

Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Sports College

NEWSLETTER
20 November 2008

Year 11 have had a busy time – GCSE Examinations, Review Day and an Empowerment Day arranged to help motivate them to be positive about their exams.

EMPOWERMENT DAY

The highlight of this motivational day was the visit from Giles Long – Paralympian Gold and Bronze medal swimmer for Great Britain in

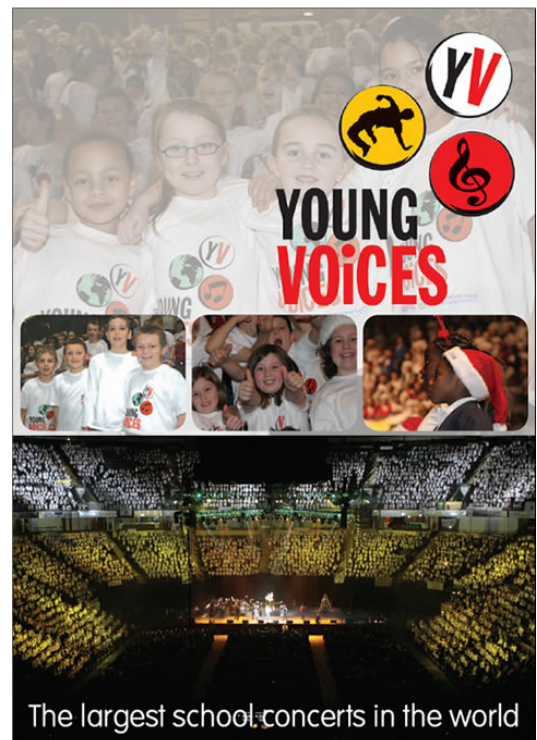


2000 and 2004 in Sydney and Athens respectively. He told his story and urged students to be positive, be brave, never give up and to “always be the best you can be!” He enjoyed his visit to school so much that he has agreed to return for Presentation Evening.

YOUNG VOICES CONCERT

The school choir are joining choirs from across the West Midlands for a concert at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on Tuesday 25 November 2008. The concert commences at 7.00pm and will be finished by 9.15pm.

Staff, Parents and Governors are going to support. There are still a few tickets available on line through The Ticket Factory.



The largest school concerts in the world

YEAR 9

Year 9 reports are being distributed this week and Parents Evening is **Thursday 27 November 2008 – 4.30pm to 7.30pm**. Do make sure your son/daughter makes appointments. In the event of appointments not being made parents can still attend and staff will ensure you meet the right teachers. Year 9 Review Day will be held on **Friday 6 March 2009**.

SATs will be held for Year 9. The experience of the tests is excellent preparation for Key Stage 4 study. More information will be available for Year 9 parents when you come for Parents Evening.

Year 9 will be the first group to receive their annual report in the new format. I would encourage parents to give their views on these reports. In the past we have been told that parents receive so much information about their son/daughters progress that they can actually miss the key headline information. I will make modifications to the new format based upon comments relating to Year 9.



PARENTS GROUP MEETING
TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER – 6.00PM AT SCHOOL



This week school has given attention to the issue of bullying. In the assemblies delivered to all year groups a check list of bad behaviours which lead to bullying were shared with students. Sometimes students can forget that most bullying actually involves low level activity such as name calling and kicking chairs. I am glad to say that most students in this school look after each other and treat all with respect. Student Support Centre staff and the Peer Mentor Team are always available to help.

If you have concerns on this matter please contact school and make sure your voice is heard.

I remind you that when Ofsted last visited us they reported school behaviour, care, guidance and support for students as **OUTSTANDING**.

Father Kelly celebrated Mass with students from a cross section of year groups on Thursday. Father spoke about his recent visit to Lourdes with parishioners and two students from this school. He told the story of St Bernadette and reminded us that she is a saint and famous because she prayed and because of her faith. In the Month of November we pray for families grieving loved ones. Year 7 are leading school in very powerful prayer sessions in the chapel at the start of every day. Well done to students Claudie Leary and Molly Orme who played the flute during communion and to Peter Farr and Shameh Aman who read.

YEAR 11 VISIT OXFORD UNIVERSITY!

(By Selina Ladher, Kerri Grant and Rachel Collins)



We arrived at Oxford University after a two and a half hour journey from Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Sports College.

We were based in the long room in New College for the day. We were given refreshments on arrival and we were asked to fill in a questionnaire. We had an introductory talk about university life followed by a Question and Answer session about any worries we had on going to university.

Then came the tour of the beautiful New College where we came upon the staircase with a difference; it squeaks back to you if you clap at the bottom of it. It was supposedly a burial for the plague victims! We visited the set used for the scene in the Harry Potter movies where Draco Malfoy was turned into a ferret by Mad Eye Moody. We also saw an amazing chapel containing a painting worth over £6m! We were also able to see a typical student room; this was conveniently above the dining hall.

Lunch took place in a grand dining hall which was going to be the Hogwarts' Great Hall in the Harry Potter movies, but New College refused the amount of money offered because they wanted more.

We went back to the long room to get our bags and set off to the Natural History Museum where we had a talk, where we were shown fossils and live cockroaches! They were held by Daniel Love, George Dhillion and Garikai Kungwengwe. We then went around the museum and saw Dinosaur skeletons, colourful crystals and creepy crawlies from around the world.

Finally we were split into two groups and went around Oxford to complete our Photographic Scavenger Hunt. We had a list of random things to find and photograph such as a celebrity/celebrity look a like, a bike parked in a stupid place, lots of beards etc. This was the highlight of the day because we were able to explore the city of Oxford and the social life of students.

We all enjoyed our day out. This trip has changed our views on university because it made us realise how important it is to work in school to help us with further education and to get into a good university. It has made us realise that we should achieve all we can.