

# S. Peter's Newsletter

Christmas 2008



## *From the Principal*

Dear Parents,

Another extremely busy term comes to an end and there is so much to report on our work.

The Friends' Craft Fair was another outstanding success and I am grateful to Keith Leadbetter for organising this. The Friends will be presenting the school with a cheque for £7000 in the next few days. They are purchasing an electronic mini grand piano to the Music department and will make a formal presentation at one of our future concerts. Such is the high quality of music making in the school that I think they richly deserve to have this amazing 'state of the art' instrument. The Friends also organised a Cheese and Wine event for our new Year 7 parents earlier in the term.



The Civic Hall was packed to capacity again this year for the city's multi-faith event. The combined choirs of S.Peter's and The King's School performed magnificently and powerfully once again. It was lovely to welcome Anita Thompson home from university to conduct them. Two nights previously, our choir had performed in another concert - Choirs in Reflection - at The King's School. This was part of the school's Black History celebration. The end of the first half of term ended with the Welcome Club's Grand Charity Night disco and this has so far raised £935 for Compton Hospice



It was a pleasure to be present at the induction of the Revd Richard Reeve as Team Rector of Tettenhall Regis. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Lichfield. We welcome Richard and his family to Wolverhampton and look

forward to working alongside him in ministry.

Much has been achieved this term by our students and they are to be congratulated on their energy and vigour. We have just completed Children in Need week and there was a terrific atmosphere of fun as well as the serious business of raising money - £1300 so far!

This year's School Council is now fully active with a development plan in place. They are confident that their budget of £1000 will be exceeded this year and will therefore be raising funds from the school community to support their work.

The following pupils received their Royal School of Church Music awards this year:

### **Dean's Award**

#### **S.Peter's Collegiate**

**Church:** Olivia Morris, Cameron Low, Jack Chatham, Zoe Morris, Yasmin Ford.

**St. Bartholomew's Penn:** Alisha Camm, Yasmin Ford.

Alisha is one of St. Bart's Head Choristers and gained the highest mark in the diocese for her Dean's award - a staggering 93% - well done Alisha.

(one of our former students - Joe Cooper is the Director of Music there)

### **Bishop's Award**

**S. Peter's Collegiate Church:** Alice Carter, Frances Carter, Bethany Hammond, Emily Harrow, Hannah Larvin, Zöe Morris, Robert Aros, Stephen Matthews.

Two events for Year 9 really stand out this term. The first was the Geography field visit to Shrewsbury which took place over four days, 40 students on

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## *From the Principal - continued*

each day. The students were exceptional on the trip, worked very hard and were a credit to the school and all staff who were involved mentioned this. We also had an email from a shop owner in the town praising the students' attitude and behaviour. The other event was the Zip Theatre production where students had a presentation on option choices for next year. The students reacted and got involved in a very positive way and the actors commented on how well the production went and this had been due to the students' involvement. The year group also took part in Black History day which once again was a success.

**Gurdeesh Mahli** took part in the National Junior Games in Stoke Mandeville at the beginning of October. She came back to school with three medals; Gold in Table Tennis, Silver in the Javelin and Bronze in the Shot Putt.

**This term ends at 2.00pm on Friday 19th December. Buses will be very limited and therefore parents are advised to make appropriate travel arrangements for their children. Next term begins on Monday January 5th.**

Did you come to '**Scrooge**'? What a fantastic performance – many congratulations to the cast and the staff for such a truly professional production. And so a thought for Christmas.....

"For some it must be, oh so hard,  
Here we are with present and card.  
In the corner, a beautiful Christmas tree,  
some people are glad, just to be free.  
I wonder sometimes, if we were to halve  
and give just some of it to those who starve,  
Maybe, just maybe, we could one and all  
remember the story of a babe in a stall.  
Perhaps, perhaps, we would remember then  
about, peace on earth, goodwill to all men,  
Then look forward without too much fear  
to the nicest, peaceful, Happy New Year."



By DAVE BURN  
Published: 2004

**My grateful thanks to all of you for your continued support for the school's work and success. On behalf of the whole school community I wish you and your families a very happy and blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.**

*Huw D Bishop*

**Huw D Bishop**  
**Principal**





## City GATES

### Summary of the event

The Black Country City Challenge launched their City GATES (**City Challenge Gifted And Talented Education Strand**) celebration. This celebration brought together students, teachers, parents, advisors and VIPs. A number of S. Peter's students attended together with two teachers. These were: Ashley Locke, Lucy Gilhooly, Anna Churn, Josh Banks, Josh Skidmore, Lizzie Dawson, Laura Franks and Chris Jones together with Mr. Cooper (G&T Co-ordinator) and Mr. Thomas. During the day all were involved in a number of activities that encouraged active learning and the importance of continuing education. Pupils were able to complete an online survey which helped them to make decisions about their future and the direction, as Gifted and Talented pupils, they would like to take. Below are some pupil's thoughts about the day and pictures taken by the local paper.

#### Lucy Gilhooly Year 10

I believe that the online survey I completed was both useful and rewarding. The way it was laid out was user friendly and the questions were straight forward to answer with the tick boxes. The results obtained were very individual and tailored to me because of the amount of questions asked. I enjoyed the day extremely. The workshops were both fun and educational. I particularly enjoyed the radio advert, the advertising poster and the University Challenge. I would recommend the day and would like to take part in another.



#### Josh Skidmore Year 10

The online survey was useful because the ratings were more in depth than just yes and no you had to enter a percentage. Also it made me think more about what we do in lessons. For example, the question about relating subjects to the workplace, I realised we didn't do this and I hadn't thought about that before. I am going to suggest this to my teachers as I think it will enhance lessons.



#### Lizzie Dawson Year 12

In general I thought the day was a massive success. It enabled both students and adults involved in the G&T scheme to experience a range of interesting activities and take the skills and concepts of the day and put them into action in their workplace.

It was a very engaging day, and the organisation of events throughout the day was excellent. It gave me a greater knowledge of the aims and targets of the G&T scheme and how I could apply them to myself and other students at S. Peter's.

#### M Cooper G&T Co-ordinator

The City GATES launch was one of the best ones I have attended. What I liked about the day was the interaction between students and adults. The activities were short and to the point, and used current teaching pedagogy. The online survey for G&T students gave a personalised outcome that set for them future goals, and ideas to consider.



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## *The Gastronomy Weekend*

You may have seen a suspicious looking white minibus pulling away from the school campus at around 10 o'clock on Friday morning. This was the A level French class beginning our 8 hour journey to France with Monsieur and Madame Rollins (our surrogate parents for the weekend). The journey was long; however it was broken up with humorous moments such as Mme Rollins imitating the strange behaviour of students walking around using their mobile phones. The channel tunnel was a new experience for most, and an interesting one for all. The mysterious non-functioning toilet door was especially confusing, and various reasons for this problem, such as an elderly woman in peril were conjured.



The drive to the Gite itself wasn't as long as the one to the channel yet was still full of interesting events. Such as the startling change to new French Networks, such as Bouygtel (boogie-tel), and also the blatant ignorance of our chaperone of the marked "Route Barrée" (road closed).

The Gite was an adventure in itself, but more of one in Antarctica than the north of France, mainly due to the lack of effective heating. However a meal of French Cuisine and laughter remedied for this. A delicious meal of Raclette was followed by a game of Word Association en "Français", which went on far into the night. Some of us did need assistance, however this was not always received with gratitude, especially on behalf of Emma; "I wanted to say pillow". The evening ended in a late night conversation in one of the rooms, followed by a chilly sleep, for some.



We started the next day with another big meal. We went to the market in a local town to prepare for our Apprentice-style "cost off" competition. We were put into groups and had to buy ingredients for our starters, desserts and cheeseboard. One of the groups prepared pâté for starters, cinnamon apples for pudding and a large variety of cheeses for the platter along with grapes for decoration. The opposing team successfully bought a huge slab of "cheese from the local region" (actually from Belgium), decorated with OXO cubes. These meals were then presented, and the winning team will be announced in the 6<sup>th</sup> form assembly. This meal was then followed by a game of "Guess Who", in French of course, and brought up characters from Godzilla to Kylie Minogue. The house had warmed up by now, and some lucky students enjoyed warm showers that evening. More conversation and laughter was had by all. Including another quote from Emma where after having been asked to smell a lump of cheese from "the local area" exclaimed "it smells like cheese!".



The following morning was started with a loud wake-up call from Mme Rollins and a speedy clean-up and wash-up session. It was snowing and unluckily unlike Friday when we arrived the heating was working. After breakfast we made plans to walk around another local town but ended up sitting in the Queen Victoria. We ended up getting lost on the way to the farm and were delayed about an hour for the meal. The first impression we got when we arrived was as if we had invaded someone's dining room. All was going well until the third course. There was no other way to describe the smell other than a foot odour. We then went to say goodbye to the farmer and then paid a visit to Boulogne, which was freezing. On the journey to the tunnel we also stopped off by the sea for a few photographs. We finished our journey in the channel tunnel and after having a FAB weekend we were all pretty tired and happy to see England.



*Y13 French students*



## Children in Need 2008



As you may or may not know, the week starting the 9<sup>th</sup> of November was Children in Need week and as always some senior prefects make it their duty to organise fund raising events for such a good cause. Harriet Easton, senior prefect in charge of charity, did a marvellous job of organising events such as: the Henna, the cake sale, the Talent Show and the Teacher vs. 6<sup>th</sup> Form netball match, which are popular events every year. The netball match, held on Thursday lunch time, was fast and furious but sadly the 6<sup>th</sup> formers could not claim victory after their efforts.

As always we try to give a theme to children in need and do something different every year, this time the theme was Musicals. A lot of people took this chance to really go to town. We had *Olivers*, *Chimney sweeps*, *Phantoms*, *Cats*, *T-birds*, *The Tin Man*, *Mary Poppins*, *Blues Brothers*, *Sally* and many more, so well done for those people who made the effort.

The talent show, held on Friday, was host to the likes of: Scooter Kid Ben, Emily Huntener & Ashleigh Street who performed a dance, Ashley Woodward played his own song on the Ukulele 'Countyside', Matt Jones sang a song from High School Musical, Kim Gandy played piano and sang 'Apologise' and the show was closed by a guest appearance from X Factor's Liam Payne.

**After all the events and efforts of the school we managed to raise over £1300.**



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## *Pyrenees Expedition 2008*

Well, the Pyrenees, where do I start? Both the Soph's, Liv, Haz, Emily, Hannah, Abbie, Ellie, Mark E, Will, Ben, Josh, Hasan, Rouse, Phil, Westy and Miss Parry set off on our Pyrenian adventure! After an extremely early start, flight and coach journey we arrived at Gite de Oasis, where we were shown to our room and got to look around the town. After a picnic lunch by the river, we decided to go on a walk up Flowery Mountain, taking a slight detour to the crêperie on route. After a very long day of attempting to speak French and put up with Westy constant lie of 'We'll be there in a minute', we decided to hit the hay.

Over the rest of the week we walked over 100 miles, went canyoning, (where Hannah decided to attempt a dive which resulted in a rather painful looking belly flop, and Westy got stuck in a cave slide!) Rouse, according to the French hospital had a blood clot which was actually turned out to be a sprain and he missed out on all the canyoning action! Via Ferata was very eventful with some loud resounding screams echoing through the valley and a few tears too. It was a good job there was some fairly good looking instructors to help us along the way!

At one of the hostels (if it could be called that) that we stayed in, the beds were set out like concentration camps where it was just one long bunk bed and everyone slept within about 1 inch of each other. Miss Parry however had bagsied the single mattress on the end of the set of beds, but some Dutch guy decided he obviously deserved it more and threw off her bag and claimed it his own. During our time at this so called 'hostel' we swam in a nearby lake where the fish seemed to have a strange fetish with sucking our toes! Also at this same 'hostel' we had to go to the loo on a conveyor belt, sleep through an outrageously loud snoring man and had the choice of using the very high tech solar powered hose pipe as a shower!

On our last night in the Pyrenees, we had a talent show, which kicked off with a quiz involving numerous different rounds, which was then followed by a number of acts performed by different people. Some of the most memorable being Tom, Josh and Ben's 'show', Harriet, Emily, Sophie and Hannah's Pyrenees version of Lethal Bizzle's 'POW!' and of course the rather messy game of 'Fluffy Bunnies' (stuffing as many marshmallows in your mouth as possible whilst being able to say 'Fluffy Bunnies').

Days of singing, walking, swimming, canyoning, climbing and hacky sacking (talking of which, we blatantly broke the world record for highest game of hacky sack at 9000ft), made us all shattered and I think after the week we were all ready to go home for a rest. Going to the Pyrenees has given us all countless of invaluable memories and experiences that will be with us for life. We've seen and done things that we will probably never do again and can only try and describe to other people how amazing it actually was. It makes us realise how lucky we are to come to a school where the opportunity to go on this trip is available. It is also thanks to Miss Parry and Mr West's dedication and hard work that we were able to go, and we would all like to say a big thank you to them both for such an amazing time.





## The Gifted & Talented Oscars



This was a celebratory event organised by a group of Black Gifted and Talented pupils from a number of Wolverhampton Secondary Schools including S. Peter's Collegiate School. Our own Naomi Johnson, Year 12, was on the Student Steering Group and led the proceedings on the evening. The event was held at the prestigious Park Hall Hotel where students, parents, teachers and other professionals gathered for a glittering 'Hollywood' style event.

There were a number of 'Oscar' categories



during the course of the evening including 'Choir and use of Voice.' It was this category that our students took part. These were: Laura Codner, Naomi Johnson, Litanía Ledford, Sarah Nelson, Annabelle Taylor, Katrina Thompson (all Year 12) and Patrice McCalla (Year 11). Their use of voice was excellent, and it was Patrice that went on to win the Oscar. Well done to all!

M. Cooper (G&T Co-ordinator), C. Hocking, A. Rai & J. Smith

## School News

### Two Stars are Born

Two former S. Peter's School students are starring in the production of **West Side Story** which will be performed at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton from Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2009. The lead role of Tony will be played by David Walters and the female lead part of Maria is being played by Samantha Strutt, who was head girl in 2000. The production is with Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company, which has run for 70 years, and donates profits to charities including the Deansely Centre at New Cross, where a dedicated 'MUSCOM' room has been set up with the help of our donations. It promises to be a fantastic show and S. Peter's is very proud to spotlight the production and both of their achievements.

### Mathematics Department

Just a short reminder that **ALL** Year 10 students will be sitting the first part of their **EXTERNAL GCSE Mathematics** Examination on the morning of **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2009**. As outlined in the Options booklet in Year 9, the Department follows a Modular Course and the first examination is Module 3 – Number – consisting of 2 x 45 minute papers. This Module will count towards their final GCSE in Mathematics and is worth 27% of their final grade.

The students will be having a mock examination during January. Staff will be able to discuss each student's progress at the re-arranged Year 10 Parents' Evening and will be able to give advice and guidance on how they can improve upon their performance. The Department will be devoting classroom time to examination techniques and questions. The Examination Board (AQA) expect **ALL** candidates to be equipped with a calculator and other mathematical instruments.

**C. Sherrington** (Director of Learning for Mathematics)

### Friends of S. Peter's School - 100s Club Results

Sept 2008 - #144, Michelle and John Korbes; #1, Janine Aldridge  
 October 2008 - #93, Margaret Williams; #94, Margaret Williams  
 Each wins £50.00  
 October 2008 Overspill Draw - # 178, ML Devers wins £13.50

### **New school web site - [www.speters.org.uk](http://www.speters.org.uk)**

Our school web site has very recently been updated and now contains important information for parents which is refreshed regularly. It includes details about issues such as school closures, holiday dates, the school calendar and student issues. We would like to encourage you to look at it frequently.

*A. Richards, Associate Principal*

# S. Peter's Newsletter



## *A Great Result for Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal!*

Yet again S. Peter's School students have demonstrated their huge generosity and love by filling 132 shoeboxes with goodies and gifts to show God's love to 132 children much less fortunate than themselves.

Students were moved to their efforts by a showing of the film "Love in a Box" which demonstrated very powerfully the huge difference a shoebox full of lovingly chosen teddies, toothpaste and "things" makes to a child who has never received a Christmas gift. Groups of students have worked together to fill and gift wrap their box – great teamwork, great result!

This year our shoeboxes will make their way to children in the Ukraine,



some of them orphans, some of them living lives of extreme poverty. Thanks to *everyone* who has been involved – Form Staff for their encouragement and support, students for their amazing generosity, and Sixth Form students for their work supporting Forms, sorting out boxes, and carrying them to the transport. This Christmas your thoughtfulness and compassion has given the gift of unimaginable joy. Well done.

The Chaplain.



## *School Council Information*

For the 2008/2009 academic year, one of the School Council's focuses is to ensure that we communicate with students, staff and parents. We hope that this article will provide both students and parents with a good understanding of what the Council is undertaking for this academic year, and what has been done and discussed over this term.

- Renee Defreitas; Year 7.
- Amy Thompson; Year 7.
- David Jones; Year 8.
- John Chinyio; Year 8.
- Karan Sharma; Year 9.
- Bradley Ferguson; Year 9.
- George Chatham; Year 10.
- Lewis Woodward; Year 10.
- Shubnit Sahota; Year 11.
- Katrina Thompson; Year 12.
- George Stuart; Year 11.
- Richard Price; Year 12.
- Emily Hawkins; Year 13.
- Adam Bruton; Year 13.
- Charlotte Jones (Head Girl); Year 13.
- Tom Rouse (Head Boy); Year 13.

Firstly, it is important that you know who the Council members themselves are;

The School Council training day was held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October earlier this term. On this day the Council members got to know each other, and focused on improving key skills to be used in Council meetings. On the training day, a closed vote was held to decide upon the various roles within the School Council. A number of Council members stood for different roles and the following students were elected:

- Chair - George Stuart
- Vice Chair - Lewis Woodward
- Treasurer - John Chinyio
- Secretary - Emily Hawkins

We were also set our very first task; to present an assembly introducing the School Council, and to share with the school our focuses and aims for the year. The Council has presented two assemblies so far, with more to come to ensure that we maintain a good Pupil-Council relationship; responding to our focus of improving communication between Council and students.

So far this term, there have been two School Council meetings held, in which we have discussed our aims and a School Council Development Plan, highlighting four main focuses; Improving communication between School Council, student's and staff; Becoming a part of The ECO Schools System; Student Welfare; Fundraising for charities and various projects such as ECO Schools.

The School Council consists of students from Year's 7 to 13, all of whom are willing to talk to staff, students and parents regarding suggestions or any other matters that need to be addressed.

