



REFLECTION

A Christian community where everyone has the right to be happy, be safe and achieve.

CHAPLAINCY

Year 7 Retreat

We are now in the season of school Retreats, the first of which was for Year 7 to St. Vincent's Catholic Youth Services, Whitstable.

We arrived to find the sun shining! Our first lesson, "Community and how to live together" was held on the beach. We returned to the Centre for dinner after which the students formed small groups and continued their work on the theme Community.

Friday was our last day. The boys had to change the bed sheets. They all made a good attempt. Without being asked, the boys then vacuumed and also cleaned the toilets. The Cleaner said that it was the first time that she had nothing to do. We started our morning lessons in small groups and met up for chapel before lunch and then returning to school. It was a great three days full of interactive art and drama based activities.



First lesson of the day - playing on the beach

At 9.45pm we had Night Chapel. The next day we all attended Morning Chapel. All meals at the Centre begin with a prayer to different tunes such as 'We will Rock You', 'The 'A' Team'. We continued with different lessons on 'Community' until lunch time. Then we went bowling and spent the afternoon on the beach. On our return we had hymn practice with a difference. Some hymns were action songs and some sung with sign language, different to what some of the students are used to, but made it more interesting! After Mass we had an interactive quiz with some singing and dancing by the students and staff - great fun!

Here you can see Ikemefuna Uzomah 7B sitting in the chair made for the Pope's visit to the UK in 2010. The chair was used by Pope Benedict XVI in Hyde Park on the Saturday afternoon of his visit.

Fred, School Chaplain



2012
FIVE GCSES
A*-C GRADE
94%

2012
55% 5A*-C
INCLUDING
ENGLISH AND
MATHS



Did you know that St. Columba's has a lot in common with Toyota!

The Toyota Way is a set of principles and behaviours that underlie the Toyota Motor Corporation's managerial approach and production system. Toyota first summed up its philosophy, values and manufacturing ideals in 2001, calling it "The Toyota Way 2001." It consists of principles in two key areas: continuous improvement, and respect for people.

Our Gospel Values and Ethos inform everything we do; how we treat each other and how we continually strive for success and improvement.

St. Columba's is in the top 100 schools nationally for student progress – it's official! Below is a copy of the letter from David Laws MP Minister of State for Education. This is an amazing achievement and I am very proud to be the Headteacher of a school to be recognised in this way by the Minister of State.

This success is the result of the hard work of staff, students, Governors and families.

We are a truly comprehensive school - open to any boy who wants to be successful.

Mr N Fisher,
Headteacher



DIARY DATES

Return to School
Monday 3rd June

End of Term
Friday 19th July

GCSE Results Collection
Thursday 22nd August

2013 AUTUMN TERM
Wednesday 4th September
Years 7 and 10 return

Thursday 5th September
Years 8, 9 and 11 return

Half Term
**Monday 28th October -
Friday 1st November**

Return to School
Monday 4th November

End of Term
Friday 20th December

2014 SPRING TERM
Return to School
Tuesday 7th January

student voice

The articles for this edition have been gathered in and edited by the students themselves.

We are into the final term of the year!! Life at St Columba's continues to hurtle at the speed of light with the students enjoying great learning experiences day after day. Here are some of these experiences that our boys would like to share with you.

Mr R Donnelly, Editor

Holland Tour 2013

I think that the Year 8, 9 and 10 football tour to Holland was a fantastic experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Going to Valkenberg, Holland was a massive opportunity that we did not miss as every single person had a lot of fun with friends, teachers and local residents as we got a chance to explore the town. The tour made me feel like a professional footballer as we had training and healthy meals with a match in the evening. Whilst other age groups were playing, St. Columba's boys cheered them on like a family. I really enjoyed my time and hope we can do it again.

Anthony Atilola 10B



Year 8 Commendation

When I won the Student Commendation Award I was quite pleased with myself. On the day I found out about the award I was in the middle of my homework when my parents told me they had received a letter saying I was going to be given the award. On the day I received the award, I was running late and was worried as I was stuck in traffic- luckily, I made it to school in time! My parents were very pleased with me and as a reward, they said they would treat me to some cash and I might buy a game. I am happy to have received this award for my progress and I hope to win more awards in the future!

Mark Graham 8F



My Commendation

My Commendation was the highlight of the year so far. This is my second award from Senior Leadership. When I was called up there were another four boys also receiving awards. It was great to know that others were also achieving. After the assembly, we went into the canteen for drinks and snacks (mostly chocolate bars and biscuits!) and we all had our photos taken. Mr Woodcock took in the boys that received awards and told our parents how teachers are praising our success. It was a great experience.

Anthony Jobarteh 8F

Holland

The football tour to Holland was a very long trip but exciting. We played matches against three Dutch teams and won them 7-5, 1-0 and 11-0. Everyone who went seemed to enjoy it and had a good time. We had one training session and one match each day for three days, which was tiring but fun playing against international opposition. The facilities in Holland are fantastic. The training ground and the pitches we played on were of high quality.

Samuel Fordham 10C



The Retreat

We arrived on Friday and were greeted by happy looking people. We went straight to the beach! We also went bowling, played football, table tennis, pool, table football. The trip was amazing and I would definitely go again. Thanks to all the staff, it was an amazing trip!

Sean Doyle 9X



Warm up session to wake us all up prior to lessons starting in the morning.

The night we arrived everyone was told to take their bags upstairs then come back down for the introduction. We then had dinner, chicken curry which tasted as nice as it smelled. We headed to the beach, everyone had great fun, skimming stones and playing football.

Joshua Smith 9L



Performing Arts Music

I was proud to present the GCSE classes in a celebratory music concert that took place on 13th March. The talent shown throughout the evening consisted of Years 9, 10 and 11 students performing in bands playing recent as well as old songs, that really brought our school theatre to life. Mr Southby and I are very proud of what was achieved by all that evening.

All the secondary schools in Bexley have come together to perform a concert at the Orchard Theatre, Dartford Tuesday 23rd April. I have chosen 2 bands from the GCSE concert and they will be performing at this event in front of the Bexley Mayor.

Miss A Anand, Head of Music



The school will be putting on a whole school performance of the 'Blues Brothers' later in the term. We will be inviting primary schools to a free performance. Students and parents will be invited to one of two afternoon and evening performances. Details to follow.

Ms G Mortimore

Art in the Community

Our Art and Design in the Community initiative is an ongoing and very successful programme that establishes links with feeder Catholic schools in our local area.

The programme has been set up by the Art and Design Department, who either invite local schools to visit our school and enjoy the wonderful facilities within the Department or the Art teachers go out to the schools supporting them with their Art curriculum, putting on Art Workshops and establishing a positive and long term partnership. Mrs McCann recently visited St Stephen's Primary school in Welling where the students who were wonderful and so enthusiastic, designed and created clay pinch pots. The Clay Workshop challenged all students to work together and share ideas towards their final individual pieces. A magnificent school who have always valued the role of the Arts in the education of their students.



Mrs D Archer,
Head of Visual Art

Art & Design Department

It has been a busy term in the Art Department. We hope you enjoy some of the creative work that our talented young art students have produced over the past weeks.



We look forward to seeing you at the Summer Exhibition in the school's Art Gallery that will take place towards the end of the current academic year. Final details will be advertised soon.

Well done to all of our talented student artists!



REGISTER FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If your son is eligible to receive Free School Meals, please register your application with London Borough of Bexley immediately before the end of term. This will enable the school to qualify for extra funding from the Government to help provide learning resources for all, even if your son does not use his entitlement.

PE Department News

London Marathon 2013

I would firstly like to say a huge thank you to all staff, parents, pupils, friends and family who have supported me throughout my Marathon journey. Since finding out that I had a place at the end of January, there have been months of hard work getting myself prepared. Once the day of the race arrived, even though I was as prepared as I could be given the late notice, nothing could have prepared me for what lay ahead. This was without doubt, the most tiresome and brutal physical activity that I have ever done. As much of a cliché as it is, the people cheering the runners on throughout the 26.2 miles really does make the difference.

The atmosphere throughout the race was incredible especially at the 'Cutty Sark' and throughout Bermondsey and will be an unforgettable memory. The torture going through the Isle of Dogs again, is something I will never forget, especially being overtaken by a giant fire extinguisher called 'Foamy'.

Your kind words and donations have been greatly appreciated and have made the difference. The total amount raised so far for The Children's Society, is £2,624.34. It's still not too late to contribute and any donation is greatly appreciated. www.justgiving.com/Harry-Martin1

Mr H Martin
Head of P.E. Department



RESULTS

FOOTBALL

Yr8	Tour Fixture	v	De Leeuw	D 1-1
Yr8	Tour Fixture	v	Langeburg	L 0-1
Y8	Tour Fixture	v	LHC	D 3-3
Yr9	N Kent Cup Final	v	Bexleyheath Academy	L 0-2
Yr9	Tour Fixture	v	UOW	W 5-2
Yr9	Tour Fixture	v	De Ster	W 3-0
Yr9	Tour Fixture	v	Eijsden	W 18-0
Yr10	Tour Fixture	v	UOW	W 7-5
Yr10	Tour Fixture	v	Langeburg	W 1-0
Yr10	Tour Fixture	v	Glupen	W 11-0

BASKETBALL

Yr7	Friendly	v	Bexley Grammar	L 28-32
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Please visit our Sports page on the school website for up-to-date results, news and fixtures.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME SUMMER TERM

MONDAYS	CRICKET TRAINING Yr 7 RUGBY TRAINING Yrs 9 and 10 GCSE REVISION Yr 11
TUESDAYS	INTERHOUSE COMPETITIONS (rotation) Yrs 7-10
WEDNESDAYS	INTERHOUSE COMPETITIONS (rotation) Yrs 7-10
THURSDAYS	CRICKET TRAINING Years 7-8 BTEC CATCH UP Yrs 10 and 11 GCSE REVISION
FRIDAYS	INDOOR TENNIS Years 7-11

Does your son have a Scientific Calculator? All students need one in every Maths lesson. The GCSE is assessed by both calculator and non-calculator papers.

Football Tour to Holland



During the first week of Easter, 44 students and 5 members of staff travelled to Valkenburg, Holland on a Football Tour. Years 8, 9 and 10 football squads had three games each against local Dutch opposition. Both Year 9 and 10 won all their fixtures and the Year 8 team drew two fixtures, losing just one. The trip was a great success and enjoyed by students and staff alike. A big thank you to Mr Martin, Mr Eldridge, Mr Williams and Mr Fernandes for their hard work and effort!

Mr R Donnelly, P.E. Department



KEY STAGE 4 'OPTIONS' - ALL Year 8 Pupils

Just a reminder that all Year 8 parents are invited to attend either of the Options meetings with staff on 6th June 7pm until 8pm & 10th June 3pm until 4pm to discuss your son's progression to Key Stage 4 and his GCSE options. ALL 'Options' replies must be received in school by midday Friday 14th June 2013. Many thanks, Mr P Shields, Deputy Headteacher

Interhouse Programme

22nd May	Year 10	Basketball
4th June	Year 8	Table Tennis
5th June	Year 10	Dodgeball
11th June	Year 7	Rowing
12th June	Year 9	Table Tennis
18th June	Year 9	Basketball
26th June	Sports Day	
2nd July	Year 8	Rowing
3rd July	Year 9	Rowing