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All Hallows Catholic College Magazine

Michaelmas and Christmas Review 2021



Honourable Purpose | Respect | Co-operation | Stewardship | Compassion

A Welcome from the Principal



‘Those who walked in the dark have seen a bright light.

And it shines upon everyone who lives in the land of the darkest shadows.’

Isaiah 9:2

Welcome to the Aspire Magazine, reviewing the Autumn term 2021. It has been a long, busy term with plenty of opportunities for our young people to shine, despite the continuing challenges presented by COVID-19.

GCSE & A Level exams were by Centre-Assessed Grades, and despite it being a very time-consuming process for staff, and hard work, particularly for the young people, they came through it all with some fantastic achievements, showing an incredible amount of resilience, positivity and character.

Our new Year 7 students have settled in really well, and as well as celebrating the first whole-year Mass in College since the start of the pandemic, they were also the first year group to go on a residential Retreat for nearly two years. Students from all Year groups participated in our Open Evening – the first opportunity we have had for a long time, to welcome visitors into College, to see what a fantastic school we are. We have had Geography field-trips, a Performing Arts trip to London, History & Music trips, and Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions.

Yet again our students, parents and staff have been generous with their time and money, raising much needed funds for charity, and working with our partners in the community. The Christmas Caritas appeal raised over £1,600, that has been used to buy a huge selection of Christmas gifts from Argos. We collected food hampers for the SVP and Silk Life Foodbank, and the Sixth Form Fancy dress day raised funds for the India Project.

The Choir sang at the Tree of Light Service, and our Performing Arts Faculty have hosted an incredible Christmas Concert this week – we are blessed with so much talent!.

I hope you enjoy your read of our latest magazine. Thank you to all of our contributors and all those who help put it together.

May I wish you and your families a happy, peaceful & safe Christmas.

God Bless,
Tim Beesley
Principal

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Summer School 2021

During the summer holidays we were delighted to welcome over half of our new Year 7 students to a week long Summer School. These students managed to take the opportunity to spend time in College, familiarising themselves with some of our staff and sixth formers, as well as making lots of new friends. They were busy - studying 'magic Maths' and practising 'persuasive speaking', as well as dancing, cooking, team building, experimenting, and creating their own Native American tepees and 'scraplet bots'. By far the most popular session, though, was 'Down on the Farm', where they had the chance to meet and learn about many of our All Hallows animals.

Mr Beesley said 'I have been more than impressed with the children's attitude, behaviour and enthusiasm during the course of the week - it bodes very well for next year!'

As you can see from the comments below a great time was had by all!

'I liked the science because it involved fire!' Lewis

'My favourite activity has been the animal care and team building. Looking after the animals was fun. I also liked building the bridges. I am so excited to properly join All Hallows.' Laila

'I really enjoyed spending time with the rabbits and guinea pigs.' Poppy

'I liked the food tech session because we got to learn how to use the ovens and make pizzas.' Emily

'I loved the maths session and seeing all the books in the library!' Mae

'My favourite part of the day was dancing!' Adelaide

'Today was great because I met new people.' Lucas

'I liked the farm session as it was fun and the animals were very cute.' Emily

'The best thing about this week was making new friends and meeting lots of teachers.' Anna



Staff Welcome Mass

On a sunny September afternoon at the end of the school day, staff from across the College gathered to celebrate Mass. The Mass was celebrated by Father Martin from St Gregory's Parish. We took full advantage of the lovely afternoon and celebrated outdoors. The Mass was an Instructional Mass, whereby members of staff from across a variety of subject areas helped us to reflect on the significance of the different parts of the liturgy. It also gave us an opportunity to invite back colleagues who either retired or took up new positions during the pandemic. Thank you to all involved in preparing such a lovely celebration of our calling as teachers and leaders within Catholic Education.

Associate staff member Rosa Vergara made a beautiful pall for the chalice and arranged flowers for the altar.



Macmillan Coffee Afternoon

After Mass staff gathered for refreshments, including a delicious range of cakes, many of which were home baked. This afternoon tea was to raise money for the annual [Macmillan Coffee Morning](#) initiative. Thank you to staff for the generous donations of cakes. Together we raised £322.69.

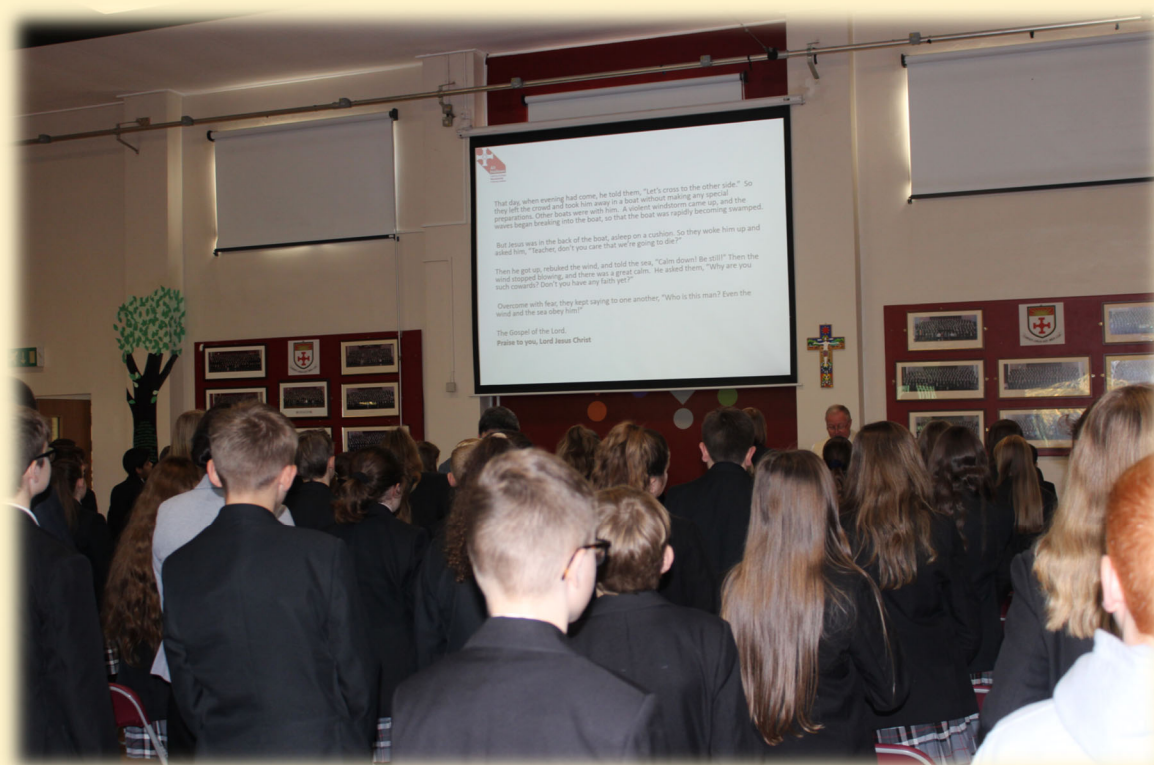


Year 7 Mass of Welcome

Year 7 gathered today for a Welcome Mass. Father Martin Coyle from St Gregory's Parish celebrated Mass for us. It was a beautiful liturgy in which parts of the Mass were explained to allow for a greater understanding of the liturgy.

Students had prepared parts of the Mass and led us in readings and reflections which focused on our core values and also on how we live together as a College community. The College choir led by Mr Thompson, along with Year 7 allowed us to worship through music too.

Thank you to Father Martin, the Form Tutors, Mr Mercer and especially Year 7 for making it so special.



Open Evening Fun in the RE Department

This week we had the privilege of welcoming Year 6 students into the RE department on Open Evening. The atmosphere was brilliant, with the Year 6's eager to explore. We had artefacts displayed representing all the world religions. Dr Keogh particularly enjoyed explaining to people the significance of the Sikh Kirpan dagger. We also had activities such as 'If you could ask God one question, what would it be?' This proved to be interesting with people asking some profound and philosophical questions such as 'Is God always listening?'

Two roving reporters in Year 7 produced the following write up of the evening:

'In RE they have had an immersive experience to learn all about the subject and the religions you study here at the school. Entering a room with a delightful smell of incense in the air, the young people were greeted with students dressed in various religious outfits and clothing with artefacts and religious items on the different tables. There were examples of different kinds of worship with books and candles with calming music in the background. Students were encouraged to think about the question on the tables and look at the examples of student's work scattered around the room for this very popular and important subject'.

We hope the Year 6's enjoyed the taster of RE and saw what an interesting and diverse subject RE is. Our wonderful Year 7 and Year 9 helpers did a fantastic job and are seen below in the picture!



Faith in Action: Harvest Hampers



Our amazing students (and their families) have worked hard in their form groups to create a box or bag full of food and personal care items which will be given to families that are in both our College and wider community. We are proud of how our students always respond

enthusiastically to this annual event in our College calendar, demonstrating the College Core Values of Compassion, Cooperation and Honourable Purpose.



Letter of Thanks from Silklife Foodbank

Dear Pupils, Parents and Staff of All Hallows Catholic College, Macclesfield.

I would personally like to say thank you to everyone who has contributed towards the donations of ambient food made to the Silklife Foodbank this week. The generosity of your school this Harvest is much appreciated. Harvest is a special time of the year which allows us to consider how God has blessed us and in turn, how we can bless others.

From the start of the Pandemic in March 2020, the Silklife Foodbank has seen a significant increase in people requiring emergency food support. There are many reasons for this, which include unemployment, benefit application delay and sickness, but to name a few. What is evident is that referrals made to the foodbank from local frontline health workers has risen 87% in 12 months. Consequently, our foodbank team has grown and our operation has had to scale up significantly, meaning more food, more storage and more volunteer input has been required. We can proudly say that with the continued support of our donors, we have been able to meet this demand.

Our emergency food parcels now contain 3 meals each day for 5 days and are given per week for up to a maximum of 3 weeks. Parcels are tailored to meet the needs of single people, couples and families and contain a meal planner. Parcels are mainly delivered to the home address within 24 hours of a referral being made.

Based on 2020 statistics it is reasonable to predict that in 2021 Silklife Foodbank will:

Help over 4,000 people.

Provide the food to make 62,400 meals to those facing emergency hunger crisis.

Give away an estimated £55,000 worth of food (not including toiletries).

Many Thanks for your continued faithfulness in giving,

Dan Blackman,

Silklife Foodbank, Macclesfield



Remembrance Service



On Thursday 11th November we held a beautiful Remembrance Service in College.

John Nuttall of Year 13 played the Last Post as students stood in silence to remember those who died in WWI and WWII and all conflicts since that time, men and women who died to protect our freedom.

" Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15)

Mr Martin told us of local examples of aircraft plane crashes and of how Catholic priests risked their own lives to give absolution to soldiers about to head into battle. Thank you to Finlay, Alfie, Thomas and Nathaniel for reading the bidding prayers.

In this the month of November we remembered the dead of our own families and friends. Students wrote names of those they wished to pray for on a large poppy and each form placed their poppy on a tree close to our Assisi building.

It was a moving and poignant service.

Mrs Livesey, Chaplain



Faith in Action: Caritas Christmas Gift Appeal

Our amazing students, and their families, have demonstrated the College Core values of Compassion by donating almost £1600 in ten days to buy Christmas gifts for refugee children. As a form group students choose gifts and then pledge to raise the money by donations or by organising fund raising activities such as bake sales. The gifts are then ordered by our Finance team. Caritas, the Catholic charity collects them for distribution to refugee families across Cheshire, Greater Manchester and Liverpool.



Faith in Action: Mini - DASH September

Today while the secondary Headteachers of the diocese met via Zoom, some students also gathered via Zoom to attend Mini-DASH. The students all participated fully and were a credit to All Hallows and their families. Thank you to Nathan, Jay, Jacob, Ines and Rebecca from 8N for all their hard work today. They were amazing.

The theme for Mini DASH was: "A home for all". This is taken from the ecumenical theme for Creation Time 2021: A Home for All; Renewing the Oikos of God.

"In Genesis God set a dome over the Earth.

The word 'dome' is where we get words such as 'domicile' and 'domestic' - in other words, God puts us all - all people, all life - under the same domed roof - we are all in

the house, the oikos of God. God gave humans the ministry to take care and cultivate this oikos of God. The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and others have called the oikos of God 'the Beloved Community,' a community in which all of life are equally members, though each has a different role." (Season of Creation).

At All Hallows we are responding to Pope Francis call to all Catholics to participate and to take action for our common home during the Season of Creation (1st September to 4th October) in a variety of ways, next week we have the Hunger Lunch for Years 7 and 8. Today our activities focused on "the cry of the poor", who live on the streets of our towns and cities - the 'invisible people'.

Inspired by St Vincent De Paul, whose feast we celebrate on 27th September, and anticipating World Homeless Day on 10th October, students were given the opportunity to reflect on their response to homeless people who are among the most vulnerable people in our society. They began to explore how they can follow the teaching and example of Jesus who spent much of his time caring for the outcasts, the people on the margins of society, restoring their dignity and helping them to change their situation.

The students considered the importance of home and how they can respond through prayer and action to the needs of people in their communities who have no home. They made a shelter for a homeless person and spent time considering what we need to make a home comfortable, warm and safe. The shelter building proved at times challenging but the students worked as a team and learnt a lot from the experience. We all appreciated the homes we can return to this evening full of warmth, comfort and love.



Funday for World Youth Day

As part of the celebrations for the Feast of Christ the King, the Year 7 and 8 Chaplaincy Group took part in an online session of the CYMFed National Youth Funday.

We began by singing "I'm in love with Jesus and He is in love with me" complete with actions. The students then had to focus on what issues do young people stand up for? We discussed Climate Change in particular. They expressed a desire to be able to react to the world by making the changes they want to see. They also realised how at times they must stand up for their faith, and that they need to trust and believe in God.

The theme of the session was "to be appointed by God". We thought about what God wants us to do and what plans he has for us.

We heard of the work of the SVP, St Vincent de Paul. SVP gives an opportunity to put our faith into action. We realised that at All Hallows the work with the India project is a key part of this action for us, as is the Harvest Hamper campaign and the collection of toys we will soon do for CARITAS during Advent.

A rather silly quiz ended with a reflection that we are all called individually by God.

Students felt the session was fun, interesting, and it made them think about their future and the opportunities God has in store for us all.

Thank you to the students for their great participation.

Faith in Action: CAFOD Family Fast Day



On Friday 1st October we joined CAFOD's Family Fast Day. Year 7 and 8 students were encouraged to have a lunch of soup and bread. Students paid £1 and instead of their usual lunch were offered a bowl of fresh soup and a bread roll. All monies raised were donated to CAFOD. Students were also given a green ribbon to reflect their support of the campaign. The canteen served a range of vegetarian and fish dishes on Friday. The Go Green campaign promotes sharing a planet-friendly meal in order to help transform the lives of people around the world whose communities are under threat because of the climate crisis.



The Chapel Experience

Today I had the fortunate and unique opportunity of visiting the Chapel during my Religious Education lesson. The main purpose of this visit was not to perform a Mass or do any collective worship, like people would normally do in a Chapel, but instead I got to experience a special lesson, taught by our Chaplain (Mrs Livesey), about the importance and significance of the Rosary Beads and the Rosary Prayers.

We, as a class, were all taught about the different prayers said when performing the Rosary, how many times we say each one and the significance of why we say them and what they mean. In my opinion, I found this a useful insight on how the Rosary Beads help concentrate during prayers. As they progress through the decades, Catholics reflect on some of the important events in the life of Jesus and Mary. One of my closest friends, who was with me for that special lesson in the Chapel, said that he found the Chapel a "calm and relaxing environment", which allowed him to focus on the lesson we were being taught, without any distractions from noises or other people outside. He also remarked that the Chapel itself was well decorated with relevant quotes, pictures and displays that made him feel like he was truly in a place of worship. Another one of my friends, although he wasn't in the lesson with me (but rather in there for a Mass), said that while in there praying - he felt closer to God and felt a better connection with Him there than anywhere else in the school; and frankly, I agree with him.

After Mrs Livesey finished talking about the Rosary, she (with the help of my teacher, Mrs Friend) divided us up into four groups. There, she gave us 20 different cards, all that had different illustrations of stories in the Bible, these events are called mysteries. She then proceeded to ask us to sort them into four categories: Light, Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious. Working together, my team was able to get all of them correct while thinking carefully about the importance of each of the stories and the role they played in the faith of Christianity. Another one of my friends - who was there at a different time, but engaged in the same activity - said that he "enjoyed the activity and felt the importance of each of the different stories". I, too, felt the same way.

Finally, as the lesson ended, our Chaplain told us to stand up and quietly walk back to our classroom, where we were then dismissed to go to our next lesson. As we were walking out, I and many other students made sure to thank Mrs Livesey for this unique opportunity and hoped to see her again soon for another engaging and glorious lesson about the faith that we all worship here at the school.

Overall, I fully recommend going to the Chapel, even if it is just to recite a small prayer to God, and experience the divine and holy place of worship that I was so blessed to visit on this particular day.

Danny B,
Year 11



Faith in Action: Advent

Year 8 students have been taking part in an Advent Stations reflective prayer session. In a very quiet atmosphere, they have been given the opportunity to think about Advent and prepare for Christmas. They have been truly amazing. They have written some beautiful prayers showing a great awareness of world situations and an appreciation that we are all part of a Common Home.



Advent Assembly

Mrs Garvey delivered the assembly on the joy of Advent, describing how it is a time to wait and prepare. The first candle on our Advent wreath was lit as part of the assembly. Also pictured is the Advent Alphabet that we have displayed in the College hall.



Sixth Form Leadership

Congratulations to our new Head Student, Deputies and Wider Student Leadership Team

As our new Leadership team takes shape we are really excited to see what initiatives Ethan, Phoebe and Francesca have in store for both the Sixth Form and across the College as a whole.



Ethan Rowley

I feel honoured to have received the role of Head Student and to have such a fantastic Student Leadership Team to support me. We will all work extremely hard to fulfil and exceed our promises and we can't wait to implement these changes as soon as possible.

The ideas which we presented in our speeches aren't a boundary, we plan to regularly discuss additional ideas which we feel can benefit everyone at our school and hopefully get to hear all of your ideas too.

We've already had a few positive conversations between each other and certain teachers and we can't wait to start to present these changes soon.

I can't wait to see what we can all achieve together, hopefully leaving an impact over several years, not just this year.

Francesca Bartoli

I feel privileged to represent my peers as Deputy Head Student, and I'm excited to make a real change around the College along with the rest of the Student Leadership Team! As Deputy Head student, I am thankful for the support I have received around school and I will turn my pledges into a reality as a way to give back to the school community. One of the main pledges I am eager to carry out is a sixth form ball, as I have already had a lot of my peers talk to me about it as a way to bring us all closer together. Another pledge I think would be beneficial to All Hallows is creating a safe environment to talk about mental health, whether that is online or in person. I'd also like to say a big thank you to everyone who voted for me and any suggestions about what you'd like to see around College are very welcome!

Sixth Form Fancy Dress FUNdraiser

One of the highlights of the Sixth Form calendar is the annual fancy dress day to raise money for the India Clinic. I will let the pictures speak for themselves, but it was as always, a surreal experience for teachers to be teaching our best and brightest as they are dressed as pirates, traffic cones, film stars and the like! It was a lovely atmosphere and definitely raised some excitement across the College. In the afternoon students took part in some well being activities: bingo hosted by James, a definite highlight of the day if not the year(great idea Abi!), a quiz including teacher baby photos (Ms Roberts hasn't changed!) led by Amy, Ethan and Phoebe. The afternoon was rounded off with the world's most competitive scavenger hunt around the College! Most importantly, the students raised £464 (and counting) for the India Clinic.



Sixth Form Taster Day

Year 11 joined the Sixth Form for the day on Monday. They had the choice of 5 subjects during the day and took advantage of the common room during break and lunch. Students had a really positive experience and has helped them in their choices for next year. Applications are now open on the website, any questions please see a member of the Sixth Form team. 'I hadn't considered some subjects but today has really helped me, though I'm still not sure whether to choose psychology or history' said Isaac.

Ms Rigby ran a parallel session for our students who are taking a vocational and apprenticeship route next year. She was looking at life and employment skills. They were really shocked at how much household bills are!

There was a really positive attitude around College throughout the day and Year 11 engaged well with the lessons.



Year 11 Spanish students experienced a taster (literally!) of an A level Spanish lesson. The students learnt all about the origins of tapas and their cultural importance. They even sampled some popular Spanish dishes! Miss White was very impressed with the student's knowledge and attitude to learning. Hope to see you in September chicos y chicas...





Higher Education and Apprenticeship Fair

Year 13 students visited the Higher Education and Apprenticeship Fair at Old Trafford in October. Students had the opportunity to attend seminars, speak with university representatives and ask questions about student life on campus. There was also a really useful personal statement seminar which will hopefully give students some inspiration as they continue to write their own personal statements.

MFL Primary School Visit

On Tuesday 9th November, we went to Park Royal Primary School to teach Spanish to Year 5 students as part of their International Languages Day. We delivered a session on numbers, and the students learnt lots, including pronunciation. They were very engaged, played games and had lots of fun but above all became really confident. It was all smiles throughout and 100% participation. We really enjoyed our time there and the opportunity for this unique experience.

James W, Bella C, Lidia T and Sophie W

General RE

Once again our Sixth Form welcomed the visiting speaker, Andy Platt who has over 30 years experience working at HMP Strangeways. He gave an enlightening talk of life on the inside of prison giving a powerful message but which was lifted through his unique humour. We thank Andy for his creativity in bringing this side of life to our awareness - which we hope we (and anyone we care for) never experiences first-hand. He reminded us of the five things people lose when they enter the prison system; freedom, name, dignity, possessions and privacy. Things we all take for granted, perhaps. Throughout, Andy made the point that what had happened to the people inside prison could happen to any of us. He reminded us that these are ordinary people, like us, who made poor choices; something we all make but for some have tragic outcomes. He talked about his difficult role which, throughout the COVID pandemic, was made even more difficult and we reflected on the lives lost (colleagues and prisoners) due to it. We keep these and all victims of COVID in our prayers.

Biology



Year 13 Biologists have been learning about the structure of the eye and photoreceptors this week in Miss Lavassani's lesson. They carried out a sheep eyeball dissection in groups and successfully identified all the key structures, including the lens (which they ran over some text on a newspaper and witnessed its amazing ability to magnify images).

Well done, ladies!



Year 13 Learning Conference

Ahead of their assessments, Year 13 took part in a learning conference in November. They looked at a variety of strategies and skills to utilise over the next year. Students all received a booklet covering the content. This would be a good starting point when parents and carers are working with their children to help and support their revision.



Students Take a Stand

All Hallows' Sixth Form students shown below supporting the UN campaign to eliminate violence against women as part of their General RE programme and in recognition of [International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women](#).



University Interview Preparation and Mock Mini MMI

In December students were looking at two important interview questions: 'Why this course?' and 'Why this university?' Students were working together to come up with ideal responses. Interviews are coming through for students for medicine and veterinary courses as well as the three students with Cambridge interviews in December. We have mock interviews on Tuesday afternoon with Dr Paul Spedding.

Next week we will look at preparation for the mock MMI the following week. Multiple Mini Interviews are used for courses such as medicine and veterinary. They comprise a number of stations where students have to perform unseen tasks. We are delighted to have former students, Dr Alice Morgan and Dr Vicky Lally running stations alongside Dr Mills from Liverpool University and our governor, Dr Roberts. Mrs Garvey will be running our ethics session. We hope this will prove useful for students as they prepare for interviews and MMIs in the coming months.



Student Success



Thomas Takes to the Stage

Thomas C in Year 10 performed in Shrek in October at The Storyhouse, in Chester. This isn't the first production that Thomas has appeared in at the theatre, in 2019 Thomas appeared in Bugsy Malone.

Frankie Signed by MUFC

Well done to Frankie T who has been signed by Manchester United's Regional Talent Club (Academy) for the 2021-22 season. Congratulations to Frankie T, who has been signed by the Manchester United Regional Talent Club (Academy) for the 2021-22 season. A fantastic achievement! Frankie is pictured with Mr Mercer (Year 7 Learning Leader) at the recent induction evening at Old Trafford, where information was shared about Frankie's exciting year ahead, including the training schedule and commitments for the United U12 team this season.



All Hallows Strictly Dancing Sisters

Emily and Lucy B hit the dance floor again in October for the first time since February 2020. The girls danced with their partners in a team match and entered individual competitions too, they danced a Waltz, Quickstep, Cha Cha and Jive on Sunday. The girls came 4th and 5th in their individual competitions and made Division 1 in the team match, coming 4th.

Trampolining



Ava R recently competed in the North West Schools Trampoline Competition at King's. She came 4th out of 40 Year 7 & 8 girls, just missing out on the top 3, and qualification for the North West team, by 0.1 mark. Considering she has only been trampolining since August she did brilliantly! Ava represented the school with professionalism and was kind and comforting to others who were nervous or didn't do as well as they would have liked to. She showed true sportsmanship and demonstrated All Hallows Core Values of Compassion and Honourable Purpose.

Rugby

Tom B recently made his debut for Cheshire U16s. Even though he wasn't actually selected for this game, due to only just going back after a recent injury, he had his kit in the car when he went along to support the other boys. His head coach asked him to take to the field. He played the second half of the first game, with the result being a 19-19 draw against Lancashire.



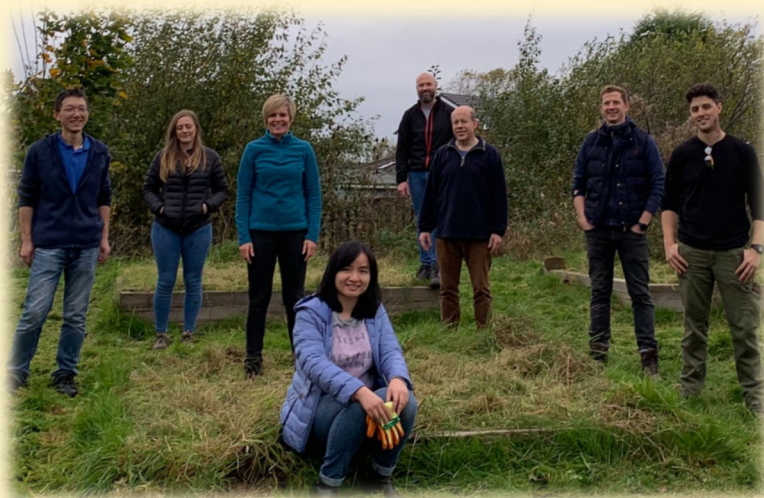
Boxing

Congratulations to Rubi S who won the final of Female Class B (Under 67kg) at the England Boxing Schools Championship in Newcastle in October.



All Hallows Farm Round Up

In September we had an exciting new arrival at the AHCC farm. Welcome to Rex the beautiful Chinese Water Dragon. Rex has settled in well and is ready for a rest over the weekend after the big move.



During October half term we had a fantastic team of volunteers from Astra Zeneca who came in to help out on the farm. Not only did they paint our sheds and bird aviary, they also managed to build Vinnie a new shelter just in time for winter. They all worked amazingly hard and we cannot thank them enough for the hard day's work they put in. In addition to this they had time to tidy up the gardens and get some new woodchips into the rabbit enclosure. Well done team, the hard work certainly paid off!

In early November we had some students from our feeder primary schools visit the farm for the AHCC mini project. We started the day feeding and learning about the different animals we have on the farm. We then made posters about the animals with the interesting facts we learnt. Well done everyone, we loved having you!





In early December we welcomed another fantastic team of volunteers from Astra Zeneca. They braved the cold weather, got wrapped up and built us a fantastic new roof for the chickens enclosure which meets the Avian flu government guidance (for more information on the Avian influenza you can check the government/Defra website). Not only did they work hard building the roof, the rabbits have some lovely new enrichment; toys, tunnels, sensory items to keep them interested and occupied throughout the day! Also, the pigs have a lovely new painted arc and clear pen.



Duke of Edinburgh Award

Both the Year 10 and 11 groups have been able to complete the expedition part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award this year. The Year 10s are working on their Bronze Award and the Year 11, Silver. Both groups had to complete a practice expedition first which involved a weekend of walking and camping. Well done to the Year 10 students who spent a weekend in September hiking and camping in Tarporley. The 18 students in the group walked around 15k each day. The weather was on their side until the last hour on Sunday but the group spirit was good. Ms Barton, who leads the D of E in school said, 'a cracking effort by all - well done!' The group then undertook a weekend of walking and camping out in Malpas at the beginning of the half term holiday. Pictures bottom left and right are of the Year 11 students who also successfully completed their Silver expedition.



Thanks to Ms Barton for all her hard work and effort in organising the weekends, and to Mr Barron for accompanying .

Rewards Day

Rewards Day happened at the end of our first half term after the original date in the Summer term had to be postponed. Many of our young people went to Alton Towers, with other groups opted to go to either Waterworld or the Trafford Centre. Those students who remained in College had a choice of several different activities, including Inflatables, football, table tennis, baking, graffiti art, pottery and Fifa. Year 7 had their own bespoke day, which also included the inflatables, as well as poetry, MFL songs, coding, photo editing, shield design and a quiz.



MFL European Day of Languages

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, students took part in various activities including guessing the country from images, locating European countries on the map, a general knowledge quiz and guessing the language spoken by various members of the AH staff. Also organised was a Bake Off with students sharing their creations all with an EDL theme. The response was amazing with a huge range of cakes that were available to other students to buy a slice of, raising money for charity. Examples can be seen below.

Well done and congratulations to Haru P in Year 7– the winner, to Joseph R (2nd place) and Emilia O (3rd place) for their wonderful cakes! A special mention goes to Poppy H in Year 8 for her 'World' cake with a very thoughtful quote 'With languages you're home anywhere'.

Thank you and well done to everyone, who took part!

Mrs Flood



Year 10 RE Trip to Yeshurun Synagogue

Our Year 10 students were a credit to the College as we were welcomed once again back to Yeshurun Hebrew Synagogue. We thank the students for their behaviour, respect and attitude.

Yet again, Charles Bloom (and his assistant Dawn) was brilliant in giving us a snapshot of Jewish history in helping the students to better comprehend the reason for a synagogue's existence, in general terms, and the artefacts that are central to Jewish worship.

He encouraged volunteers and questions while helping the students to more fully appreciate why the Jewish faithful do the things they do, even though, initially appearing unusual; the wearing of the Tefillin is a prime example. However, once the students were better familiarised with the importance of the Shema prayer and what they have been commanded to do, this practice becomes comprehensible.

Charles has, relatively recently, lost his wife of many years and our prayers go to him and his family. We can also look forward to a Year 9 trip in April; again, thanks to Charles Bloom.

Mrs Sutton



Year 11 PE Trip

In October, as part of their course, the Year 11 Cambridge National Sports Studies class visited the Substation Climbing and Yoga Centre. While they were there, instructors explained different techniques for climbing and the students were set challenges of climbing different routes. The students had an amazing time and have asked to go back again!



Go-Kart Building

You may remember last year an amazing array of models built by student Toby A from K'Nex with the support of Mr Duffield, one of our Teaching Assistants. This year the pair have embarked on an even more ambitious build: a go -kart! Just the chassis is complete so far but we will keep you updated as the project progresses.

An Enterprising Visit by Arighi Bianchi

Year 10 Enterprise students study successful local businesses as part of their BTEC course; on Monday this week,



they met key members of the Arighi Bianchi family who came into College for what proved to be a stimulating and thought-provoking question and answer session. Nick and Lucy Bianchi, 4th and 5th generation family members respectively, spoke to the students about the 167-year history of the business and the skills and attributes needed to run a business in the 21st century whilst maintaining traditional values. Topics discussed included marketing through the use of influencers, the impact of the pandemic on sales and suppliers, how an interactive website drives sales, the demographics of typical customers and possible plans for expanding the business.

Tegan said, 'it was a really good experience

to meet one of the generations of the Bianchi family. By talking to the Bianchi Family, we learnt a lot more about the business and the long legacy of it. Nick and Lucy helped us all understand a lot more which will be useful for the future."

Mr Barron said, "it's clear to see that Arighi Bianchi are keen supporters of the local community and our College, and on behalf of myself and the students, I would like to thank both Nick and Lucy for taking the time out of their busy schedules to visit us. The information provided will undoubtedly strengthen our students' coursework and, there is a real excitement about the prize offered by Nick which will be awarded for the most improved coursework."

Jingle Bell Jog

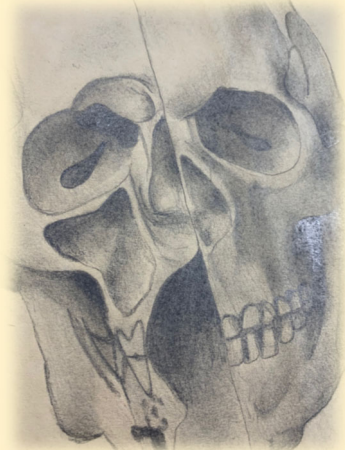
Year 7 braved the wind, rain, and snow on Monday 6th December to take part in the Jingle Bell Jog for East Cheshire Hospice. It was fantastic to see so many students in their Santa hats with flashing lights. It certainly brightened up a miserable day. We were all so impressed with the amount of money that was brought in on the day, adding to the online sponsorship amount. Thank you to all students, families, and friends for supporting this fundraising campaign, we will find out the total amount we have raised in the New Year.

Miss S Thomason
Assistant Faculty Leader of PE



Amazing Art Work

Miss Cook wanted to share these amazing outcomes from her Year 10 class. Well done to Elly, Maddie, Tabitha, Charley, Mikayla and Kathryn. Students are investigating human forms, portraits and self portraits and have been looking at the work of Leonardo Da Vinci to create these superb studies.



Ms Barton was very impressed by this absolutely outstanding piece of 3D Design homework by Josh Q. A super start to his GCSE coursework!



Year 7 Showcase Evening

In September our Year 7 students dazzled an audience of over 200 people with their singing abilities. We were so excited to welcome students and audiences back into the hall for our annual 'Sing Out!' showcase. The students have been super busy preparing for the show in their music lessons and it certainly paid off in their final performance. Even though some students had never even stepped onto a stage before, they sang their hearts out and truly shone!

We were also lucky enough to have performances from The Samba Band, Year 10 GCSE Dancers, Orchestra, Year 7 Musical Theatre Group, too! Well done Year 7. What an amazing way to start your journey with the Performing Arts Faculty at All Hallows.

Thank you to all the staff that were involved in preparing the students for the evenings.



Science Lessons

Students in Mrs Needham's class have been learning about forensics in a special Halloween lesson. They really enjoyed their experience investigating the size of blood drops when dropped from different heights. Students honed their experimental technique by generating 3 sets of data and creating a mean.



Mrs Beck's Year 7 and 8 science classes had cultural lessons around the 5th November. Students had a go at making sparklers and investigating which metal ions give fireworks their different colours. They also made a model firework packed full of science facts about how they work.



Year 10 Animal Care students have been learning how to medicate our rabbits this week. Students also learnt how to weigh the rabbits to enable them to calculate the required dose. All our rabbits are now up to date with their worming and parasite medication. I think Dobby and Aslan enjoyed the extra cuddles they got!



Black History Month

During form-time in October all year groups, watched a Loom on Black History Month put together by our History department. Each history teacher championed a black figure from history and then forms voted for the individuals they felt had made the biggest contribution to history. The winner was Muhammed Ali as nominated by Mr Martin. Scores for the other nominated figures were: Jesse Owens—5, Mary Seacole—3 and the Nasa scientists—1.

Muhammed Ali 1942-2016 - Sports Personality of the Century



In 1964 Ali was called up to fight in the Vietnam War. The call-up papers were known as 'The Draft' - he refused to go citing America had its own issues with race to deal with before he would go and drop bombs on brown people. He inspired many others to burn their draft.



A very high-profile figure of racial pride for African Americans during the civil rights movement and throughout his career.

Cassius Marcellus Clay was an American professional boxer, nicknamed The Greatest, he is widely regarded as one of the most significant and celebrated figures of the 20th century, and is frequently ranked as the best heavyweight boxer of all time.



Ali suffered from Parkinson's Disease and yet continued to make public appearances and charity work.

He began training as an amateur boxer at age 12. At 18, he won a gold medal in the light heavyweight division. He won the world heavyweight championship from Sonny Liston in a major upset on February 25, 1964, at age 22.



Bookbuzz Books

Back in September, our Year 7 and 8 students ordered their free books from the Bookbuzz selection as a gift from the All Hallows library. These books are to support students on their reading journey at All Hallows. Books have now been distributed and we hope the students enjoy reading them as well as sharing them with their friends and family.



Music Trip to Manchester



On Tuesday 5th October Mr Thompson and Miss Elliott took both Year 10 GCSE Music classes and our A-Level Music Technology class to see a concert of exam set works performed by the Hallé Orchestra at the Bridgewater Hall in Manchester. Students were able to see a world-class live orchestra perform a wide repertoire of music from the Sixteenth century up to the present day, showing how the orchestra has developed over time. Students were excellent ambassadors for the College and many left with a new appreciation of some different musical styles and even a rare Hungarian musical instrument

Bronnie!

‘You miss 100% of the shots you don’t take’.



Today the All Hallows hall was turned into a concert hall as our students in Years 7 to 10 spent an hour with Bronnie, currently No1 in the Rock Charts with *Scream*. She performed some of her own songs and covers, before giving an inspirational talk about how to be resilient and look after your mental health. Bronnie described many music artists who had suffered rejections before going on to achieve great things. She also had her own moments of doubt, including overthinking and then not initially posting her first music video, until she realised that it might be a good idea. Her top tips for managing mental health were: drink lots of water, get plenty of sleep, exercise as often as possible and start the day with a simple, achievable task, such as making the bed! Students were then able to ask questions and then get autographs and pictures.

After one of her performances, Bronnie talked about her rise to fame and schooldays. At grammar school, Mr Edwards, her Maths teacher, who was also the tall Deputy Head with a booming voice was her favourite teacher. He was really helpful to her, especially as she struggled with maths, music being her favourite subject, of course! Bronnie said that she put effort into

everything at school, including her friendships and she still does. When asked about whether she was a reader, she said that she liked nothing more when she had any free time to curl up with a good autobiography, one of a musician if possible. At the moment she is reading *The Storyteller* by Dave Grohl. Considering herself extremely lucky to have a full time career in music, Bronnie was clearly excited by her other projects, outside writing and performing music all over the world. Currently, she is a radio presenter and a global ambassador for the Buddy Project, an American charity supporting teen mental health. In the future she would like to act in a film and write a musical.

Eco Council News

Great Big Lesson on Climate Change

A keen and growing group of Eco Warriors were able to take part in the Great Big Lesson on Climate Change which was live from COP26 and for the whole world. It was an ambitious but successful lesson. The speakers were well chosen and knowledgeable but most especially passionate about what they are doing. Although an interactive lesson, we chose to interact between ourselves with calling out the answers to questions and were repeatedly surprised by some of the facts shared.

However, some take aways include the importance of putting nature first. This was graphically shown by how our perception of "normal" in nature is shown in the UK but we can see that, even traditional practices such as ploughing, are destroying vital connections between trees. What we are doing is creating nutritionally poor food; even a simple carrot has lost vital nutrients that we might actually expect. A move to monoculture agriculture is absolutely horrendous. We looked at the quality of soil and learnt that there are more living "things" in a single teaspoon of soil than there are of the human race; but by adding chemicals (even those we perceive to be helpful) will take hundreds of years to eradicate and recoup nature. Put soil first was an idea!

It was stunning to also learn how minimal scientists (let alone philosophers) are influencing our thinking today. This has become minimal. Instead our role models are footballers and famous people e.g. soap stars, that shape our thinking! How worrying! Initiatives need to be adopted that will help us to educate and enable all of us to be able to help our world, if it isn't too late. But especially to find ways to remove the CO2 from the atmosphere. What can industry, engineering and creative ideas do?

My take away: Be Nature Positive!

Mrs Sutton

Fast Fashion Talk

Sixth Former and dedicated Eco warrior, Bella C, gave a talk to the Eco Council about the pitfalls of fast fashion. Students were invited to discuss their thoughts and ask questions. Bella gave them some top tips about being more environmentally conscious about their wardrobes which could easily put into practice to make a difference.

- Look into the ethical policy of a brand you are thinking of buying from
- Shop local where possible - order less online
- Think about packaging and if it is recyclable
- Buy vintage. There are lots of shops in the Northern Quarter in Manchester
- Also available are re-made clothes made from items that have been repurposed
- Buy from charity shops
- Buy seasonally, for example only winter clothes in winter
- Buy key items, staples that you will continually wear
- Make sure that your clothes are organised so that you can see what you have in your wardrobe and what you do not wear
- Wash less - think before you do
- Give unwanted/unworn clothes to friends/family/charity or sell online
- Maybe you could try making your own clothes. There are lots of tutorials on Youtube

Lots to think about but Bella's overwhelming message is be conscious when making a purchase!



Year 7 Retreat to Alton Castle

With opportunities for student residential experiences very much restricted due to the pandemic, it is understandable that Year 7 were super excited at the thought of going away with friends for three days. For many of these students it was their first time away from their parents and, for all, it was the first time staying in a castle! Alton Castle is a Catholic retreat centre run by the Kenelm Trust within the Diocese of Birmingham. The retreat provided an opportunity for students to take time out from the usual lessons and spend time getting to know each other socially, push themselves to try new, challenging activities and experience activities to help them grow spiritually. The theme of the retreat, 'Called by God' provided time for students to reflect on how God had made them 'perfect' and be open to experiencing God in nature. The photographs reflect just some of the activities. The students were a pleasure to be with. But, I must admit I'm looking forward to some sleep tonight!

Mrs Garvey





Reading Success in Year 7 and 8

All students in Year 7 and 8 use the Accelerated Reader programme in their Library lessons. It has been a very successful term, as you can see in the statistics below.

Year 7

- Total number of words read this term an amazing: 12,168,228!
- Word millionaires: Nevin B and Isabel S J
- Total number of quizzes taken and passed: 726
- Best quizzing forms: 7B - 162, 7A - 152 and 7M - 118
- Top quizzers: Nevin B, Luke L, Summer H, Gui F B, Isabel S J, Laila McM and Aine P.
- Form with the most 100% tickets: 7B
- Winner of the 100% draw: Nevin B

Year 8

- Total number of words read this term: 5,460,950
- No word millionaires yet – several students close though!
- Total number of quizzes taken and passed: 236
- Best quizzing forms: 8A, 8M and 8N
- Top quizzers: Charlotte H, Elliot R Jemima G & Becky H-N, Thomas B, Sophia J, Noel B and Oscar P.
- Form with the most 100% tickets: 8M
- Winner of the 100% draw: James Weatherby



Congratulations to Sophia J in 8M who has become the first student to achieve the Platinum Plus Reading Passport! The Reading Passport Challenge is set to all students in Years 7 and 8 as a way to extend their reading skills and encourage them to read a wider range of texts. All students start the challenge on Bronze level and are able to move through Silver, Gold and Platinum by reading 4 diverse texts and completing a reading response challenge for each one earning increasingly more achievement points as they go! Sophia has been a reading trailblazer and completed her Platinum passport while still in Year 7. She has now extended her reading even further by taking on a reading project of her choice and created this fantastic scrapbook to document her journey. Sophia chose to read four mystery books ('The Cousins', 'The Guggenheim Mystery', 'A Spoonful of Murder' and 'A Good Girl's Guide to Murder') and has explored how similar themes are present in them - namely: jealousy and betrayal! Sophia has earned herself a seriously impressive 25 achievement points for completing this scrapbook and has produced something she can incredibly proud of. We can't wait for more ambitious readers to follow in her footsteps and show us the genres and themes that they're passionate about.



Recommended Reads for the Holiday

Recent winner of the Waterstones Book of the Year

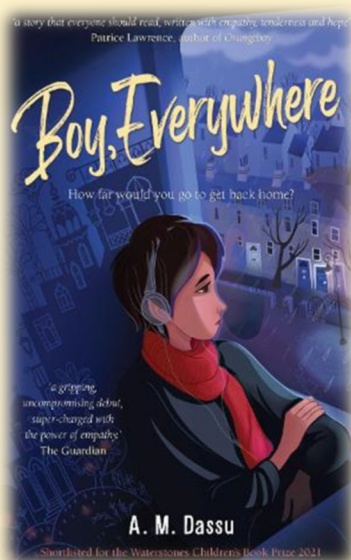
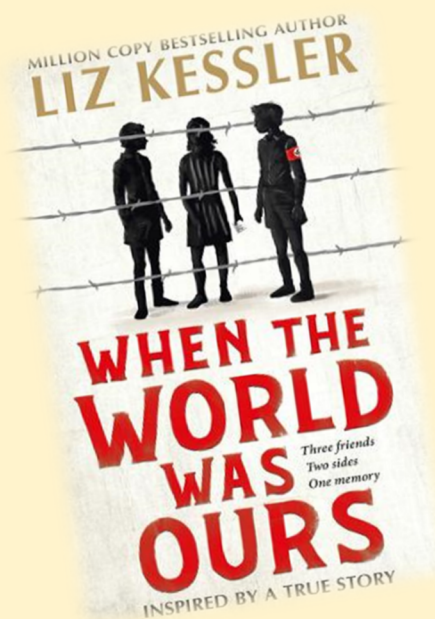


A Kind of Spark tells the story of 11-year-old Addie as she campaigns for a memorial in memory of the witch trials that took place in her Scottish hometown. Addie knows there's more to the story of these 'witches', just like there is more to hers.

Can Addie challenge how the people in her town see her, and make her voice heard? A story about friendship, courage and self-belief, perfect for fans of *The Goldfish Boy*. Addie's story was born from Elle's own experiences of neurodiversity and her commitment to seeing greater representation in children's books.

Available from the AH Library.

Why not get a head start and read one of the nominated books for the 2022 Cheshire Schools' Book Award and read something from the Year 7 and 8 Shortlist?



All books, plus the Year 9 and Upwards shortlist available after the holidays from the All Hallows library.

Prayer

***I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the
Gospel begun in Bethlehem.***

***I believe in the one whose spirit still brings music
to persons all over the world.***

***I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn
could find no room, I do not want to exclude
Christ from my life.***

***I believe we must all help the poor of the world
and ask our leaders to help them too.***

***I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of
God to be invincible.***

***I believe in the one who was cradled in Mary's
arms with Joseph protecting them from harm.***

***I believe in Jesus born in Bethlehem to save me,
the Light of the World.***

Amen

**All are welcome at All Hallows Catholic College.
Come and visit our wonderful Church College.**

