

September 2019



ALL SAINTS

CATHOLIC COLLEGE

ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE



FOREWORD | MR A O'NEILL

The beginning of any new academic year always brings excitement and this year is no different. In fact, there is even more to celebrate than usual. As we begin the year, we celebrate the astounding exam successes of our outgoing Year 11 students and we reflect upon how we can help our new Year 11s achieve even more. It is also a tremendous honour to welcome our newest students into Year 7 and spend time helping them to settle into our community.

Academic years also so often bring resolutions and promises to find your better self, but it is self-discipline that is required in order to see this last beyond September alone. In this particular year, having rewritten our school Mission, we pray that as a staff we will do an even better job in the formation of our young people so that they reach a "fullness of life" (John 10:10).

In order for us to succeed at this, a close and supportive working relationship with families is required, we hope that throughout this year, and in the years to come, our relationships with you the parents, deepens and forges so as to bring out the best in the children placed









Academic Excellence

The fourth Thursday in August strikes fear into the heart of every single teacher, every year, like a guillotine descending with its final judgement on the work of that year. For students, it is much worse. For them it is the culmination of twelve years of study and the end of their formal secondary education. A student's GCSE results determine their future and also unlock the opportunities that they so often yearn for, they will be inscribed onto every application form, be it university or job, that that student writes henceforth. The collective job of every teacher in a school is to ensure that students do their very best and that results day is one to celebrate. There are always tears on GCSE results day, both of joy and regret, which often makes it quite an emotional day for all involved.

This year at All Saint Catholic College, the tears were predominantly of joy. This year's GCSE results heralded the best the school has ever seen and really set in stone our reputation as a quality Catholic school delivering a high quality education for

students. 93% of our students secured a pass grade in English with 44% being at a grade 7 or above, a staggering result for any school. 73% of students attained their Mathematics GCSE. We are confident that our Religious Education results will stand amongst the very best of any school in the Diocese of Westminster with 94% passing the course and nearly 60% of grades being at a grade 7 or above. Quite remarkably 18% were awarded a grade 9 - the highest grade possible, and more than double that of the national average.

How have we come so far as a school in the past three years? The work of teaching staff at all levels has been relentless. The deep immersion into research surrounding teaching and the embedding of this into the practice of everyday learning. Furthermore, as a school we have had a steadfast commitment to ensuring that we recruit top quality teachers, who share our ambition and have the drive to ensure top quality results.





The Head Girl

Rama Thabet

“The student leadership team is an integral part of life at All Saints Catholic College. It is an opportunity for students to grow and appreciate the importance of leadership through service and commitment.

Being part of a Catholic school has made me realise that good leadership is not about exerting control or wielding power over others, but, leadership is about communication with everybody in order to continue to make All Saints an empowering community of leaders. Ultimately, leadership is about being a role model to others.

Catholic education has encouraged me to reflect upon the tenets of Catholic teaching like, kindness, stewardship and possessing a generosity of spirit. These values underpin the important qualities of being a successful leader. These values have helped to shape my own actions throughout my time at this school.

As the Head Girl at All Saints Catholic College, I aim to demonstrate these values in my actions and I hope to encourage others to follow in the same path. For me, this is what being Head Girl is all about.”





The Headteacher's Award

All schools give out prizes and rewards but at All Saints we take great care and consideration about the prestige of the achievements of our students. At All Saints, the most prestigious award of the year is the Headteacher's Award which recognises the achievement of a student who has not only achieved academic success, but has made a significant contribution to the wider life of the school which sometimes can go unnoticed. This year the Headteacher's Award went to Ruth Taddy. A truly deserved winner.

It is fair to say the award

took Ruth by surprise. As Mr O'Neill whittled down the potential winners, he announced that our 2018-2019 Headteacher's Award champion was in the school choir, a year 8 student, and an individual who has contributed substantially to the schools Performing Arts department. Students around the hall were wildly speculating as to who the sought-after Headteacher's Award trophy would go to. Upon Mr O'Neill announcing Ruth as the winner, the hall erupted in cheers and applause, and Ruth nearly fell off the stage in shock.

It was very clear to see that Ruth had absolutely no idea her name would be the one called out by Mr O'Neill, which makes her success all the more brilliant and well-deserved. Ruth is a student who far from them seeking out attention, praise and recognition, consistently works hard and engages in every lesson, building fantastic relationships with staff and students alike. It is a reminder that the Headteacher's Award is not only for the students who obtain top grades, but the students who work tirelessly to achieve the best they can.

Since joining us from Nigeria in January 2018, Ruth has vastly contributed to the Performing Arts life at All Saints, having taken part in our two annual productions of 'Sister Act' and 'Annie'. She is a long-standing member of the school choir as well as an altar-server, both testament to her continuous dedication to the Catholic Life of the school. Again, the numerous roles and responsibilities Ruth has undertaken during her short time here is a testament to the vast positive impact she has had within the All Saints community. Not only that, but Ruth permanently walks around with a smile on her face, is polite to all she meets and is undoubtedly the embodiment of a model All Saints student. Well done Ruth. A genuine role model to us all.





A time to retreat

At All Saints Catholic College, all year groups have the opportunity to enjoy an annual retreat within their Form groups. Year seven students are taken off-site to the Sisters of Sion Convent to enjoy a magnificent retreat on the theme of 'community'. Led by the School Chaplain, Therese, and their Form Tutor they enjoy a day filled with team building, games and reflections.

The aim of the day is for each student to gain a solid understanding of what it means to be part of All Saints Catholic College. During the day, students work together to prepare a *shared lunch*. The purpose of this is to give students the opportunity to serve one another.

After listening to the words of Matthew, 'The feeding of the five thousand' students are asked to reflect on how Jesus came to serve others and how they can demonstrate this within their Form Group. After the feast, students contemplate the different qualities they have and what qualities they can bring into All Saints Catholic College. Students contemplate the unique attributes they have and how together they can truly make a difference within our community.









In the spirit of St Aloysius

The start of any new school can be a daunting challenge for a student. At All Saints Catholic College, Year 7 students have an extraordinary beginning to their secondary school experience. It is yet another start to an exciting new chapter in the All Saints community. From the first week, the students are thrown into a range of co-curricular activities, homework clubs, and so much more. The pace of new school life is incessant. Any student wants to make their mark, working really hard and getting involved in all the after school activities.

For Jack Devaney, life at All Saints proved to be a wonderful success to date. Jack enjoyed participating in the chess club, the debating society and was a keen member of the football matches after school throughout

the course of last year. Jack was happy to throw himself into all the different parts of school life, including demonstrating a willingness to be generous with his time in helping out with open evenings and other school events.

In the summer Jack Devaney was the inaugural winner of the All Saints Aloysius Award for the best overall boy in Year 7. A remarkable achievement for a young man who was happy to be an active participant in school life from the outset. Jack states how he was in “a state of disbelief” on realising he had won the prestigious award, celebrating a student’s willingness to be an active and successful member of the school community. Jack’s “shock” at his achievement was

was written all over his face when the announcement took place on the celebration day. Jack was happy to give some advice to the new Year 7 students as they embark on their exciting new journey in secondary school, advice which would be helpful to any student! The chess, the art, football and tag rugby clubs were important in helping Jack to appreciate school both inside the classroom and outside it too. Jack says that students will “get to grips with everything” when they are happy to put themselves forward for as many clubs and teams as possible.

The school community is a vital component in any student’s life and for Jack, All Saints Catholic College has been a winner. Jack is delighted with his “new teachers” and their “fun” lessons. When asked who his favourite teacher is, Jack is unequivocal, it is Mr Ashford, for being an “amazing Maths teacher”. Jack is certainly keen on building from his brilliant first year at the school.





"I really like my new
tutor Mr Forshaw, he
has made me feel so
welcome at the
school."

Stefanos, Year 7



3RD SEPTEMBER

First day at secondary school

**START
OF THE
YEAR**

**FIRST
DAY**

6TH S

Choose your

YEAR 7

2019-2020

21ST MAY

Feedback to your parents

**PARENTS'
EVENING**

MA

A

**PUPIL
PROGRESS
2**

15TH - 19TH June

Review of learning

**END OF
YEAR
EXAMS**

A trip



OCTOBER

Reflect on your start at All Saints

FRESHERS
FAIR

Y7
RETREAT

ALL
SAINTS
DAY

SEPTEMBER

For Extra-curricular activities

1ST NOVEMBER

Our Feast Day

PUPIL
PROGRESS
1

19TH DECEMBER

Lunch served by your teachers

SPRING
CONCERT

CHRISTMAS
LUNCH

CHRISTMAS
CONCERT

MARCH 2020

musical review

18TH DECEMBER

Our school Christmas celebration

20TH JULY

A week of extra curricular fun

FORM
DAY TRIP

ACTIVITIES
WEEK

CELEBRATION
DAY

END
OF
YEAR

JULY

Start out with your form

23RD JULY

A celebration of your first year



Natali Dragic

Former student Natali Dragic caught up with our Deputy Headteacher, Mr Aykroyd to talk about her time within our school community. Natali is a former Head Girl who has gone on to a highly successful career with the confectionary giant Mondelez. Until recently she was an Associate Governor with at All Saints and only relinquished this post as she has now taken on a new position with her company in Singapore.

Why did you choose our school?

I went to the open day at primary school and straight away I just knew it was the school for me. Everyone seemed very friendly and the art department was incredible.

Were you nervous when you first started and why?

I was very nervous. I was worried that I wouldn't make any friends as I was the only person that came from my primary school. However, within the first week I made friends with four girls who are still my best friends today.

What were your first impressions when you came to the school?

Fun, friendly & lots of opportunities to learn new things!

What did you like about the school the most and why?

The teachers. I was always supported to follow my passions and given so many opportunities to try new things with after school clubs and activities.

What were your favourite subjects and why?

Maths, because I loved problem solving. Art, because I loved being able to express myself in new ways.

What do you think were your best achievements and why?

Balancing being head girl with completing my GCSE's in year 11 - I had to really prioritise where I spent my my time and I found it tough at times, but it was completely worth it!

How have these helped as you have gone through your life?

Everything that I do in my work requires me to really prioritise my time and juggle a number of different projects—the school taught me how to do this very well! I'm also the first person to volunteer to take on new projects and give 100% to try new things at work - this came from the work ethic that the school taught me.

Was there anything that you didn't like about school and why?

Nothing! I loved my time there and still miss it so much

Is there anything you wish you had done differently at school and why?

I wish I worried less. My advice would have be to work hard and learn as much as you can at school. Everything else will fall into place and no one needs to know exactly what they want to do when they're young!



Premises



At All Saints, we continue our drive improvements the learning environment for your child. Once again in 2019 we have been successful in our bids for additional capital funding with grants from both the Diocese and the Local Authority supporting our school improvement. This summer we completed a £280,000 renovation of two science laboratories, adding to the two completed last year. The Science department now boasts four state of the art Science teaching rooms, with the internal structure completely refurbished, new windows installed, and new fixtures, benches and stools included. In addition, over the summer holidays we renovated a suite of Maths classrooms, and a further Humanities classroom in the North block, repainting, laying new carpet and putting in new tables and chairs.

Over the past 12 months we have transformed 13 teaching rooms and we will continue to seek out funding that will allow us to provide the best possible learning environment for your

child.

At the same time we remodelled our office space, redesigning student Services and moving Heads of Year into a bespoke area, allowing us to create a conference room on the ground floor alongside reception.

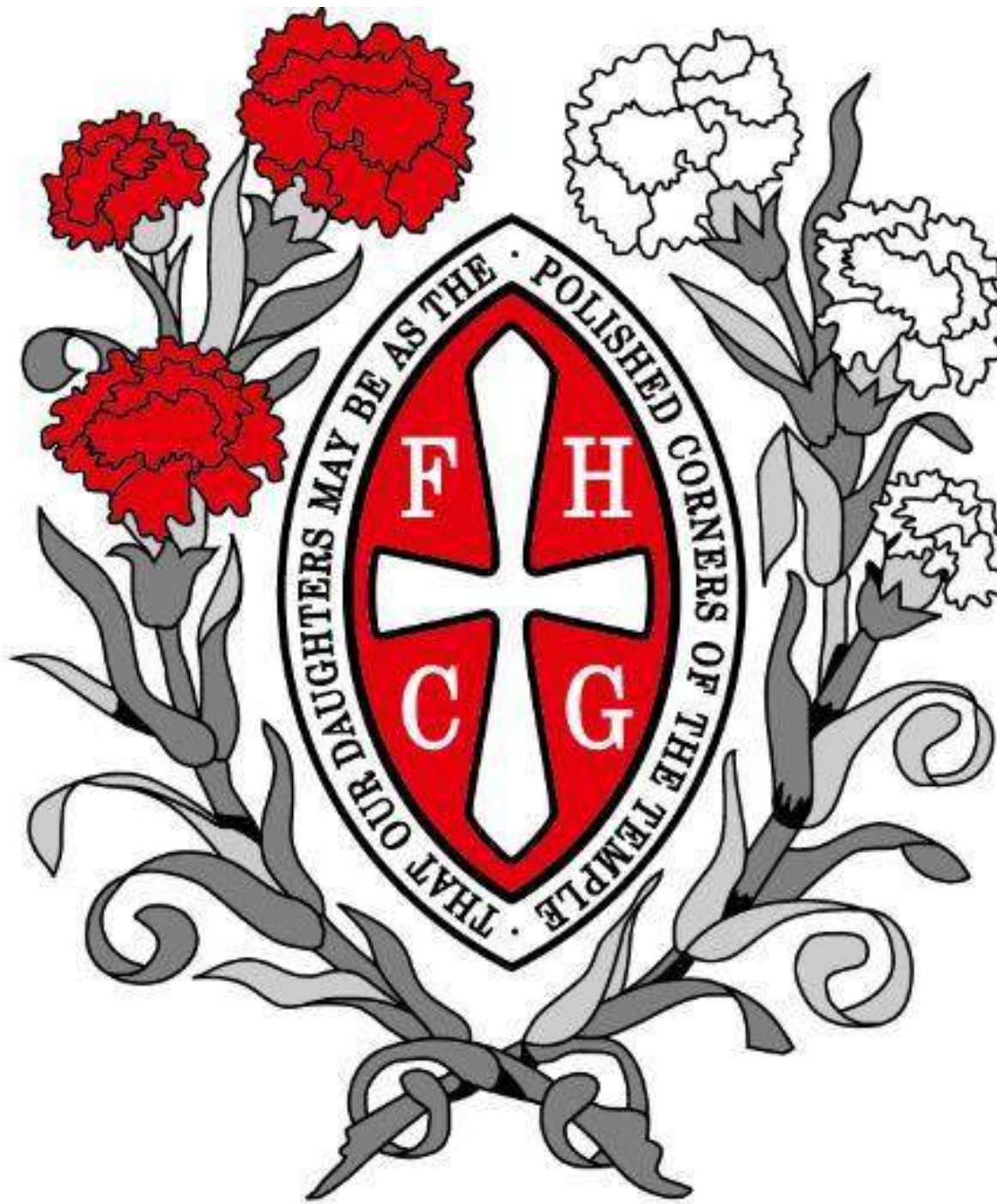
This term we have begun an exciting refurbishment project to complete our works in our South block, with a capital grant from RBKC to refurbish the second floor. Work has begun to transform underused office space into a dedicated SEN teaching area, with a large classroom and smaller break out rooms, a kitchen, and the SENDCo office. We hope to be in these new rooms by October half term.

Finally we are delighted to announce that the launch of our new canteen service 'Gastro' has been very well received by staff and students alike. The cafeteria style service offers hot and cold lunches, a range of sandwiches, wraps and baguettes, snacks and drinks and is open at break and lunchtime.

"I have loved being in my Science lessons as well as joining all of the new clubs and activities on offer. There are so many to choose from."

Stella, Year 7





Forging Relationships

The academic success of our students has become a talking point not only amongst parents and Headteachers but also other highly reputable private schools. The Francis Holland School, Regents Park, has a long history of success with students and is a highly sought after school for many families in London, however with its £21,000 per year school fee, it is not immediately available to everyone.

Last academic year, our Headteacher Mr O'Neill met and forged a strong working relationship with Charles Fillingham, the Headteacher of the fee-paying Francis Holland School in Baker Street. As part of this working

relationship, Mr Fillingham has offered eight of our students the opportunity to sit their entrance exam for the Sixth Form and has also agreed to waive the fee £150. If successful, the school is willing to fund up to four of our students for their time in the Sixth Form - this is the equivalent of £42,000 per student or £168,000 in total.

Once again this demonstrates the reputation of high academic success our school has demonstrated alongside forging fantastic working relationships with other highly successful schools.

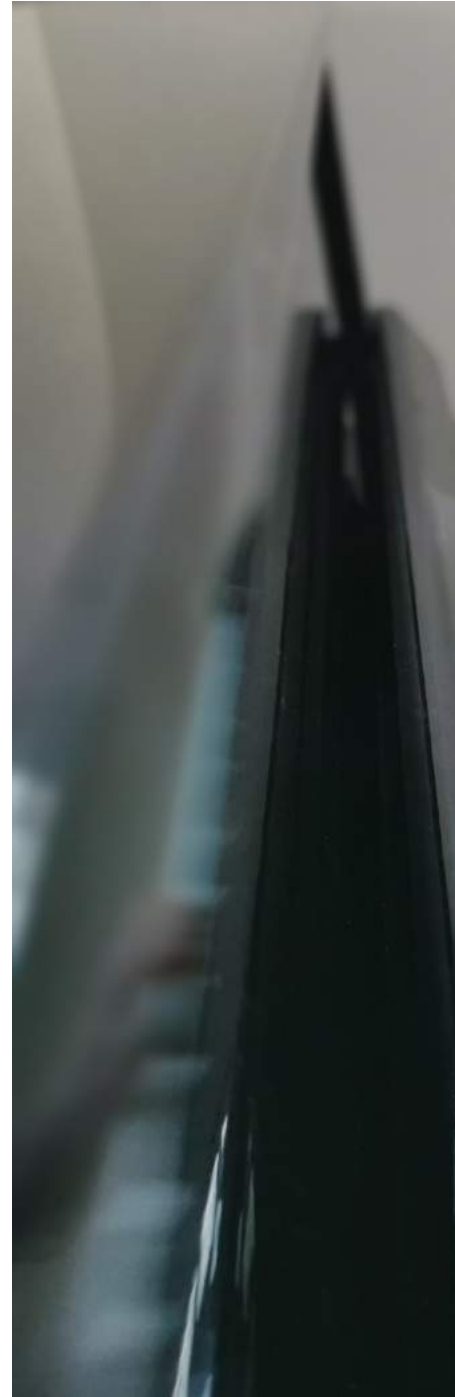
A musical transformation

In September 2018 Ms Wilkinson returned to All Saints Catholic College and saw first hand the transformation that had taken place since she had left in 2015. She then set about on a remarkable transformation of the Performance Department which, over the last twelve months has been incredible to witness. We now wait with anticipation what the future holds for this ever growing department and the high calibre performances of students that we have been lucky enough to behold over the past year. Here is Ms Wilkinson in her own words; sharing her passion with music and hopes for the department in the future:

“Ever since I can remember, music has played a significant role in my life.

Whatever mood you are in, there’s a piece of music to match it. Any event you go to, there will be music to enhance it. Wherever you go in the world, there will be different music to experience. I love how music can bring people together from different cultures and yet you seem to share a universal understanding or enjoyment. For me, music is far more than just something you listen to in the background and it didn’t take me long to realise that I wasn’t somebody who could simply listen to music, I wanted to learn how to play it. Most of all, to me music is a lot of fun, I get such a buzz from performing with a group of people – there’s nothing quite like it.

I was fortunate enough to have a supportive family who encouraged me to try things out





as long as I put the work in. Music was always my biggest passion and although my primary school music education was good, unfortunately my secondary school music education wasn't nearly as encouraging. I went to a large state school where my peers didn't take music seriously in the lower years and when we got to higher education, the main focus was with popular music, because that was what the teachers knew. I was classically trained – a violinist primarily. I found myself going to a Saturday school where I could play in an orchestra and study with likeminded musicians and expert teachers. I love learning and music always inspired me the most. Apart from the more obvious reasons for becoming a teacher – the fact I am passionate about music and enjoy working with young people, –a huge part of why I became a teacher was because I wanted to expose young minds to a quality music education and increase their musical opportunities. Most significantly, I wanted to help tackle the socio-economic disadvantage which is still so prevalent in music. It is not fair that the children who can afford private music education get to

experience so much more simply because of their early exposure to learning an instrument. Everyone deserves access to a great music education, regardless of their background.

The Performing Arts are incredibly valuable in schools. Performance subjects, although just as academically enriching, are a brilliant outlet for students to be creative and explore their own personalities. The best thing about Performing Arts, in my opinion, is that it significantly helps to develop the 'whole' child. Being a musician teaches you resilience, self-confidence, patience, organisation and also how to work with a range of characters, take direction and lead others. Furthermore, music has been scientifically proven to increase concentration and overall intelligence, which will directly help students in their school lives.

The students at All Saints Catholic College are a delight to teach. I am continuously impressed with how open they are to varying genres of music and how eager they are to be challenged. They know that music is a great skill to have and I particularly love how supportive







eve kentish photography

capturing your moments



they are of one another when it comes to performing.

Music at All Saints Catholic College is on a very exciting journey. We have excellent facilities to support our pupil's music education – we have a whole class set of keyboards which connect to our Apple Mac computers. We recently purchased Logic Pro as a professional platform for our pupils to compose their own music and in particular for our GCSE students to create high quality pieces of coursework. We have violins for our string orchestra and a set of steel pans.

We also have a class set of ukuleles and guitars. We have electronic instruments and recording equipment. A new addition to the department is a class set of djembe drums! It's fair to say that whatever music our pupils are inspired by, we are able to accommodate. Our extra-curricular music clubs are growing each year and participation in mass and other celebrations and events is getting stronger each time. It is

my vision for our choir, steel pan group and string orchestra to grow even bigger and to eventually tour! I want our students to share their musical talents in the wider community and create lasting memories of their performance experiences which they can take forward with them in the future. I personally will never forget the school plays and concerts I performed in when I was young!

My proudest teaching moments are always when I get to watch my pupils perform in school concerts – watching the end result of months of hard practise and often anxiety. The moment when they breathe a sigh of relief and a gigantic smile stretches across their faces when they recognise their families applauding in the audience and they realise all the hard work was well worth it. I love to see students feel proud of their accomplishments and to witness their confidence grow but the best part is when they ask when the next concert will be!"

Ms Wilkinson began teaching in...



"I have really like playing football as well as my Art lessons."

Manar, Year 7

Open Evening

Wednesday
2nd October
6.30pm





“I have come so
that you may have
life, life in all its
fullness.”

John 10:10