



St. Mary's College
Crosby

ST. MARY'S Matters

www.stmarys.ac

Summer 2009

From the Principal...



Since the last editions of St. Mary's Matters in December and School Lines in February, April and May the College has been a hive of activity: significant sporting successes being achieved in Athletics, Rounders, Cricket and Golf to name but a few. The Modern Foreign Languages department has enjoyed hosting Spanish, French and German exchange students with return visits having either taken place or planned for the next academic year.

Our strong ethos of embracing initiatives for the benefit of others and Christian commitment have been evident throughout in the form of charity fund raising, outreach work, Mission Week and retreats and pilgrimages.

As the end of term approached, the Last Night of the Proms, one of the highlights of the Musical Calendar was held on Friday, 3rd July and was a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to Mr Simon Emery for his outstanding contribution to the Music department.

As you look through this edition you will see the superb activities and achievements of our pupils, including CCF, Nuffield Bursaries, educational visits and Duke of Edinburgh expeditions.

I would like to salute the contributions of all staff and particularly those who will be leaving us for fresh challenges: our best wishes go with them.

Please register on the College website for up to date news at www.stmarys.ac

Have an enjoyable and restful summer.

Charity Walk (pictured left)

Pupils and many members of staff took part in the 12-kilometre Edmund Rice Walk, a 'desert trek' along the Sefton Coastal Path which was blessed with good weather this year. The sponsor money raised from the walk will help five good causes at home and abroad.

On Mersey side the charities to benefit will be Wirral's Claire House Children's Hospice, Hospice (St Joseph's Hospice Association) in Thornton and the Seel Street Mission for the homeless in Liverpool city centre.

Donations will also be made to the Christian Brothers West Africa Mission and to Brother Chincotta's work with Aids sufferers in Namibia.

CCF News

The CCF has had a large number of very keen cadets participating in a wide range of activities throughout the year. Y9 recruits were focused upon in the Autumn 2008 Altcar camp where along with basic skills of drill and field craft they also had the opportunity to observe the Royal Signals, the Royal Logistic Corps and take part in a helicopter flight courtesy of the Army Air Corps. Many cadets took part in the annual Adventure training camp at Halton at Easter with activities ranging from fell walking to kayaking to paintballing.

Apart from many and varied weekend activities and courses, pride of place must go to two events. A number of Y10 RAF cadets took part in the D-Day commemoration events in Normandy; and two combined Y9 and Y10 teams (pictured below) swept the board at the annual Bega Banga competition at St. Bees. Competing against 19 other schools from across the north West, SMC came first and third and took all the prizes on offer. Congratulations to all those involved.





Staff Farewells



We extend our grateful thanks for sixteen years of outstanding service to Mr. Simon Emery. During his time as Director of Music the subject has become one of the 'high notes' of both the College and the local area. We wish him well in his new post at Blue Coat.

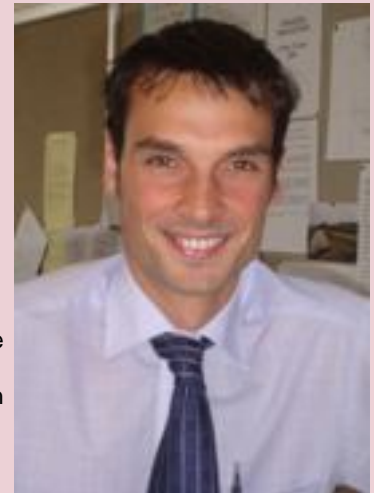
We say goodbye to Mrs. Clare Mackenzie as she leaves to take up her new post as Head of Sixth Form at the Blue Coat School in Liverpool. During her eight years at St. Mary's, she has made a huge impact on school life, initially as a Chemistry teacher, then a hugely successful Head of Middle School and in recent years as an innovative and energetic Head of Chemistry. We wish her every success in her new venture.



Miss Sue Wilson joined St Mary's as a full time member of staff in 1998, following a period where she covered for maternity leave when we knew immediately how much of an asset Sue would be to the Maths department. She has been well loved by pupils of all ages and abilities for her firm but fair approach, always getting the best from them. For many years Sue has been

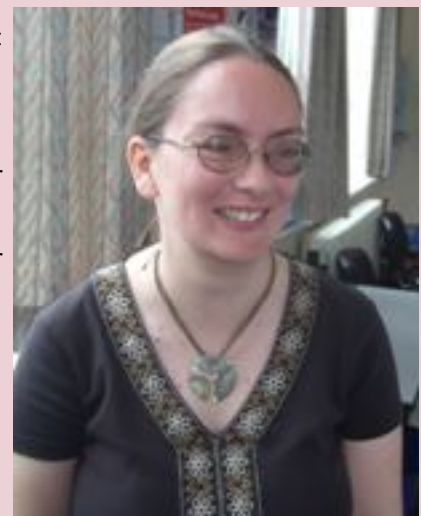
active in her support of school trips and as John O'Neill would say "She's just such a lovely lady". We wish Sue well in her new post in Guernsey.

Since Mr. Mike Murphy bounced into St. Mary's in September 06 he has not stopped winding Carole up with his requests for exciting practical work. His infectious enthusiasm for the subject has kept us on our toes and caused much bemusement among the Physics staff too. Science Club has gone from strength to strength under his leadership and he brought our team home victorious after the Festival of Chemistry in 2008. He will be sorely missed but we wish him well in the challenge and responsibility of setting up the Chemistry department from scratch at the new shiny Sixth Form Centre in Litherland.



Mr. Mike Halewood has been Biology Technician at St. Mary's since 2001 but many of our children may know him better as a caring First-Aider or as marshal on the Southport bus. He has been an invaluable source of knowledge and experience for all the Science Faculty and he will be greatly missed. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Miss Angela Yates has been at St Mary's for 3 years, latterly as acting Head of Classics. She is also a Pilot Officer in the RAF section of the CCF. We wish her luck as she moves on to a post of Head of Classics at Notre Dame Catholic 6th Form College in Leeds.



Girls' Sports

Rounders

The St Mary's College Invitational Rounders Tournaments were a great success this summer. With seven other teams joining the girls from St Mary's at the school field, the competition was fierce! The Year 9 team reached the semi-final of their competition, the Year 8 team finished runners up and both the Year 7 and Year 10 (below) teams were tournament Winners!



Athletics

On Friday 5th June, the girls' Athletics squad travelled to Wavertree Athletic Centre for the 2009 Catholic Schools Competition. There were some outstanding individual performances on the day and after all nine schools had finished competing teams from St Mary's College finished in 2nd place in the Year 7 competition and 3rd place in both the Year 8 and Year 9 competition.



Congratulations to Year 7 Students Neha Mehboob and Jenny McGuire (below) who competed at the Merseyside Schools' Athletics Championships. Neha and Jenny were selected to join the Sefton Athletics squad following successful performances at the Sefton Schools' trials.



Boys' Sports

The Edinburgh tour was a huge success with 28 Year 8 & 9 boys travelling to Stewart Melville College to play cricket in June. Here are the under 14s team pictured on their tour of the city. Ben Sloan scored his maiden College century on day one of a fiercely contested two day international test match.



Pictured below are St. Mary's summer sports Lancashire representatives. From left we have cricketers Conor Allison who plays for the County Under 14s, Neha Mehboob who plays for Lancashire Girls and Gavin Griffiths who plays for Lancashire Under 15s and the North of England. We then have Lucinda Burdett and James Rooney, both of whom have once again been selected for the County at Golf. Congratulations to all.



The Christian Brothers Athletics Competition was held at Bebington Oval on 24th June. The Under 13 and Under 15 teams were joined by athletes from Upton Hall, St Edward's and St Joseph's. Following some fantastic performances in very hot conditions the Under 13 team finished in 4th place and the Under 15 team were crowned Winners!



Pictured Maria Stanfield receiving the Winners trophy!



German Exchange

St Mary's pupils recently welcomed 11 students from the Realschule Niederviebach, a Catholic middle school, accompanied by their teacher, Frau Maïa Dieckmann. During their week-long stay the German pupils were able to brush up their language skills and experience life with an English family going to an English school. They also enjoyed a full programme of visits including trips to Chester and Alton Towers. One of the highlights was a visit to Liverpool's Albert Dock, opened by and named after Prince Albert, husband of Queen Victoria, who was born in the area now known as Bavaia.



St Mary's pupils are pictured with their German visitors at Liverpool's Albert Dock.

The return leg of the exchange will be in September this year when the St Mary's pupils will spend a week with their German partners in Niederviebach.

German flotilla visit

A party of pupils were the VIP guests of the German Navy when its task force visited the Port of Liverpool recently. Thanks to the school's warm relationship with the German Honorary Consul of Liverpool, Dr Ulrich Pfeiffer, students from the year 9 German class were given a behind-the-scenes tour of combat support vessel Frankfurt am Main.



Some pupil comments:

Early on 5th June a group of German students in Year 9 set off into Liverpool to the docks to have a tour of a German flotilla which was here for 5 days. Once we were aboard the vessel our guide took us all over the ship from the cockpit to the gym. We were shown how everything worked, from the radar to the communication devices. It was great to see how this worked. Overall it was a great trip that won't be forgotten for a long time!

Robert Stones & Andrew K

Das Boot war toll! The bridge was like being on the set of Star Wars! It was really interesting to see a modern supply ship at Liverpool docks. An officer called Andreas showed us round. They had a pool on deck and a big gym. It was a great experience. **Alastair Cawdron 9G**

Spanish Exchange

The Spanish exchange with Colegio Apostol Santiago in Vigo was very successful with five pupils from year 10, one from year 11 and one from the Upper Sixth participating. We went to Vigo for ten days at Easter and visited Santiago de Compostela, Cangas, La Guïa, Vigo's museums and the old town and we went to see a basketball match. Three days were spent in school and our pupils made PowerPoint presentations about Liverpool. Eight Spanish pupils came to Crosby for ten days also at the end of the summer term. We visited Anfield, Liverpool and surrounding areas, Southport, Chester and London. We are already looking forward to next year's exchange!



Music Matters



Since the success of the St. Mary's College Festival of Music, the music department has been concentrating on building for the future with its series of Young Pretenders Concerts. These included the Lower School Concert where there were successful performances by Orchestra and Concert Band 2 along with the Training Choir and a number of fine soloists from each area of the instrumental programme. A few weeks later Year 7 put on their own concert of instrumental music which ranged from those who had begun lessons only nine months earlier to those who had been learning a few years. It was again an undoubted success.

The String Quartet played, followed later by the Stage Band performing a magnificent set at the annual Summer Ball, performing for around an hour and half and covering over 40 different pieces. A truly exceptional effort by them and their Director Mr Byers.

More recently over 40 pupils took grade theory exams at the College and the department is preparing for the Last Night of the Proms and the next set of Associated Board Practical Exams.

Three generations of reading!



Ella Davies is pictured here with a book from the 1920s called 'The Snow Stairs'. The book belonged to her Grandmother when she was a little girl, was later read by Ella's mother and Ella is reading the book now!

English - Poetry Competition

Five pupils in 8C who took up the challenge of writing a poem for the Young Writers' 'I have a dream' competition where they were given the opportunity to share their dreams and aspirations for the world they are growing up in were regional winners amongst over 24,000 poems submitted nationally.

Each of their poems will feature in a book 'I have a dream 2009 – Merseyside' due to be published on 31st July (£14.99; Forward Press Ltd.) The successful writers (left to right) Michael Thomas, Alice Edgeller, Giorgia Kershaw, Francesca Boylan and Andrew Fraser are pictured here with their English teacher, Mr. Piotr.



I have a dream

I have a dream that might come true,
It may happen to me or maybe even you.
That when I get older I get a good job,
And not just hanging around in a mob.
I have children and they have fun,
Not growing up holding a gun.
Earn a good living and have a nice wife,
And not doing stuff that'll ruin my life.
Being at St Mary's has put me on track,
And hope there's not a quality I lack.
I hope I'll be a man that could change a life,
And not bring things like horror and strife.
I hope My Dream will lead somewhere,
And not turn into my worst nightmare.
My Dream has hope My Dream will bring joy
But might be ruined by a little boy.
That boy is me like many another
That only wants to please his mother.

By Andrew Fraser 8C



Geography Department

A Level Coursework – end of an era!

The end of an era was reached in the Geography Department when, for the last time, pupils in their final year of study were allowed to submit individual project work at A level. Head of Department, Mr Piotr, said "Over the last 13 years our experience has been that pupils have been fully committed and thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the subject by engaging in this type of independent, research-based work. We are delighted that this year's students produced work of very high quality in keeping with that of previous years".



Year 7 Visit to Stockley Farm



Bright Sparks try mini-skills!



Youngsters at Bright Sparks Nursery have been learning about the fun and fitness benefits of sport.

The kindergarten has recently hosted a series of sessions by the Formby-based Mini-skills team who teach children the fundamental skills they need to be confident and successful in sport.

Mums and dads were encouraged to get involved in the visits which focused on the importance of agility, balance, co-ordination and speed.

The children were given coaching tips in the basic skills of running, jumping, hopping, skipping and leaping.

Advice on throwing and catching, and kicking and trapping a ball, was also on the Mini-skills menu.

Good Shepherd Mass

Following fundraising efforts throughout Lent, the school has been able to hand over £1,000 to the Good Shepherd Collection run by leading Archdiocese of Liverpool charity Nugent Care. Staff and pupils (pictured below with the Archbishop of Liverpool) attended the Good Shepherd Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King to present the cheque.



Duke of Edinburgh

Silver Qualifier

The recent Silver qualifying expedition took place in the high peaks, Derbyshire; the group coped admirably alongside the Gold practice expedition with the challenging terrain and hot weather! Well done all!



Above: Silver qualifier group



Above: Gold practice group

Science News

Nuffield Success

Once again, A-level Science students at St. Mary's have achieved success at the highest level by winning prestigious 'Nuffield Bursaries' to enable them to carry out top class research during the forthcoming Summer holidays.



Three Lower Sixth students were rewarded with places, having competed with hundreds of other applicants from all over the North-West. They follow a long line of St. Mary's scientists who have achieved such success in recent years.

Claire Redmond (left) will spend four weeks with Dr. Andrew England of the Medical Imaging Department at the University of Liverpool, researching new techniques in this fascinating field. Christopher Forshaw (right) will work alongside Dr. Anna O'Connor in the Division of Orthoptics at the University of Liverpool, studying eye diseases. Finally, Tim Old (centre) will be working alongside Dr. Fiona Gibbs of the University of Liverpool Cancer Research Centre.

Science Co-ordinator, Mr. Johnston, who helps to organise these placements, said "I am extremely envious of the opportunity these students have been given to do such exciting research. Every year, some of our students manage to win a place despite the stiff competition they face. I'm sure they will love every minute and I look forward to hearing about it in September."

Chester Zoo Trip - Year 7





Summer Ball

The 2009 St Mary's College Summer Ball has once again proved to be one of the highlights of the school social calendar. Around 200 guests attended this year's event which was held on Saturday in the spectacular surroundings of the Golden Miller Suite in the Earl of Derby Stand at Aintree Racecourse.



Above: organisers of the successful event - from left committee members Catherine Newell, Annette Leech, Anita Purcell and Ian Clarke.



Above: Dr & Mrs Lane, Mr & Mrs Kennedy, Mr & Mrs Collins.

Below: Mr Magill with Head Girl Alex McKenna and Head Boy Peter Murphy.



Mount highlights!




Year 3 Mount pupils make their First Holy Communion



Story teller Michael Quinn; former St Mary's pupil

NOW BOOKING!



Friends of St. Mary's
FIDEM VITA FATERI

90 CELEBRATING
1919 NINETY YEARS OF
2009 EXCELLENCE
IN EDUCATION

Annual Dinner

2009

Saturday 21st November
7.00 pm for 7.30 pm
The Marriott Hotel
1 Queen Square
Liverpool
L1 1RH

Principal Speaker:
Lord John Birt

Tickets: £35 each
Carriages: 1am
Black Tie

Tickets are now available from the Main Office at the College 0151 924 3926

