



CELEBRATING THE WORK OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACROSS THE DIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK



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Celebrating Home Learning at St John's



The school was very proud of the children for their efforts in Home Learning during the summer term. There were opportunities to practise their maths skills and reading skills as well as investigate topics through Science, Geography, PE, PSHE etc.

It was also a time of learning how to tie shoelaces, how to bake a cake or cook a meal, how to take care of plants as well as how to perfect their football moves or play a new piece on the piano. Home Learning was not always easy and learning perseverance and resilience was among the many things that children will have learnt during this time.

Ursuline College Sixth Form Raised £181.43 for CAFOD

On Friday 9th October the Sixth Form at Ursuline College wore their own clothes and raised £181.43 for CAFOD.

They also donated food for the Margate and Ramsgate Churches food bank. As CAFOD tweeted: 'This is wonderful. Thank you so much. How gorgeous to have a double act for CAFOD and the local food bank.' Students in the lower school watched the CAFOD National Assembly and completed pledge cards based on the theme 'The world we want.' We have displayed these so that we can be reminded daily of our role in the global community.



Results Days 2020 are Like None That Have Come Before

In a year like no other 'A' level and GCSE results days were set to be uncertain this year and by the time August came students and families were confused and worried by the constantly changing headlines around the examinations this year.

'A' Level results day at Bishop Thomas Grant School presented an exciting challenge for staff advisors as students faced the unprecedented lottery of results produced by this year's grading systems. Already at 6 a.m. in the morning, Head of Sixth Form Ms Levenson was texting her colleagues with strategies to ensure that all students would be able to leave the school with firm direction for the future.

And so it proved to be. Very good news was in store for Emily, Emma, Abbey and Emmanuel, all of whom secured their Oxbridge places, setting a new record for the school. (Emily, Classics at Wadham College, Oxford; Abbey History at New College Oxford; Emma Classics at Christ's College, Cambridge and Emmanuel Philosophy at his name sake College at Cambridge. Other top grade achievers included Roberta (going to Durham University to study History), Sid (Lancaster University, Theoretical Physics with Maths).

Most students secured the grades they needed for their universities to study a wide range of subjects including Creative Writing, Practical Film Making, Animation, Veterinary Nursing, Drama and Performance along with traditional subjects such as Sociology, Politics, Physics, Computer Science and Architecture. And of course we cannot forget Rafael who is celebrating after securing a full scholarship to study Global cultural studies at Duke University, North Carolina USA.



Some students chose apprenticeship routes such as Chimezie with an apprenticeship at a top software company marketing salesforce, Isabelle who starts an apprenticeship with a top finance house and Richard who starts a Broadcast Engineering apprenticeship with the BBC. The school was not surprised to hear Richard's interviewers report that he "performed brilliantly at our assessment centre". They can all look forward to exciting times ahead!

BTEC results pushed on to new heights of success with a record 18 students gaining triple Distinction*, the equivalent of 3 A* at 'A' Level, enabling students such as Leandro to undertake his degree course at Queen Mary College in Business Management and Marketing, Szymon, (Surrey University, Business Management), Kaylin will take a gap year and Jaden will go to Surrey University to read Sports and Exercise Science. One particular success was Rui who achieved a massive 4 Distinction* and now faces the enviable position of deciding which apprenticeship he should pursue!

There was also as much to celebrate as students gathered at Bishop Thomas Grant School on GCSE results day. For many students it was the first opportunity they had in five months to see their friends and teachers, and the added bonus of another fittingly excellent set of GCSE results ensured that students secured places in the school Sixth Form for the forthcoming year.

Some remarkable performances included the perfect 9 scored by both Maelle, who will be taking 'A' levels in French, English and History in the Sixth Form, and Evan, who both achieved grade 9 in all 10 of his GCSEs. Tobiasz scored grade 9 in 10 of his 11 GCSEs and will take 4 A levels, in Computing, Maths, French and Classical Civilisation. Tobias was the busiest student on results day collecting results from his 12 GCSEs (English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Studies, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computing, Latin, French, Polish and Art and Design) and plans to pursue his future by studying Maths, Physics and Computing at 'A' level in the school Sixth Form. Tom can be very proud of himself in being awarded a grade 9 in GCSE Classical Civilisation, an achievement which becomes even more impressive bearing in mind that this was achieved with only an hour's worth of lesson time over a year and a half!

St Joseph's Eco Bricks Challenge



'We hope that we can make a big difference by recycling, so we can help look after our beautiful world.'

Inspired by Pope Francis' Laudato Si message the Faith Council group of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Putney started on a whole school project based on recycling plastic. Supported by St Joseph's Eco warriors and the CAFOD club they came up with a fantastic plan to start a whole school community challenge to create a cross made entirely from recycled plastic for the new school prayer garden.

St Joseph's School Faith Council shared their vision during assemblies and in their classes to encourage the recycling of plastics and to reduce plastic ending up in rivers, lakes and landfill sites. They asked everyone in our school community to bring in Eco bricks, which are essentially recycled plastic bottles filled to the brim with used, soft plastic. It was great to see the enthusiasm and the involvement of everyone who brought in their Eco bricks.

The eco bricks were then assembled into a beautiful cross where it supported collective worship and prayers for the Stations of the Cross for different year groups. The children love their new cross in the prayer garden and feel really proud of their achievement and empowered that they could make a positive contribution through recycling.

As the school moved into lockdown over the last couple of months, learning based on the Pope's Laudato Si message and finding more ways to look after our environment continued in our online classrooms. It was fantastic to see the wonderful responses from children all the way from Nursery up to Key Stage 2 with their hopes and prayers for our world.

'We hope that everyone will be trying harder than ever to treasure our world!'

Laleham Lea School Pupils Support Purley Food Hub



Laleham Lea School in Purley dropped off their Harvest Festival collection at Purley Food Hub this week to help support local families in crisis.

Over 350 items including pasta, tinned vegetables, cereal and deodorant were donated by Laleham Lea families to the Purley-based charity who are urgently requesting donations in the run up to the Christmas period.

Ms Barry, Headteacher at Laleham Lea said: "We are delighted to be able to help Purley Food Hub with our Harvest Donation once again this year and I would like to thank all our families and staff for their generosity in these difficult times."

"Helping those in need is a key part of our Catholic ethos here at Laleham

Lea and we hope that this donation helps in some small way to support the fantastic work that the Food Hub does for the local community."

Trevor Jones, Chair of Purley Food Hub Trustees, said: "We were delighted to receive the huge donation of food from Laleham Lea on Wednesday. We have never been so busy at the Food Hub as we are now during the Coronavirus pandemic, so we are most thankful to Laleham Lea and other local schools, churches, organisations and individuals who are so generously supporting us.

So far this year we have provided over 36,000 meals to crisis-hit clients and their families - that's already 6,000 more than in the whole of 2019, with the busy winter and Christmas period still to come - and last month, we passed 200,000 meals overall since we opened in 2013."

Ursuline High School Commends 'Dedication and Resilience' of Year 13 Students

(This photo was taken prior to COVID-19) Regarding the Ursuline High School 'A' Level and Vocational examination results. Headteacher Ms Waters said; "Congratulations to all our Year 13 on gaining their places at University I am so proud of the commitment, dedication and resilience students have shown throughout their time at Ursuline. They are extraordinary young women. Students have accepted places at a range of Universities including Mathematics at Keble College Oxford, Medicine at Exeter, Biomedical Sciences at Nottingham, Computer Science at Brunel, Geography at Leeds, English Language and Linguistics at Cardiff, Psychology at Edinburgh, and Communication Studies at St Mary's. The diversity of courses and Universities are amazing! I wish all our students every success and happiness."



Notre Dame Meets PC David Campbell



Notre Dame pupils and students from Brandon Baptist Church met with Borough Commander Colin Wingrove on the 14th October to talk about improving trust and confidence in the police; they were accompanied by the school Police Liaison Officer PC David Campbell.

Mr Wingrove was very impressed with Jane Mills and Emmanuella Otukpe who represented the group. We spoke about forming a relationship with him, the previous commander Simon Messenger's pledge to stop tweeting pictures of confiscated knives, and our thoughts around youth safety.

Jane co-chaired the meeting and Emmanuella highlighted the questions young people have around the use of the Territorial Support Group (TSG) in London.

Mr Wingrove agreed to meet with the group at least twice a year, informed us of activities the police hold that we would be invited to, career opportunities in the police and how he would bring Superintendent Karen Findley (who is in charge of the TSG) to the next meeting.

We were happy with the outcome of the first meeting and look forward to working together with the police around this campaign.