



# CONTACT



## The Newsletter of St Alban's Catholic High School

November 2018  
Edition No. 3

### Comments from Headteacher

Matt Baker

The national GCSE school comparison has been published, and our Attainment score put us **top in Ipswich**. The data shows that we are in the top ten schools across Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex for improved progress and attainment scores. These are a few of many signals that we are sending that demonstrate our commitment to excellence. To sustain this, we are adding to staffing in English, maths and science to support great outcomes at GCSE and A Level.

The theme of collaboration has weaved throughout our work this term, and I have been involved in peer reviews of Westbourne, and the Saxmundham and Beccles Free Schools. This has brought our schools close together, and provided valuable feedback for all of us. We have also forged strong links with many primary schools in our funded maths project, and with St Benedict's in Bury looking to support each other as we plan to join the MAT.

Every blessing for a wonderful Advent, as we await the welcoming light of His truth and love.

God Bless

### Key Diary Dates

<b>Tuesday 04 December</b>	Sixth Form Taster Day
<b>Wednesday 19 December</b>	End of Term (students dismissed at 2.10pm)
<b>Wednesday 02 January</b>	Staff Professional Development Day
<b>Thursday 03 January</b>	Start of Spring Term
<b>Week Commencing 07 January</b>	Year 13 Mock Exams
<b>Wednesday 09 January</b>	Year 11 Consultation Evening

# Year 11

Mr Corless, Deputy Headteacher

There is much information to share with Year 11 students and their parents during this important year. We will usually do this only with those concerned but I thought it would be appropriate to include some of this in this edition of 'Contact' so that other parents can get a flavour of what is happening.

- **Target Grades:** The Progress 8 measure that is now used to rank schools compares the performance of students in a school with similar students nationally in the same exam season. This last aspect means that we don't know how other students perform until after they receive their results. Our results from this summer show continued improvement on 2017's figures. Our students figure for Progress 8 has improved from -0.38 to +0.23 indicating that students are making significant improvements above the national average. Our students have also improved significantly in English and Maths (Grade 4+) at 72% which is significantly above the national average of 63%. With this in mind it is imperative that we maintain these improvements with the current Year 11 students to ensure they are best prepared for post 16 education.
- **Mock Exams: These took place between (19-28 November).** One of the reasons that schools run these is so that students have an experience similar to the real exams, and so all the usual rules and protocols are adhered to. On behalf of Mrs Ward (Head of Year 11) and the Senior Leadership Team we would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Year 11 students for their continued commitment during this time. It was pleasing to see that they showed maturity when entering and exiting the exam halls.
- **Exam Results:** As part of our aim to replicate the actual exam experience we will this year have a 'Mock Results Day' when students will collect their results. We will try and make this as similar to the August day as possible as this is sometimes an effective motivator for any that have yet to take the exam process seriously. The date for 'Mock Results Day' is Monday 17 December and more details will be issued nearer the time.
- **Examination Boards:** There are a small number of exam boards that offer GCSEs and schools are free to select which ones they use. Most boards now offer Internet access and so it is useful for parents/carers to know which boards the school is using in case they would like to explore the board websites. See Appendix B for details of the exam boards we will be using for 2019 GCSEs.
- **Revision Classes:** These are in the planning stages based on departments identifying what methods of support will best serve the students. It is anticipated that a timetable of revision support will be in place in due course. The key thing to remember is that all students can benefit from this support and this is not necessarily an opt in, all need to be participating based on their curriculum choice in Year 11. Please be aware that I will write to you again to confirm which departments will be providing intervention.

## Senior Maths Challenge

Mr Silk

The Senior Maths Challenge involving 18 students from Years 11, 12 and 13 took place on Tuesday 06 November. Congratulations to Thomas, 12MT who got the best score in the school and achieved a Silver award.

The following six students were also awarded the Silver award: Isabella (13NI); Joss (13TS); Sally (13RC); Marnie (12WE); Oliver (11WR). A further six students achieved the Bronze award to cap off an excellent set of scores.

Four students will now go through to compete in the Senior Team Maths Challenge which will take place at Northgate High School on Thursday 29 November.

# Maths Homework Support

Mrs Hind

Please note that Sixth Form Maths students will be available to help students, from any Year Group, with their Maths homework at 'Homework Club' in Room 21 and A6 from 20th November.

# Arkwright Engineering Scholar

Mr Pattinson

Congratulations to Tom 12MT for becoming our latest Arkwright Engineering Scholar.

An Arkwright Engineering Scholarship is the most prestigious scholarship of its type in the UK to inspire and nurture school-age students to be the country's future leaders of the Engineering Profession. The Scholarships are awarded to high-calibre 16-year-old students through a rigorous selection process and supports students through the two years of their A levels, Scottish Advanced Highers or equivalent qualifications.

Every Scholarship is sponsored by a commercial company, trade association, university, professional institution, armed service, government organisation, worshipful company, charitable trust or personal donor. This means that support is offered in various different ways, for example, valuable hands-on work experience, support for your curriculum project and a personal mentor who can help with aspects of studies and career planning.



# Congratulations

Mrs Lewis, Head of Year 7

Congratulations to the following Year 7 students who achieved 25 or more House Points over the first half-term and received a bronze star for their blazer.



What a fantastic start to the year.

<u>7PG</u>	<u>7GE</u>	<u>7MF</u>	<u>7FS</u>	<u>7CS</u>	<u>7PC</u>
Alexandre	Antoni	Romano	Luc	Lena	Ethan
Inez	Joshua	Oliver	Macey	Olive	Brogan
Harini	Oliver	Nihaal	Alfie	Jared	
Ollie	Mathilda		Madock	Isobel	
			Matthew		
			Austin	Ruby	
			Fran		
			Casper-Sam		
			Sandra		
			Aaron		

## Chaplaincy Events

Miss Edwards, Chaplain

### Success in Knights of St Columba Essay Competition

Some of our Year 8 Students entered an essay competition organised by the Knights of St Columba which covered East Anglia Diocese

There was great success for three of our students. Felicity 8WM won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for her balanced report on 'Refugees', Ruth 8WM won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize for her creative letter entitled 'Dear Isaac' and lastly 1<sup>st</sup> prize was won by Niall 8KE. Niall's essay was then sent to be judged nationally and we are delighted to report that he won 1<sup>st</sup> prize. Niall received a £75 cheque for himself whilst the school received a cup and £250. Well done Niall!



### Food Bank Collection during October

Thank you for all parents and students who contributed to our Harvest Collection for Ipswich foodbank. FIND who organised the Foodbank were overwhelmed by your generosity. They brought one car to collect all the items but had to send out for another car!



Members of 8KF and 8AY help Maureen Reynal (FIND) Director to pack up all the food.

### November – Month of the Holy Souls

During the month of November we remember family members, relatives and friends who have died. All students are invited into the Chapel for prayerful reflection to help them cope with the loss and sadness felt through bereavement.

## St Alban's Remembers Them

By Emma Wise, Head of Humanities



On Monday 12 November the School came together to remember those who have lost their lives in conflict. A service was held in the Main Hall, and all Year Groups attended. During the service students watched the names of people who had lost their lives during the First World War scroll on the screen. These were the names provided by staff, students, parents and carers at the end of last year for the "lest we forget" project. It gave a really meaningful and poignant opening to the service. Staff and students then led with readings, bidding prayers and the laying of a wreath by Mr Baker.

I was incredibly proud of the service that came together, and felt that as a school we had marked the 100-year anniversary of the Armistice in a very appropriate way. The students involved were fantastic and I would like to publicly thank Max, Eleanor, Cameron, Anangan, Connor and Laurent for the excellent work they did in helping to put the service together.



After school on this day there was also a showing of Peter Jackson's 'They Shall Not Grow Old' documentary film. It was really pleasing to see a strong turnout to this event, particularly from some of the younger students in the school. The film was fantastic, and having the ability to see it on the big screen in a cinematic way really heightened the reality of what

was being shown. When speaking to students afterwards they made comments about how "real it all felt now" and how they "didn't realise how bad the war truly was".

I feel that as a school we really got the message across about the significance of the First World War and the importance of remembrance. I also strongly encourage those who have not yet seen this film to watch it. It is incredibly powerful (but also graphic in places - be warned if you are squeamish!) It is currently available on iPlayer if you would like to watch it.

I am truly honoured to have brought together all the different elements of remembrance this year, and would like to thank you again for your support in the "lest we forget" project, and giving permission to those students who attended the film. I really feel that this year

***we will remember them.***

## Diocesan Youth Synod

Alice, Year 11

On Sunday 04 November Mrs Edwards, the School Chaplin, and I went to the Diocesan Youth Synod. This Synod followed on from a Synod that happened a couple of weeks ago in Rome and the Bishop had decided he wanted to do one here in the Diocese. The topic was 'Youth, Faith and Vocational discernment', the same theme as the one in Rome.

At the beginning of the day we were split into groups; Youth and Adult Leaders. The younger group went outside and we played some games to get to know each other. Then Kieran and Jessica from the 'Ignite' team asked us questions about our Parishes, for example they asked does your Parish welcome the Youth, a lot of the group kept their hands down. After that we all went inside to answer similar questions to those asked in Rome, we sat in small groups of 4 or 5 and answered them together. The answers will all be collated by the Ignite team and fed back to the Bishop and Director of Youth.

We then had a Q&A session with a panel where we were able to ask anonymous questions of the Bishop, Sister Teresa from Walsingham, Father Luke, the Ignite Chaplin and Parish Priest at Mildenhall, Hamish, Director of Youth and Cat Team Leader for the Ignite team.

The day ended with Benediction and prayer. I had a great day and enjoyed being involved with helping the diocese.



## Friends' of St Alban's Update

Mrs Cullum, Chair of FoSA

Thank you to the parents, students, teachers and staff that supported our fireworks night, we hope you all enjoyed it! A special thank you to our 6th Formers and Y11 helpers, Alison Palmer of Barclays for match funding our event and Alison Spellar of the BBC Radio Suffolk for advertising it. You all helped raise £1,500 towards our mini bus fund.

We are grateful for your continued support.

Please remember to use 'The Giving Machine' app when ordering your Christmas presents, it's free to you and helps us raise money for school (see flyer further on in this edition).

Mrs Hind would also like to pass her thanks to the Sixth Form students who helped at the firework event including: Thomas H, Sarah B, Virginia M, Annais, Ahn T, Dana V, Sammi, Kerry B, Alex F, Jak S, Lilly B, Marnie W, Thomas I, Jarren, Josh, Ethan K, Aki C, Hannah E, Aoife M, Eleanor C. The students raised around £60 for Cafod and £60 for the 6th form funds. With special thanks to Thomas H who was a great help to the Friends of St Alban's.

## Visit to North Norfolk

Mrs Welbourne, Head of Geography

On Monday 15 October, Year 12 Geographers spent the day exploring the North Norfolk Coast. The purpose of the day was to investigate a variety of different landforms which are shaped by the varying Geology and coastal processes found along the coast from Hunstanton to Overstrand. We also collect data to test various hypotheses.

Unfortunately, we chose one of the coldest days of the term so far but students were undeterred and coped with the windy and wet conditions without complaining. (The picture below shows Josh determined to get an accurate reading when measuring the height of a cliff).

Once the work was completed, we enjoyed fish and chips in Cromer!

Well done year 12, I promise to do better with the weather next time.



## Visit to GameAnglia

Mr Robinson

On November 10 our A-Level Computer Scientists visited GameAnglia at the UCS building on the Waterfront in Ipswich. Students had the opportunity to speak to industry professionals and to play games made by local companies/students. They also attended lectures detailing different routes into the Game Industry including a session with Bill Roper who was one of the VPs at Disney Interactive Studios.

Students enjoyed having this opportunity on their doorstep and it will serve as a way to inspire them when learning and picking their projects for next year when they start to develop a complex algorithm.



## Farewell

At the end of this term we say farewell to Mrs Melody Bradley, Key Stage 3 Student Support Manager, who is retiring after 12 years St Alban's. During this time Mrs Bradley has played a significant role in the support provided to our younger students and has also been a very valuable link to the school for many parents. Mrs Helen Arthur will be joining the school to take over the role from the middle of December to allow her to spend time with Mrs Bradley before she retires.

## Anna Airy Exhibition

Mrs Wright, Head of Art

Congratulations to all of our art students whose work has been displayed in the Anna Airy exhibition during November at Waterfront Gallery, University of Suffolk.

This exhibition shows the work of 185 A Level students in Suffolk. This year we exhibited work from 8 of our current students - Grace 13NI, Aleksandra 13DA, Joy 13WE, Max 13WE, Lorie 13LE - and 3 students who completed their A levels last term: John, Bryony and Maria.

We are delighted to announce that both John and Joy received 'highly commended' awards for their paintings. We are very proud to teach such a talented group of students and continue to see such high standard of work.

Well done everyone.

*Congratulations*



## The Ukooles

Mr Sims

On the evening of Saturday 10 November the school ukulele band, 'The Ukooles', attended and performed at a musical event at The Meadows Montessori Primary School in Ipswich. The theme of the evening was 'Film and Show Songs'. The band were brilliant in their performances of 'Eye of the Tiger' and a medley of Disney tunes (arranged by Lily Kelman). Many people commented on how good they were.

The students from across the year groups that represented the school were: Isobel 9NC, Mathidla 7GE, Sarah 7GE, Daniel 8KE, Sophie 7CS, Kira 10BX, Kurtis 10BX, Tom 10BX and Harry 7GE. My thanks go to Mrs Gilson, Miss Foster and (a special guest appearance by) Mr Green for their involvement with the band on the evening.

The ukulele band meets after school on a Friday evening until 4.30 in Room 15. All students and staff are welcome.





## LOVE IPSWICH - HELP US TO DELIVER 150 LUXURY HAMPERS FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN IPSWICH.

**DEADLINE FOR ITEMS- 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT THE LATEST**

Last year as a charity 'Love Ipswich' was able to deliver 105 luxury hampers to vulnerable families throughout Ipswich. The St Albans community played such a huge part in this and we were overwhelmed by the support of individual students and families. We were able to deliver hampers to families through organisations such as Social Services, the Icenii project, MIND, Headway and EACH children's hospice. One family couldn't thank us enough for their Christmas hamper.

We received a card from someone who received a Christmas Hamper last year. The organisation that delivered the hamper commented on how beautiful the hamper looked and said that the family's faces lit up when it was received. The family are refugees that have recently been housed in the town and been really worried about how they would source and fund a Christmas dinner for their three children. They were overwhelmed with the luxury products and even commented on the beautiful purple bow that was tied around their hamper. Their 6-year-old daughter was delighted with the ribbon and played with it all of Christmas day to tie around her doll. This is just one story in a 105 Christmas hampers that were delivered around our town in 2017.

This year 'Love Ipswich' are aiming for 150 Christmas hampers, as the need in Ipswich is so great. Each hamper has a number of items which make up a Christmas dinner alongside a £10 meat voucher which can be redeemed at a local supermarket. Each Form Group will be collecting items for their hampers, but we always welcome contributions from families, work places etc. All items can be delivered to the school office and packs are available for both businesses and education institutions to get them involved in the campaign. Please email [fmarcus@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk](mailto:fmarcus@st-albans.suffolk.sch.uk) for more information.

We really appreciate your support in this matter.

**Mrs Marcus**



### Christmas Hamper Shopping list

- Gravy Granules
- Stuffing
- Shloer / Sparkling Apple
- Custard
- Savoury Snacks
- Tin of Chocolates
- Biscuits / Shortbread Tin
- Christmas Crackers
- Christmas Cake / Chocolate Log
- Christmas Pudding
- Mince Pies
- Cranberry Sauce



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Please note: You will need to register online on the ParentMail website to use the App. Please ask the school office to send you a registration message.

St. Albans Catholic High School  
Music Dept. presents...

# CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

7.00pm

Tickets: £3 Adults

£2 Concessions/Students

Refreshments will be available in the interval