



# Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College

Le Couvent de Jesus et Marie College Specialise en Langues

Christmas Issue 5  
(Winter Term)

December 2011

Dear Parents/Carers,

During these darker days and the cold weather we often find ourselves guilty of wishing our time away—"I can't wait for the holidays" or "I'll be glad when this week's done" or "only 5 alarms calls 'til we finish". As a consequence we may miss opportunities to give thanks for the great gift that it is to teach and work with our girls.

During the first week of December, we were visited by a team from "Challenge Partners". A team of senior school leaders who were led by an Ofsted inspector visited to review standards within the school. This mirrors an Ofsted inspection and allows us to very critically evaluate our school. I am delighted to report that we maintained our "outstanding" status - we have work to do and a clear focus following their visit. The team were struck by the "excellent" behaviour of the girls and the incredible hard work of the staff. Well done!

Despite the tiring time of the year the girls continue to be offered great opportunities. Whilst we may be wishing our time away, we have also prepared the girls for their journey through Advent and the value of waiting patiently for the birth of Christ. We have been enriched by our spiritual preparations.

Mrs G Freear, Headteacher

## CAROL CONCERT



Over 70 students contributed to the Music of the Carol Concert with both a choir and instrumental ensemble. Many carols were performed and the event certainly raised the Christmas spirit and helped to build anticipation for the season. Thank you to Francisca and Alicja from 9 Fatima, who performed solos in Gaelic. Thank you too to our Head Girl, Jessica Alade who sang an unaccompanied solo from the balcony. These performances were stirring and done to an extremely high standard. Again, I was so proud of the standard of music and the contribution that these music students made to our school community. Thank you too to Ms Maguire who contributed so well in playing the piano as well as helping to prepare the choir. **Miss Marnie Greenrod, Head of Year 9 and Music**

*I enjoyed the Carol Service. After all the hard work, it sounded great and the mince pies were good! **Arianna, 9 Guadalupe***  
*This year's Carol Concert was really successful and the choir were well prepared. I felt nervous about my performance with a friend but I think we did pretty well. It was a great opportunity to celebrate Christmas in our school. **Alicja, 9 Fatima***  
*The Carol Service gave the choir a chance to shine and I'm sure the parents enjoyed it too. **Maria, 9 Lourdes***  
*The Carol Service was lovely and the choir was wonderful and so were the girls who were playing their instruments.*

**Jasmin, 9 Monserrat**

*The Carol Concert was very good and I loved singing in the choir. **Eire, 7 Fisher***

*It was very exciting and I really enjoyed it. **Lulia, 7 George***

## CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

If we re-set the nativity using modern professions and high street fashions, the shepherds would become cycle couriers and plasterers. The wise men are successful entrepreneurs and their gifts are iconic treasures of modern culture: a Swarovski crystal perfume bottle, a Faberge egg and a replica Damian Hirst skull. They are all sharply dressed. The traditional nativity arrangement is unchanged, with Jesus as its clear focus. And the message is overwhelmingly compelling: "However you dress it up.. Christmas Starts with Christ."



It's the meeting of Christianity alongside high street consumerism, with Christ in the middle. We wish each of you a Happy and Holy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

**Mrs A Sylvester-Charles, Liturgical Team Co-ordinator**



Many parents will remember our Presentation Evening back at the end of October. Our guest speaker was Mary Bowers who was a real inspiration to our girls. Within a week of the Presentation Evening, Mary had a very serious accident and has been in hospital in a coma since. As a community we have been offering prayers for Mary and know that you will keep her and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

**Mrs G Freear, Headteacher**

An **outstanding** school where students reach exceptionally high standards and develop into confident and articulate young women ..... a very special place. OFSTED, May 2009

## GIFTED AND TALENTED OLYMPIC CHALLENGE



We look forward to going to the Salvatorian College, in the spring term, for an equally fun and challenging day. **Ms J Khawam, Advanced Skills Teacher**

*I learned how to create a video using i-movie and it was beneficial for our social skills. **Maggie, 8 Deborah***

*We learnt a lot from it and it was fun mixing with the boys. **Stephanie, 8 Deborah***

*The day went very smoothly and we worked well in a group. We learnt many things and also won the competition!!*

**Grazielle, 8 Deborah**

*The day was fun and educational. I liked working in the groups because we worked well together and got to know each other. I enjoyed learning about podcast and video making.*

**Shubomi, 8 Deborah**

On Monday 28th of November, we hosted 40 students from the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College and the Salvatorian College in Harrow to take part in the Gifted and Talented Olympic Challenge.

The students' remit was to promote Croydon as the perfect place to stay during the London Olympics. In mixed groups of 10, they were to produce a podcast and campaign poster or a viral marketing video and e-newsletter. At the very end of the day, they had to present their promotional media to Mr Foley (Deputy Head of Salvatorian College), Mr Colley (Aim Higher and Oxbridge Mentor), Mr Mills and Ms Khawam. Mr Colley played the role of client by asking challenging and judicious questions which the teams met with aptitude and confidence.

The groups worked well, using software such as InDesign, iMovie and GarageBand thanks to Ms Connell and Mr Mills. Team 4 were the resounding winners for their products, presentations and their ability to work cohesively and productively as a team. It was a busy, challenging and productive day which the students enjoyed. It gave them the opportunity to work with people with whom they would not normally have the opportunity to work, in an environment free of the usual constraints of a lesson.



*I enjoyed the day and had the opportunity to learn new things and make new friends. **Tobe, 8 Deborah***

*I had lots of fun while learning and meeting new people. I learnt new skills relating to podcasts and GarageBand.*

**Daniella, 8 Deborah**

*We learnt how to make podcasts and videos from the workshop which was really good. We made friends and worked well with the Salvatorian boys. **Luna, 8 Deborah***

## DRAMA UPDATE

It has been a very busy term in the Drama Department with the new BTEC Performing Arts Course starting very successfully. Lots of Theatre trips and visits alongside lots of coursework and practical examinations were undertaken by the examination students. **Key Stage 5:** The A Level students have enjoyed visits to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, a site-specific performance to see Decade, a puppetry show of Woyzeck and Aladdin @ The Lyric Theatre. The BTEC Performing Arts students have worked incredibly well at the start of their new course; the group has integrated maturely and is producing some fantastic performance work. The students have performed their first Live performance exam to Primary audiences on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December. The Diploma students have impressed their Drama teachers with their performance work, despite the fact that for the majority Drama was a completely new subject. **Key Stage 4:** A

group of hard working students were selected to attend a course called Play The Critic where they worked alongside published theatre Critics Lyn Gardner from the Guardian and Georgina Brown of The Mail on Sunday. The students went to watch a performance of 39 Steps and then attended a workshop to learn how to review a production. They found this experience extremely useful. The new year 10 students watched a production of Romeo and Juliet by Italia Conti. They enjoyed the production and are keen to get out to a theatre and watch more live performance. **Key Stage 3:** Drama Club has had a huge attendance, please keep up the enthusiasm! Lots of fantastic work going on in class on The Haunted Lift, Greek Theatre, Romeo and Juliet, Scripted Duologues and Melodrama! Thank you and well done to all our students, Keep up the hard work!

**Miss L Mack, Miss A Lisk and Mr S Mills**

## SAMARITAN'S PURSE – SHOE BOX APPEAL

Each year the RE department lead on a whole school initiative called 'Shoe Box Appeal' in which students and staff wrap empty shoe boxes in Christmas paper and fill them with lots of amazing gifts. Gifts range from fun toys and teddy bears to colouring books and sweets. Once these boxes are packed, they are sent off to children who need them most in some of the toughest parts of the world. As a school we sent over 300 boxes this Christmas and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who supported this activity. It is an exciting thought to know that on Christmas Day a child who may never have received a gift before will have something to open and know that they have not been forgotten this Christmas.

**Ms McManamon, Curriculum Leader RE**

*I liked doing the shoe box, as it gave me a chance to do some-*

*thing for a person in a different country who is less fortunate and because it is a Christian thing to do, helping those in need.*

**Katie, 8 Judith**

*I thoroughly enjoyed making the shoebox because I knew it would be going to someone who wouldn't be getting presents during Christmas. I knew that I had to take special care of what I put in the shoe box. I hope the person I gave the shoe box to will like it. **Sotonye, 8 Judith***

**Sotonye, 8 Judith**

*I liked packing the shoe box because it was fun and reminded me about those less fortunate during Christmas. Most of them do not have anything to look forward to; but this Christmas the Convent of Jesus and Mary will bring a smile to a child's face with our gifts.*

**Hanna, 8 Judith**

## WHO DESERVES THE HEART?

I am writing to convey how wonderfully impressed I was on a recent visit to your school for an 'ethics day'.... The arguments the students presented were well thought-out, and clearly a huge amount of thought and preparation had informed the impressiveness of their participation. The girls were very well behaved.... If in the future, the school feels that another visit from Nuffield Council on topics of ethics, science or law would be useful, we would be delighted to attend. **Kate Harvey, Research Officer, Nuffield Council on Bioethics**

*A local scientist, Miss Harvey, visited the Convent of Jesus and Mary in November to hear some exceptional speeches written and delivered by students from Miss McKenna's Year 9 English class. Miss Harvey has carried out research on xenotransplantation. The class had been reading a novel called 'Pig Heart*

*Boy' by Malorie Blackman about a boy who gets a heart transplant. Only the heart isn't from a human being, it's from a pig! The class had to write a speech from the viewpoint of a character in the book and try to persuade Miss Harvey to give them the heart. We delivered our speeches making sure we did all we possibly could to get a high level for our end of term reports. All the students said that they were "nervous yet excited" before they went into the library and were "relieved when everything went according to plan". In the afternoon, the Year 9s were joined by some Year 11s to listen to a seminar by Miss Harvey about organ transplants and different types of organ donations.*

**Weronika, 9 Lourdes**

*It was a very exciting day and we hope we get a chance to do something like this again. **Lauren, 9 Monserrat***

## SPANISH THEATRE—PRIMERA CITA

As a reward for winning the MFL Eurovision song contest earlier this year, Spanish students in year 8 and 9 had a great opportunity to watch a play performed by Onatti Productions - "Primera Cita" ("First date"). This story is a hilarious portrayal of two love-struck Spanish teenagers, María and Carlos, getting ready for that most important Primera Cita! Performed entirely in Spanish, the play was full of visual comedy and written using vocabulary which the girls were familiar with from their Spanish lessons. The content was perfectly pitched for teenagers with vocabulary that was apt, that they could understand but which challenged them in places. A perfect afternoon, thoroughly enjoyed by all! **Ms I Vujicic, MFL teacher**

*The play was exciting and funny as it was about a boy trying to ask a girl out. They were talented actors and spoke in Spanish so I did not understand all of it but that's why I have Spanish*

*classes. I would want to go again as it helps our learning process. **Tameka, 8 Judith***

*I enjoyed the play even though I didn't really understand some of the words. It was phenomenal! **Merlina, 8 Ruth***

*We watched the Spanish play called 'Primera Cita' which means the first date. It was perfect even though it was in Spanish as it was still easy to understand. I want to see it again! **Muy bien! Allaynah and Ashley, 8 Ruth***

*The play was absolutely brilliant! I knew what was going on even though some words were difficult. I'd like to have this more often. The actors were good and very eccentric. Overall it was fantastic! **Deanna, 8 Mary***

*It was perfect and I enjoyed it even though it was in Spanish. It was about a boy and girl going on a date. I hope there will be more. **Tatyiana, 8 Ruth***

## CHRISTMAS MARKETS TRIP



On 2nd December a group of 84 Year 7 pupils travelled to Lille. After an early start we arrived in Lille for 11am. All the girls were eager to depart the coach and start exploring. The Christmas markets consist-

ed on an array of different stalls selling everything from decorations and preserves to glassware and jewellery. Not only did it allow the girls a great opportunity to practise their French but they were able to purchase unique, handmade Christmas presents for their families. Many of them also enjoyed the food that was on offer; the crepes were particularly popular! The city was so picturesque and decorated beautifully that it would put any Scrooge in the festive mood. The girls' energy and enthusiasm continued on the way home with many of them bursting with stories to tell their parents when they collected them later that evening. **Miss K McEvoy, SEN Department**

*I absolutely loved the trip to France. It was one of the best experiences of my life. We ate lots of French snacks. My favourite was the crepes. They were enormous, delicious pancakes. I bought two, one with nutella and one with jam. The customised jewellery and souvenirs were especially fabulous.*

**Opeyemi, 7 Bruno**

*I mostly enjoyed going around the Christmas markets, because there were loads of stalls and they all sold such good items. I especially enjoyed the pancakes with vanilla in the middle.*

**Mollie, 7 David**

*I loved everything, really wanna go again!! **Sinead, 7 Bruno***

*I really enjoyed the trip to France. I bought lots of Christmas presents for my family. I would love to go to France again and for a longer trip. This was great. I even saw some shops from England in France. This was the best trip I ever had.*

**Rachel, 7 David**



## VISIT TO UCL

On Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2011 ten Year 11 Triple Science girls were invited to an afternoon of Scientific Lectures honouring Prof P.Woo (OBE) for outstanding lifetime achievement in Molecular Rheumatology at University College London and Institute of Child Health. All the students on the trip were a credit to the school as their behaviour was excellent.

**Dr H Patel, Science Teacher**

*I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to UCL; it was very interesting to see the various advances in medicine and the treatment of diseases such as Juvenile Arthritis and Lupus. The Paediatric professors presented their work well. Overall it was a big honour to be there. **Lilane, 11 Edith***

*It was eye opening to learn about the new advances in medicine first hand. **Jackie, 11 Edith***

*The lectures were useful for anyone considering a future in medicine. Interesting to hear how far the medical world has come in using new drugs! **Magdalena, 11 Gianna***

*I found out a lot about rheumatology and arthritis and how their treatment has improved considerably over the past few decades. **Sylvia, 11 Edith***

*I enjoyed going to UCL for the lectures about Paediatric Rheumatology. It was very interesting to hear about the achievements of Professor Woo and experience being in a lecture theatre. **Cara, 11Gianna***

## JACK PETCHEY WINNERS – SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2011



Well done to our winners for September, October and November. Their stories are truly inspirational. **Erica Mae** was awarded the Jack Petchey Award for her sheer effort to come into

school when she hasn't been well. Erica is currently under the care of Great Ormond Street. In between all her hospital appointments she has shown a real determination to succeed. She is also incredibly bright and positive. **Sharday** has in the last year shown a really fantastic and positive attitude to school. She is currently predicted a minimum of 8 GCSEs this year. She is proving to be a real positive role model to younger students. **Maya** has led the Amnesty International Group since September. She has researched and shared the aims of the society with the younger students. She is helping younger students to learn about groups in society which reach out to those whose lives are in danger. **Mrs Quinlan, Deputy Headteacher**

*I am very proud to have won the Jack Petchey award for the month of November. I feel that it's a big accomplishment and achievement!* **Sharday, 10 Fourviere**  
*It feels very rewarding to have my contributions to Amnesty International recognised and rewarded.* **Maya, 12 Vincent**  
*I just won the Jack Petchey award and it's an honour to win this. I feel so happy!* **Erica Mae, 9 Vladimir**

## MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY VISIT

We were delighted to have once again, been asked to host a delegation of academicians from Michigan State University on their study tour of Specialist Schools and Academies in the UK. The team, led by Dr Barbara Markle looked at two of our areas of excellence – attendance and student voice. It was wonderful to have an opportunity to share our good practice and compare the work we carry out and its outcomes with the reality pertaining to a different country and its system. The American educationalists were very impressed by the way in which our students very eloquently answered all of the questions they posed – they were, as usual, excellent ambassadors.

**Dr L. Bonelli, Assistant Headteacher**



## JACK PETCHEY - SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE REGIONAL FINAL



Catherine Eburay-Anteson represented the Convent at the Regional Finals of the Jack Petchey "Speak Out Challenge". This competition seeks to promote the art of public speaking to young people - 25 girls from Year 10 had taken part in a speech-making workshop earlier in the year. At the Regional Final Catherine represented the school against 17 speakers from across the borough. Each speaker had already been recognised as the best

public speaker in their school so the Final exhibited the *crème de la crème* of rhetorical talent. Catherine delivered a fantastic speech on the subject of 'True Beauty', impressing judges and audience alike, and was awarded fourth place. This is a great achievement -congratulations Catherine, and thanks to all those who came to support her.

**Mr C Waplington, SEN Department**

*I was really nervous, but once I was there, I was fine. There were a few things that went wrong but that didn't stop me. Being the final speaker was daunting but overall I came fourth!! It was a memorable experience.*

**Catherine, 10 Fourviere**

## CRIME AND DEVIANCE

Chief Inspector Claire Clark was invited in to speak to the Year 11 Sociology students in November 2011; her talk will enhance and consolidate learning we have undertaken in the module Crime and Deviance.

**Mrs A. Sylvester-Charles, Liturgical Team Co-ordinator**

*It was good to be able to talk to a police officer and ask questions about her job as a police officer. I got honest and clear answers. I would like to hear another police officer of a different rank share their experiences too.* **Rosie, 11 Seton**

*It was really interesting and I'm glad that we got the opportunity*

*to communicate with a chief inspector that's had 20 years' worth of experience. It was a great experience.*

**Christina, 11 Newman**

*The talk was very interesting and it taught me a lot more about the way the British Police force is organised.*

**Michaela, 11 Seton**

*It was very motivational and we saw things from the police's point of view. It gave them the opportunity to show us how they work to make society into a better place.*

**Sharday, 11 Newman**

**LiveMaths:** All pupils who study Mathematics in the school have the opportunity to get support on all areas of Mathematics by going to the website [www.livemaths.co.uk](http://www.livemaths.co.uk). The school has subscribed for every pupil so the service is completely free for them and will help them with any problems that they have whilst doing homework at home. Any pupil who has lost her password and/or login should contact her Maths teacher if she needs it again. **Mr P Kelly, Assistant Headteacher**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

21 Dec 2011	Last Day of Term
09 Jan 2012	Term Starts
12 Jan 2012	Year 9 Parents Evening
14 Jan 2012	Ski Trip to Italy