsh torment.

Then there was Alina.

Alina, enveloped in the flames of her inner turmoil, sank her knees further into the dust road. Her olive uniform was dull in comparison to the crimson liquid that stained the path, mixed with useless tears and forgotten words. She was not brash, she was not loud, she was not a whirl of ostentatious appearances. But she was admirable in her endeavor to save the young soldier who lay beneath her hands. His army-issued uniform was torn and drained red, and his pale skin was of much contrast to the nauseating wound that tore him open neck to navel. His innards were bulging from his body and blue veins were prominent around his face and hands. Despite his chest no longer moving or his eyes lacking their usual luster. Alina continued to press down on the wound to pool the blood toward him, her cries for help never ceasing. No one would hear her. No God or savior draped in gold could save her now. Perhaps Nell had been right; the Gods had died long ago, drowned in sin. Yet this was no work of human hands, Alina was sure of it.

By the time she finally capitulated, accepting the death of yet another comrade, the bells rolled in preparation for evening roll call. Silence settled over the camp. Alina had always hated the silence. It provoked the darkest notions of her last and encouraged that darkness to seep into the furthest corners of her mind until she was fueled by pure, raging malevolence. And she couldn't let that happen. Not now.

The camp was an insignificant speck in a vast plane of sand and dead shrubs. Tents of a dark green hue were drained of their vibrant colour after years of grim weather and harsh battles they had endured. Upon returning, Alina noticed majority of First Order tents had been moved to create room for Second Order soldiers. She scoffed at the sight of 3 inferni training where the Medik tent had once been. How could they, the enemy, the ruthless monsters, earn more respect from standing to attention that's what she had after 5 years of hard-work and endless loss? Alina glanced to the General's tent, the black material a stark contrast to everything else. The surrounding area was lavish and welcoming – an unlikely thing considering where they were – and the place was spotless, save from a few cobwebs that hung across the entrance. Much like the cobweb, Alina's mind collected all the dust and dirt of the world, all the sun and darkness, until it could take it no more and snapped. And much like the cobweb, she felt all her purpose was for someone else's use, for her to be a pawn in someone's else's game until her bones turned to chalk and her limbs grew tired.

Her train of thought was interrupted by a cacophony of sound. The general had returned. His carriage was darker than coal and his underlings groveled and scrambled to greet him. Alina couldn't move her legs. He was a vision of understated beauty, yet Alina knew his true nature was nothing of the sort. Much like a fallen angel, he hid his malice behind the facade of good looks and charisma. Underneath lay a caustic, greedy man who cared nothing for the soldiers that died by the thousands at a single command. He was the Devil's incarnate, cynical and incapable of being touched by such meaningless *mortal* matters as perdition.

Alina couldn't help but stare. And stare she did. Her eyes were fixed on the General, who scanned the military base with an air of disdain, and stopped at the sight of a scrawny, torpor soldier. His gaze never faltered as he raised a hand and muttered orders to the three men beside him. They furrowed their brows, yet never spoke against the General's wish, complying almost mechanically. They headed straight for Alina..

As the footsteps of the men quickened, the ground sparked to life beneath their boots. The grass was shed of its dignity for the second time that day, and the world, in all its glory, was ablaze once more.



WHAT'S ON IN SCHOOL?

Here at St Damian's, there are lots of extra-curricular activities and clubs! Aside from sports, students can join the following clubs; debate club, social club, the gift team, card club, film club, study club, LGBTQ+ and of course, the journalism club!

In each edition of this paper, we will put one of our incredible clubs into the spotlight,

— IN THE SPOTLIGHT : THE LGBTQ+ CLUB —



The LGBTQ+ club is being run by Ms Rowlinson and Ms Hughes this year. It is a fantastic club that adds to the inclusive, tolerant and diverse environment here at St Damian's. The club provides a comfortable and non-threatening environment for members of the LGBTQ+ community, and any allies to share and discuss their ideas and feelings.

Here at the journalism club, we believe that the LGBTQ+ club is an integral part of who we are as a school. We believe that the LGBTQ+



The LGBTQ+ club have educated the wider community at St Damian's. They have inspired positivity, tolerance and respect. The club is currently working towards attaining the prestigious 'Rainbow Flag Award'. We wish you the best of luck!

"I want the LGBTQ+ club to be a safe and positive

The RE department kindly set up a prayer group for the LGBTQ+ club in the school chapel. This prayer gave people the opportunity to feel connected to God irrespective their identity or sexuality. Love of all is vital in the Catholic church, which is reflected strongly in our school ethos.

"The secret of Christian living is love. Only love fills the



UKRAINE

This section of the newspaper has been created to bring awareness to the events happening in Ukraine. Eva Danko (a member of St Damian's journalism club) interviewed a girl from Ukraine about her view on the war in her country.



Many of us are aware of the events going on in Ukraine, which began on February 24th after the invasion by Russia, this attack has affected the lives of many citizens of Ukraine some were forced to relocate to different countries to protect themselves from the war and others had to stay to fight for their country. However, the people of Ukraine aren't the only one who are suffering. Russia is under a dictatorship lead by Vladimir Putin, and its citizens aren't allowed to disagree or protest this regime in the threat of imprisonment. In addition, most Russians aren't aware of the extent of the war as their government has shown them a

Q- How do you feel about the situation in Ukraine?

A- I am both worried and disappointed by the situation in Ukraine, I'm disappointed as a war like this shouldn't be happening in the 21st century.

Q- What would you say to the people who are in power?

A- I would ask for all leaders to support Ukraine and our president. I would also ask to provide our country with food, water, troops anything that would benefit our country.

Q- What are you grateful for?

A- I'm grateful for my family and that they are safe and that we can have a good education and a place to stay. I am also grateful for the people who educate themselves on the situation in Ukraine and for the people that support us.

Q-What have your experiences taught you?

As a school, we feel honoured to have had a number of Ukrainian students join our community. We will continue to love and support these students, by welcoming them into the St Damian's family.

THE JOURNALISM CLUB

— MEET THE TEAM —



MARTHA



OLIVIA



HARLEY



OBE



HANNAH



LILY

DUDLEY



POPPY



LABEEB

GRAZIANO



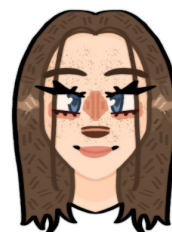
SIENNA

OKYERE



THO MAS

BURROWS



SASHA

HOWARD



ISAAC

DUDLEY



THEA

ABEDIN



FRANKIE



FRANKIE



EVA

FARFETI



JAKUB

BROPHY

DANKO

ORLIKOWSKI



MISS H JAMEEL

The Journalism Club and I are delighted to present the very first school newspaper in the history of St Damian's. The team and I have work tirelessly to put the paper together, and we hope you enjoy it!

We look forward to bringing you this termly paper over the coming years. We hope to celebrate the endless successes and talents of the St Damian's community. The school newspaper will only get bigger and better from here, we are hoping to launch many new segments in the next paper, including games and competitions. Keep your eyes peeled!

Lastly, I would like to thank the Journalism Club for sacrificing their precious time to support me with the newspaper. I am so proud of you all!