



LORETO NEWSLETTER

"Be such as you are and appear as you are". Mary Ward

Once again I am very grateful for all the effort and enthusiasm that went into another very successful Lenten fundraising campaign. Over £12,000 was raised and this is a credit to students and their families. GCSE and A Level examinations are now well underway so please remember the students in your prayers. My thanks for your continued support and may I wish you all a restful half-term.

Mrs M Lynch

LENTEN FUNDRAISING

We have now raised over **£12,100** to be distributed to the charities chosen by each year group. You may recall that Karis Rable (10S) was the school's top fundraiser last year and this year she has retained her title by raising an incredible £2,231. She made gifts to sell and donated some of the money she received as confirmation gifts. What an amazing effort! If there is any more sponsor money to be collected, please chase it up and bring it in to school after the half term break.

PE DEPARTMENT

Athletics: Both U14 (Years 7 and 8) and U16 (Years 9 and 10) squads have had a good start to the summer season in the county league athletics fixtures at Westminster Lodge, St Albans and Ridlins, Stevenage. Special mention to Hollie Ofori-Sampong (10F) for finishing in 1st place in the U16 girls 200m sprint, Molly Lawrence (10F) for finishing 1st place in the U16 Girls Javelin and to Saoirse Toohey-Hicks (7F) for coming first in the U14 girls 1500m.

Please note that athletics club is for everyone and lunch time practices for track events will be held on a Tuesday and field events will be held on Thursday. Come down and join in!

Tennis: Congratulations to the following students who have started their tennis matches this half term:

Emma Miles (10J), Evie Turner (10S), Coreena Skipworth (10Y), Julianna Bautista McDonald (9F), Jessica Buzzle (9F), Grace Bond (9S), Kerry Mawn (9T), Margaret McHale (9T), Ella Harburn (8J), O'Donnell (8J), Oksana Wojcik-Jardzioch (8J), Christine Bond (8T), Mikaila Phiri (7F), Amelia Hulatt (7T) and Giuseppina Carnevale (7Y)

U15 have won both games against STAGS and SAHS and have SJL to play. U13 and U14 are settling in to the league well with one game left to play.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Just a couple of reminders from the Music Department:

The Summer Showcase is on Wednesday 26th June from 4:30 until 7:30. It will be a great evening that showcases all of the work done in the arts subjects throughout the year. There will be music, drama performances and an art and technology exhibition with a barbeque and refreshments provided by the PTA. It's an informal evening and you are free to wander around to see the parts of the Showcase that you want to see. We look forward to seeing you there!

The Trinity exam session for this term will be on Thursday 4th July – exact times will follow once they are received from the exam board.

Please can I remind you to make sure that your daughter has their name on their instrument and that they remember to take it home to practise over half-term.

CLASSICS DEPARTMENT

Classics Author - Natalie Haynes

On 7th May our Year 9, 10 and 12 Classics students were given the opportunity to hear from the truly inspirational BBC Radio 4 broadcaster and author, Natalie Haynes.

Natalie is a remarkable speaker and had us hanging on her every word as she explored the feminine truths behind the seemingly masculine ancient Greek myths. Her delivery was clever, funny and ever so insightful. Her latest novel, *A Thousand Ships*, has been released this month and is looking to be another page turner. Many thanks to Natalie for making this afternoon so memorable for everyone who attended.



Internationality Week - Classics Challenge

During our Internationality Week earlier this year, the Classics Department decided to set pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 a 'Classics Challenge'. Their mission: to spread Classics on a GLOBAL SCALE!

Each year group was given a 'mystery' ancient artefact, which they had to investigate and then create an electronic resource. Their objective was to help pupils in schools around the world today learn more about the world in classical times. Four of our international sister schools signed up to use the materials from St Albans with their pupils: Gibraltar (Spain), Pretoria (South Africa), Kolkata (India) and Melbourne (Australia).

The Classics Department were hugely impressed by the standard of work that was produced and we would like to thank all those pupils who participated. Everyone has been awarded with a merit. Sadly though, we could only send off a handful of projects. The winners names, and the destinations for their work, are listed below. We also awarded several students commendations for very good work.

Congratulations girls! In the summer term you will receive formal recognition and a prize (including immortality!) for your outstanding contributions. All the winning entries have been sent off now, and we are looking forward to receiving feedback from our sister schools. We will keep the pupils posted with any updates.

Winners:

Mia Suzuki 7Y - Video presentation (Pretoria, South Africa)
Maya Elliot and Lily Gazza 7S - Newsroom presentation (Gibraltar, Spain)
Amarisa Rrukaj 8T and Emily Perra 8J - PowerPoint worksheets, crime quiz etc. (Pretoria, South Africa)
Emma Staff, Francesca Satik, Ellie-May Brennan 8S - PowerPoint/strigil demonstration. (Pretoria, South Africa)
Glenda Asare-Bekoe 8F - PowerPoint and quiz (Kolkata, India)
Tara Clarke 9T, Henrietta Algaard 9T, Amelia Layne 9T - Tour of Verulamium (Toorak, Australia)

Commendations:

Gabriela Gomez Pavon and Ellie Escuder 7S - Info pack
Adrienne Koppes 7S - Cartoon video
Alafair Reinsford and Aoife Brooks 7S - PowerPoint and quiz sheet
Mackenzie Holt 7T - Poster
Matilda Cremins 7T - PowerPoint
Lily Freeman 7Y - PowerPoint
Klara King 8S, Jessica Kelly 8S and Emanuela Kucera 8S - Board game
Josie Bogle 8T - PowerPoint, quiz, 20 questions
Lottie McCallum 8T - Singing
Ivy Gayon 9T - PowerPoint with timers
Anna Berners Lee 9Y and Sarah Hill 9Y - Scratch animation

LIBRARY NEWS

This term the library has been very focused on the Carnegie Challenge. Our Year 8 'Carnegie Girls' have done a fantastic job of working their way through the short list (8 books) writing reviews and giving them to myself to post on the Carnegie website. We have all agreed that it has widened our reading window, as each of us have read books we would never normally pick up! We are now preparing to visit Beaumont school on the 18th June for the Announcement Day - where our schools will find out who is the winner and our students here will be treated to a lovely lunch and meet the other children from both Beaumont and STAGS who have also participated in this challenge.

We will be able to tell you who won this challenge in the next newsletter.

We are also preparing for the Carnegie winner, Sarah Crossan, to visit early next month. Sarah has just launched her new book 'TOFFEE.'

Sarah's visit will take place in the library on 6th June, where some lucky students will be able to 'interview' her and ask her many questions about her books and the journey she has been on so far. Spaces are limited so please sign up if you would like to be part of this event. She is always a wonderful speaker and very inspirational.

We also have had a flood of new fiction hit our shelves. May is always a time of new releases and we are very fortunate to be able to provide all the latest books in Young Adult Fiction for our readers here—this is perfect timing for the upcoming May break - please pop in and take a new book home. Reading is always a great way to unwind and enjoy a good read.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Key Stage Three

Year 8 students will be sitting their English exam in the week after half term. Students should use their green guidance sheets to help them to plan revision activities in preparation for these exams.

Year 9 students will be studying An Inspector Calls after half term. Copies of this text, which is a GCSE exam text, are available from the School Shop online or money can be given to the Bursar. The cost of this text is £8.25.

All students in Key Stage Three will be preparing performances for the Drama Festival in the final half term. Script writers should be starting to prepare their scripts and students might want to start thinking about props and costumes over the holidays.

Key Stage Four

Year 10 students will be studying Macbeth after half term. Copies should be purchased in advance, and are available from the School Shop online at a cost of £8.10. Alternatively, money can be handed into the Bursar.

Key Stage Five

Year 12 students will be going on a trip to see Death of a Salesman. Any outstanding money or permission slips should be given in as soon as possible. Over the half term holiday, students should be reading their coursework texts and critical anthologies. Year 12 should also start to revise for their end of year exams.

SECOND HAND / NEARLY NEW UNIFORM

With the new academic year fast approaching, please be reminded that the school has a large selection of second hand uniform which has been donated from past pupils. We currently have a large number of skirts, shirts, jumpers and a few small blazers. Both indoor and outdoor PE kit items are also available including tracksuits.

We would be grateful to receive a small charity donation in return for any items that may be of use - please contact Mrs Tunstall if there are any items of interest.

BURSAR'S OFFICE

Trips and Activities:

These are planned many months in advance, necessitating prepayment for tickets, coaches, accommodation etc. Prompt payment by the deadline, preferably by ParentPay, is appreciated for all school visits and activities.



Music Lessons:

We are very happy that so many pupils learn an instrument or have singing lessons in school. Here are a few reminders for all musicians:-

- Remember to tell the subject teacher at the start of the lesson that a music lesson is scheduled for that period and ask to leave 5 minutes beforehand to be at the practice room on time.
- As well as your instrument, bring the correct music, your practice book and a pencil.
- Check your next lesson time on the noticeboard – note it in your homework diary and practice book.
- Practise at home.
- Enjoy making music with others!



Invoices for the Summer term were due for payment by the start of the term. ***Any outstanding fees are overdue and must be settled immediately.*** If you are in arrears with fees, your daughter may not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular trips as the payment of music fees will take priority. Please pay via Parentpay.

Should you decide with your daughter that she no longer wishes to have lessons in school, a notice period is required.

- For individual lessons, a **full half term's** notice to finish is required **in writing to Mrs Caddy, prior to the start of the term/half term.**
- For group or paired lessons, **one full term's** notice to finish is required **in writing to Mrs Caddy, prior to the start of the term/half term**

ParentPay:

As you are aware, school uses the **ParentPay** system for online payments for trips, music fees and dinner money, with a separate **School shop**, where you are able to pay for books, equipment etc. We also send out the majority of our letters to you via **ParentPay** and these can then be accessed in your Parent Account for later reference.



We are unable to amend your contact details on **ParentPay** on your behalf, so please help us by keeping them up -to-date by going to the "I want to" menu and then to "edit profile". If you have more than one pupil at Loreto, you may wish to merge their accounts.

95% of our parents are registered for **ParentPay**; if you haven't done so already please contact the Bursar's office for your registration letter.

Thank you for your co-operation.

PREMISES

Dropping off and collecting your child safely

Some parents are driving into the school grounds to drop off or pick up their children at the beginning and end of the school day. Not only does this cause congestion in and out of school at the busiest times of the day, but it is hazardous for other children. Please can parents be mindful of this and be reminded that they are not allowed to drive in to the school premises at these times, unless they have obtained permission from the Headteacher.

Please can Sixth Form students also be reminded that they are not allowed to park in the school grounds.



What a busy half term for Year 7! Amongst many extra-curricular activities we enjoyed our annual trip to PGL Liddington in Wiltshire.

Thankfully the sun shone and pupils had a wonderful time. As their Head of Year I was extremely proud of their excellent behaviour and it was wonderful to see them encourage each other on many of the activities.

Thank you to staff and sixth formers for their support which is paramount to our trip's success.

I hope everyone has a well-earned rest over the half term break.

Mrs Caulfield – Head of Year 7

On Wednesday 15th May we went on our Year 7 trip to PGL.

As we all settled on the lawn, we were put into groups and allocated our group leader. We were all full of excitement and couldn't wait to get there.

The coach journey was, however, longer than we expected but this did not stop the joyful mood we were all in. When we arrived we had lunch and then two extremely fun activities. My group started off with archery. I tried to aim for the bullseye but it always went in a totally different direction!

Next we had the giant swing. Kate and I were pulled to the top, looking down horrified us, but we did it! Afterwards we were told which rooms we were in. My friends and I couldn't go to sleep!

When it came to the morning we were all extremely lethargic.....indeed. We then enjoyed lots of other activities like climbing, vertical challenge, aero ball, orienteering, wacky races and many more!

Overall PGL was an amazing experience and we all had so much fun. All of us were very sad to return.

By Helen Kozlowski 7J



LITURGY IN LORETO

Lenten fundraising is now complete. Fundraising activities were carried out by individuals and groups and money raised will go to the charity selected by each year group. Some forms and individuals made a great effort and raised a very impressive amount of money.

Masses continue to be held every Friday at lunchtime, each one prepared by a Key Stage 3 form. We had two special Masses this term. The Year 11 Mass took place on 10 May and the Year 13 Leavers Mass took place on 17 May. Our prayers are with these students as they begin their GCSE and A-Level examinations.

JPIC

Our new Sixth Form leaders have been very busy this term with a focus on Sustainable St Albans, which is a campaign taking place in Hertfordshire. All KS3 forms completed surveys about their plastic waste with a particular focus on water bottles. Many have expressed that they understand the importance of re-useable water bottles and wanted to learn more about how their usage impacts on the environment. The Sixth Form prefects then led lessons during one of their R.E. sessions. They watched clips on waste in the oceans, read and discussed media articles on this and what they think should be done. The lesson ended with a debate in which every member of the class participated with passion and enthusiasm; students were able to present their thoughts showing a deep understanding. We will continue this into next term with a focus on sustainability at Loreto.



Wow is a feminist group comprising Form Representatives from Years 7-10 led by two Year 12 students. We aim to promote gender equality, challenge gender stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of girls and women.

The WoW Reps felt so inspired by the successful campaign to take action on Period Poverty they were keen to see if they could help a local food bank with any other much needed supplies as many were shocked to discover that there is a local need for many families for everyday items. Between them they collected two full shopping bags which will be taken to the food bank by one of the WoW student leaders.

We were delighted to hear that the government announced it would extend its commitment to providing free sanitary products in secondary schools and colleges to **primary schools** in England from the next school year in an effort to tackle Period Poverty. One of the reasons these government policies came about is due to the activism of an 18 year old school student called Amika George who started a campaign called 'Free Periods' to end Period Poverty because she was so outraged to hear that girls were missing school in the UK. She joined up with other campaigning organisations to lobby the government and two years later this fantastic change has come about. It's exciting that **young activists** like Amika and Greta Thunberg are making a positive impact on our society and are leading the charge for change.

During our weekly meetings there have been interesting discussions and debates on the following topics:

- what is a feminist identity?
- the need for non-gendered clothing
- toxic masculinity

The topic that created the most heated exchange was on toxic masculinity as ideas and questions were batted backwards and forwards. However, there was agreement that gender stereotypes can be very damaging, limiting both men and women and should be acknowledged and challenged.

Ms Daniells Conroy and Ms McLauchlan