

All Saints Catholic High School AUTUMN NEWS

November 2009



Work starts on our new school on
30 November 2009



I am delighted to inform you that the plans for the redevelopment of All Saints and the co-location with Seven Hills have now been approved and preliminary work will begin on 30 November 2009. This means that a new student and pedestrian entrance will be created further up Granville Road and that there will no longer be access for vehicles through the main entrance. All vehicles will be required to use the entrance via the Sports Hall on Norfolk Park Road. Actual building work will begin after February half term following which there will be a new school reception alongside the Hallam block. In order to prepare for this the school will be closed for students in Years 7 to 10 for 5 additional days. These five days will be either side of the half term period. The school will therefore be closed to students in Years 7 to 10 on Wednesday 10 February 2010 and will reopen on Wednesday 24 February 2010. Students who are in Years 11, 12 and 13 will be required to attend all or part of the week depending on their particular circumstances. Individual timetables for these students will be sent out before the end of term.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

As you may already be aware, the school uses an on-line system called **E-Portal** via which it is possible for you to gain access to information about your child/children such as attendance, reports and commendations etc. Accompanying this letter is a sheet which provides you with usernames and passwords to enable you to access this facility. Also on the sheet is a link to an on-line user guide which will help you gain the most benefit from the system.



In order to facilitate improved communication with parents, the school has invested in a **text service** which will allow us to send you important information for example a forthcoming parents' evening or, in the case of inclement weather, inform you of any necessary school closures. In order to ensure that we have your correct contact details we ask that you check the information on the pre-completed form included. If alterations are required, please make these on the form and return it to us via your child's form tutor at your earliest convenience. Please return the form if your details are correct, indicating that no changes are required. A return envelope has been provided for your convenience.



I am delighted to report that for the third year running we have again produced our best results. The percentage of students achieving 5 or more A* – C grades has risen from 70% to 76% and the percentage including English and mathematics has risen from 48% to 54%. At A level our pass rate continues to be very high and well above the national average. These results reflect the hard work and dedication of students and staff.

I am sure that as parents you will be pleased to know that we expect these results to continue to rise and that we are looking forward to further success next year.

LOTTERY FUND

Be a Winner...with the All Saints Lottery Fund

Over many years the school has benefitted greatly from the financial support offered by parents, carers and friends through the Diocesan Building Fund and Target 2000 in addition to other charity fundraising activities and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for this support. A school lottery fund has been developed in order to continue to support the Diocesan Building Fund. The cost of joining the lottery is £1 per week and a weekly draw is held with prize money of approximately £40. This scheme will also provide funds for our favourite charities, such as the St Wilfrid's Drop In Centre.



If you would like to participate in the All Saints Lottery Fund please return the lottery form to school via your child's form tutor in the envelope provided. Alternatively you may wish to make a separate donation to the building fund and instructions on how to do this are also on the Lottery form.

ART & PERFORMANCE

On 2 and 3 December 2009, Y11 GCSE Drama students will be performing their mock examination piece which, this year, is *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* by Bertolt Brecht. They have been working hard, learning a brand new way of acting and performing and look set to stun the audience with their high standard of performance. Tickets have been available since the beginning of November and are priced at £2.50 each.

Y13 Drama and Theatre Studies students are currently working on devising their own drama. One has the working title of 'Missing' and deals with the very moving and difficult subject matter of Stockholm Syndrome. The second is a piece dealing with the issue of drug addiction and the effect this can have on those around you.

I look forward to your support with these performances and I know the students are looking forward to showing you just what they are capable of achieving.

TRIPS AND VISITS

Y12 Lake District Residential— As part of their course, the Y12 Geographers spent a week in the Lake District on a residential field study.

It was a very busy week, packed with data collection activities and follow-up work in the evenings. The students worked very hard (on one evening until 10.30 pm!) and were an excellent group.

The activities included a study of land use in the Bassenthwaite area, surveying the beach deposits on the coast at St Bees, a visit to the nuclear facility at Sellafield and a climb up England's third highest mountain, Helvellyn. Perhaps the best was saved until last though - a visit to the Chocolate Shop in Keswick on the last day!

Thanks to Mr Leedham, Mr Adlington and Mrs Voakes, the students now have a firm foundation in the basics of fieldwork data collection and the presentation of their findings. This will stand the group in good stead as they begin preparations for their first examination in January.



SPRING & SUMMMER EVENTS & HOLIDAYS

4 January 2010	Spring Term begins
7 January 2010	Y8 Parents' Evening
13 January 2010	Y10 Parents' Evening
21 January 2010	Y7 Parents' Evening
25 -29 January 2010	Y11 Mock Examinations (plus some Y10 subjects)
3 February 2010	Y9 Parents' Evening
15-19 February 2010	Half Term Holiday
23-25 February 2010	Y12 and Y13 Retreat
4 March 2010	Y9 Further Choices Event
16-18 March 2010	Y10 and Y11 Retreat
24 March 2010	Development Day – school closed to students
2–16 April 2010	Easter Holiday
19 April 2010	Summer Term begins
3 May 2010	May Day Holiday
31 May–4 June 2010	Half Term Holiday
27 May – 1 June 2010	Spanish trip
7 June – 11 June 2010	Alps Trip
21 June 2010	Y12 Higher Education Evening
25 June 2010	Development Day – school closed to students
27 June – 10 July 2010	Y7 French Trips and Y12 French Work Experience
28 June – 9 July 2010	Y10 Work Experience
19 July – 23 July 2010	Flexible Learning Week
26 July 2010	Summer Holiday begins