

# HOPE HERALD

## DANGEROUS DUNGEONS AND DEFYING GRAVITY



High in the Sky

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November a group of 25 Hope Academy students travelled down to London to experience the sights of our vibrant capital city. On arrival the group were given a guided tour of the capitals most famous sights including Westminster Abbey, Big Ben, Trafalgar Square and the River Thames.

The pupils were excited to see the hit West End musical 'Wicked'. It was a fantastic production and the pupils particularly enjoyed the impressive sets and

costumes. The breath-taking performance of 'Defying Gravity' was absolutely stunning.

We then treated ourselves to a pizza before taking a stroll across the Thames to the South Bank Christmas markets towards our evening flight on the London Eye. Some pupils put to one side their fear of heights to experience the incredible views of the city at night.

The following day we were lucky enough to be treated to another guided tour of Kensington and drove past world famous museums and shops such as Harrods. Then it was onwards to the London Dungeons and despite some Y10

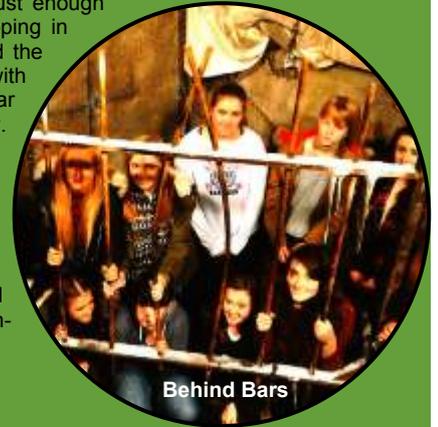
screams and tears, the group made it around this terrifying experience learning something of the capitals gruesome history.

**“ Wicked was fantastic. ‘Defying Gravity’ was stunning! ”**

Just before the group took to the motorway to return to Newton, there was just enough time for some lunch and shopping in Covent Garden. Pupils enjoyed the variety of street performers, with floating Yoda being a particular favourite for a photo opportunity.

This trip was a great success due to the fantastic behaviour and excellent attitudes of the students involved. They were a true credit to Hope Academy and the English Department will begin to arrange the 2014 London trip soon.

Miss Bradburn



Behind Bars

## Brains of the Future Put to the Test



Ready to Quiz

On 4<sup>th</sup> December 8 teams of Y5 pupils from local primary schools turned up to Hope Academy to compete in our annual Quiz Kids competition.

It was a closely fought competition with five rounds including maths, history, general knowledge, sports and entertainment and a picture round. Each team had the option of playing a joker card on one round where they could win double points – the maths round was a particular favourite here with every team playing their card!

Last years' winners, St Peters, were victorious again winning with a massive 54 points. Vying for second place was St Lewis', All Saints and Newton Primary. These three teams finished the competition with 52 points therefore a tie breaker was required to decide who would come second. It was a tense moment for all three teams but it was All Saints that were victorious in the tie breaker securing second place.



St Peter's were Worthy Winners

St Peters were awarded a trophy for their school and individual medals and certificates for each pupil. As second, third and fourth place were only separated by a hairs breadth Mr Gannon decided that pupils from these teams should be awarded a medal and certificate as well.

**“ All of the teams performed brilliantly. We were very impressed with everything they knew! ”**

The evening was well supported by parents and staff from the primary schools – a massive thank you to everyone who came along to watch.



All Saints were Victorious in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

All Saints



Vying for 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

St Lewis

## Sweeney Todd the Demon Barber



A Close Shave

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November a group of 30 pupils from Y10-13 went to the Royal Exchange to see 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street'. It tells the tale of a Victorian barber with murderous intent and a failing pie shop owner, Mrs Lovett, who has an interesting way of disposing of the bodies. With throats being 'slit' and fake blood flying it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. Pupils enjoyed songs such as 'The Worst Pies in London' and 'A Little Priest' and the brilliant performances by the whole cast. Everyone was completely engrossed in the story, laughing Pirelli's miracle elixir, jumping at Sweeney's murderous outbursts and falling in love with Anthony. Some pupils enjoyed it so much they went back on Saturday to see it again!

## Barmy about Books

Between 6<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December there was a half price book fair in the LRC where pupils could buy books for as little as £1.25. Parents, pupils and staff all saw it as a brilliant opportunity to buy Christmas presents for their friends and family. Before the book fair arrived five pupils in Y7 had the chance to win a £5 voucher to spend at the fair by winning a design a bookmark competition. The lucky winners of the vouchers were Emily Clynes, Lucy Heaton, Georgia Harris, Freya Millener and Joanna Smith. Pupils loved the fair with 'The Hunger Games', 'One Direction' books and 'Star Wars Jedi Academy' being particular favourites. There will be another half price book fair to look out for in the summer term.



Catching the Reading Bug

“The Hunger Games was a definite favourite amongst pupils”

## Chaplain's Corner

It has been a very busy half term in the Chaplaincy. Charity Club have been busy raising money for various charities including Children in Need. They ran a number of cake sales and a 'Guess How Many Sweets in the Jar' competition. We also had a non-uniform day which resulted in raising a huge £1245 so well done to everyone who supported the events.



Pudsey Cake

We had our annual shoebox collection for Operation Christmas Child and many form groups are to be thanked for their generous contribution towards our total of 68 boxes. These boxes will be sent to children all across the world who otherwise would not receive a Christmas present. Thank you to everyone who supported this important cause. A special thank you goes to Charity Club for all their help with the co-ordination of the project.



Shoeboxes

“ Thank you to everyone who has supported our charity efforts this term.”

The Y9 Chaplaincy students welcomed the Animate youth team to the school to run a day retreat which looked at the theme of Advent. We explored this important time in the Christian calendar through quizzes, games and reflective prayer. It was brilliant to take a

## Getting in the Christmas Spirit

Y7 students were set a challenge to design their own Christmas cards as part of a project the Eco Committee have been running.

Students have worked closely with a company called 'Created by Kids' to transform their creations into high quality, eco-friendly personalised greetings cards. Pupils who won the competition had their cards printed professionally by the company and they were sold in school and at the Christmas Market. All proceeds have been donated to Willowbrook Hospice and over £100 was raised!

“ Well done to competition winners Mia Phillips, Phoebe Chandler, Nikola Maciejewska, Georgia Harris and Tia Birkett. ”



Bringing Christmas Cheer

## Parents We Value Your Views

Hope Academy is pleased to introduce our newly formed PTA. An evening was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December where parents and carers were given information on how they could contribute to the daily life of the Academy. The PTA plans to host a number of programmes that will benefit pupils' education, health and welfare at Hope Academy. If you would like more information please contact Mrs Arnold. We would also welcome your views on the Academy through Ofsted's online survey, Parent View. Parent View asks for your opinion on a number of aspects of your child's school experience, including their progress; how bullying is dealt with and how behaviour is handled.

moment to pause and think about the season and what is truly important in our lives.

Sadly, this is my last Chaplains corner as I am leaving the Academy at Christmas. It was a very difficult decision to make and I will really miss the community of Newton-le-Willows but I am excited about moving on to my new school. May I take this opportunity to thank you all for your kindness and support over the last couple of years and to welcome the new chaplains to the Academy. I wish them every blessing as they seek to develop the Chaplaincy. I hope you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year. God Bless you,

Miriam



Thinking about the true meaning of Christmas

# The Anti Bullying Breakout Day

Our first Breakout Day of the year was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November. The day was centred around Anti Bullying and each year focused on a different aspect of why people are bullied and how it should be prevented.

**“Breakout Day gave us an insight into other people’s lives. It doesn’t matter if people are different, everyone should be treated equally.”**

**Year 7:** The focus for Y7 was personal wellbeing. They participated in a number of activities such as: a workshop in basic first aid led by the British Red Cross; a lesson on personal hygiene; a presentation on cyber bullying and e safety.

**“I know what the dangers of the Internet are but I understand now how to use it safely.”**

There were outside speakers giving talks on a variety of subjects such as the effects of smoking from the St Helens Drug and Alcohol team; relationships and the dangers of talking to strangers from a Community Police Officer.

**“We were taught that not all relationships are the same and not to judge people.”**



**Year 8:** The overall theme for Y8 was Tolerance. The pupils participated in activities and workshops such as: team sports; e safety and cyber bullying; sign language delivered by the Liverpool School for the Deaf and road safety from an organisation that aims to raise awareness of passenger and pedestrian safety Go Street.



**“I’d never thought how deaf people live, we take hearing for granted.”**

They also participated in a workshop that looked at team spirit which was led by players from Warrington Wolves. The Y8s listened to a talk from a Stonewall Ambassador. Stonewall is a charity that, amongst many other things, aims to tackle homophobic bullying and language within schools. The ambassador talked to pupils about the importance of equality and acceptance of others within our school and local community.



**“We were taught why it is important to be accepting of other people”**

**Year 9 and 10:** The focus of the day for Y9 and 10 was stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination. Their activities included: a workshop from ‘The One Latin Culture Group’ on dance and music from other cultures and a session with CAFOD on the role of women in other cultures.



**“The CAFOD session made me realise how difficult it can be for women in other cultures and how fortunate I am.”**

Pupils also attended a tutorial from Andy Reid and Stephen Cruise on living with a disability; a presentation from the Stonewall Ambassador; a session with a self defence expert on personal safety and an assembly with Scary Guy to raise the profile of individuality, acceptance and personal choice.



**“Andy Reid and Stephen Cruise made me realise how much people with disabilities have to go through to stay independent but that life doesn’t have to stop because of a disability.”**

**Sixth Form:** The overall theme for Y12 and 13 was Anti-Bullying, they looked at how to tackle bullying in school and how to be a positive role model for younger pupils. They participated in activities such as: three workshops with Scary Guy on solving problems, dealing with stress, bullying and negativity; a presentation from the Stonewall Ambassador and a talk from a motivational speaker who campaigns worldwide to eliminate hate, violence, prejudice and bullying in schools.

**“Scary Guy made me think about my actions, he taught us to treat people how we would like to be treated.”**



# SPORTS NEWS

## Netball News

The Monday night club continues to attract over fifty girls from the Academy. Y7,8,9 & 10 have all played in fixtures against other schools in St. Helens. The Y7 & 8 teams have had an excellent run of wins and to date Y7 remain unbeaten for the season. Both the Y7 & 8 teams have been helped by the extra coaching session led by two coaches from Warrington Netball Club and the Saturday morning boot camps. On the morning of Saturday 16th November, girls from feeder primary schools and the Academy attended a 2 hour boot camp to improve their netball skills. At the session the girls practiced their basic skills in footwork and throwing and catching as well as taking part in games and practising their shooting. Well done to everyone who has attended any netball practice sessions, they will continue on Mondays after school.



Practising their skills

The Community Netball Club has been set up to encourage young people aged 14+ to become engaged in competitive team sports. It is part of the England initiative called Back to Netball. We have opened the club up to members of the local community and to staff and have had regular attendance from sixth formers and staff such as Mrs Johnson and Miss Shinkfield. If interest is maintained there will be a further 6 sessions after the Christmas break, so prior warning to dust off your trainers!



## Basketball News

In Basketball, the Y9 team sit comfortably at the top of the St. Helens schools league and are aiming to book their place in the National competition in the New Year. The Y10 and 11 teams currently lie in second place in their respective tables.



## Girls Football

The girls' football club continues to run on Tuesday after school. The girls are coached by a professional coach who works with the FA. So far the girls have been unlucky to lose their first 2 games each by one goal and both against older opposition. The girls have been entered in to the Merseyside Schools Football Tournament which will take place just before Christmas. Good Luck to the team!



## Off to a Good Start

Y7 have had a very successful start to sporting life at Hope Academy winning the St. Helens Schools Rugby League tournament in October and in doing so, qualified for the regional stages of the Champion Schools competition. The lads have gone unbeaten in the group stage and have booked a place in the Quarter Finals and will play Wigan Deanery in the coming weeks. Not content with that, they are also currently unbeaten in football too, reaching the Quarter Finals of the St. Helens Schools cup. Keep up the good work!

## Star in the Making

Congratulations to Rob Fairclough who has been selected for the England Academy Rugby League squad. The Blackbrook Royals and St. Helens RL scholar will tour Wales and France in 2014.



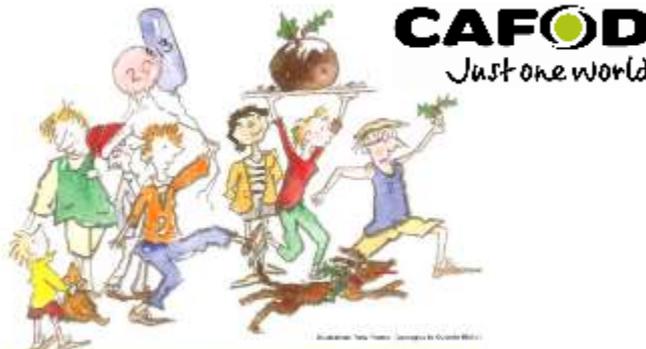
Rob Fairclough

## Revision Class

Year 11 GCSE PE revision class is currently running every Monday evening after school in the CLIMATE area.

## The 29th Annual CAFOD Fun Run

The 29th Annual CAFOD Fun Run takes place on Friday 27th December, starting at 1pm prompt at Wavertree Park, Liverpool L15 4LE. The run is 7k which includes a one lap Mini Run of 3k plus an alternative route for walkers, wheelchairs and pushchairs. Spectators and supporters are very welcome and there will be plenty, other than the runners, to keep you occupied with festive stalls and live jazz music. It is £10 to enter as a family or £5 to enter individually and there is a prize for the best fancy dress. You can pick up a sponsor form from [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) or ring 0151 228 4028. So set yourself a sponsorship target, pull on your trainers and run off your Christmas pudding! We look forward to seeing you there!



“Just £360 can buy a much needed water tank for a community in the Philippines”

### The Hope Academy Prayer

Father, we bring before you the community of Hope Academy, Asking that we might be worthy stewards of your creation: caring for the environment, and sustaining all that you have given us.

Help us to reach out to others, to support growth, development and justice at home and abroad, ever mindful that our strength lies within, in our young people.

They are the hope of today and the hope of tomorrow: Builders of a better future for our world and its people.

Amen

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