



St. Mary's College

Crosby

# School Lines

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May 2009

## Principal's message



The period between Easter and Pentecost is traditionally busy and this year is no exception. The Easter holiday included the annual trip to Lourdes and the CCF Adventure training trip to Halton Camp in the Lune Valley, which was a

challenging yet enjoyable combination of Command tasks, fell-walking, kayaking, canoeing, raft-building, climbing, gorge walking and archery for the 56 cadets and 12 officers.

Meanwhile, Mr Magill and Miss Addy led a party of 15 students from Lower 6th to assist the FLAME and HCG groups at Lourdes.

The start of term opened with a staff training day dedicated to further development of the College website resources. You should now notice the VLE (Virtual

Learning Environment) link at the bottom left-hand corner of our website. A quick browse will give you an insight to the VLE's potential for accessing and exchanging learning materials.

We welcomed six new starters this term: three into Year 7, one into year 8 and two into Year 9. It was particularly pleasing to note that, during their preliminary visits to the College, both the parents and pupils remarked upon the industrious yet welcoming atmosphere, the excellent ambassadorial skills of our pupil guides and the overall atmosphere within the community.

On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April, the College represented the North West at the national final of the English Speaking Union Public Speaking Competition, held at the City of London Boys' School. Although they did not win, they



performed extremely well and attracted individual comment and praise from a number of experienced observers. Well done!



The start of May saw another highly successful Year 5 Activities Day for pupils from The Mount and many of our other feeder schools: a number of our own students willingly gave up their day to assist in making it a great success. Pupils and parents alike commented on the warmth of the hospitality extended to them.



That same weekend marked the annual review and forward planning gathering of governors with the Senior Staff. Progress with our Improvement Plan was discussed and further ideas for longer term development were aired: development of our site formed the central component of the brain-storming sessions before a detailed list of actions for the coming year was agreed. On the 5<sup>th</sup> May the Feast of Blessed Edmund Rice was celebrated by the Family Mass held at the Mount. Afterwards, Mrs Melia and Mrs Bell recounted their recent "immersion" experience in Zambia, observing at first hand life in some of the poorest communities in



Africa and also the work of the Brothers in supporting communities and propagating the Faith. Later this year, Mr Gough plans to take a small group out to join the Brothers in Sierra Leone and is busily raising funds towards this.

The now annual Dance Show, organised by the Head of Girls' P.E. (Miss Foster), was performed in the O'Halloran Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May to great acclaim: girls from Years 5 to 10 showed their choreographic skills (a large proportion were their own compositions) and played to full houses on both nights: well done!



Another set of impressive performances was witnessed on 14<sup>th</sup> May at the Lower School Musical Evening: again, the many pupils gave solos which show their talent (and courage!) in front of an adult audience. They showed the great promise for the future and also the strength in depth of Music at the College.



The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Qualifier took place from April 30<sup>th</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

The weekend of 16<sup>th</sup> May marked another Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award Expedition

practice: once again, a testament to the commitment and dedication of participants and staff alike.



In the sporting field, the Y10 Rounders Team struck their way to success by winning the Sefton Tournament: well done.

Staff and pupils celebrated a grand charity achievement following their Lent fundraising efforts. A total of £1,000 was raised for the Good Shepherd collection run by the Archdiocese of Liverpool charity, Nugent Care.

A cheque was handed over at a special celebration mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral. The total efforts raised almost £2,000 with the balance being split amongst other charities including Cancer research UK, Autism Initiatives, Jospice and Queenscourt Hospice.



This week also marks the installation of former St. Mary's pupil, Vincent Nichols, as Archbishop of Westminster and leader of the Catholic community in England and Wales. We wish him well in his continuing ministry and pray that he will be guided to lead wisely. He is a member of the Class of '63 and a contemporary of other famous St. Mary's pupils of that cohort, including Lord John Birt (former Director General of the BBC) who will be guest speaker at the Friends of St. Mary's Dinner in November and Sir Ivor Roberts (former British Ambassador and now President of Trinity College, Oxford) who will be our guest at Prize day on 16<sup>th</sup> December to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the College.

After half term, we have the Summer Ball on 13<sup>th</sup> June (still a small number of tickets available), the Edmund Rice Walk on 19<sup>th</sup> June and the Triathlon on 29<sup>th</sup> June. Your participation is encouraged and we would be grateful for your support.

Finally, I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable half term. The 31<sup>st</sup> May is Pentecost Sunday so let us pray that the Holy Spirit will provide strength and guidance to our young people as they prepare for and take their public examinations.

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Safeguarding Children Policy: please view it at [www.stmarys.ac/](http://www.stmarys.ac/) in document downloads – policy documents.

The pictures and commentary in this newsletter are only a sample of the extensive coverage afforded by our excellent website [www.stmarys.ac](http://www.stmarys.ac) (also at [www.stmaryscrosby.co.uk](http://www.stmaryscrosby.co.uk))

