



Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College

Issue 9
(Spring Term)

Le Couvent de Jesus et Marie College Specialise en Langues

March 2011

Dear Parent/Carer,

I do hope you enjoy reading the accounts from our girls covering the varied activities in which they can take part—from a local school focused Carnival to a trip to South Africa.

As we enter into our Holy season of Lent the whole community is focusing on how we as a Catholic community prepare ourselves for Easter. Over the coming weeks we will focus on what has been the theme of the Archbishop's pastoral letter at the weekend: alms giving, sacrifice, reconciliation and of course, prayers. As we journey towards Easter together I do hope that you will help to support your daughters in their preparations. Enjoy our accounts.

Mrs G Freear, Headteacher

SOUTH AFRICA TRIP

As part of the Afri-Twin project, Ms Heffernan and I had the privilege to accompany four 10Edith students to South Africa for a week. This visit enabled us to continue the work carried out previously by Dr. Bonelli, Mr Doel and Ms Di Lullo and gave the students a unique opportunity to meet face to face with members of the South African Afri-Twin group. The trip was a life-changing experience and, although it was harrowing to witness the deprivation in the townships, it allowed us to observe how similar our own school is to Norman Henshilwood High. Observations were undertaken throughout our time in school where we had opportunities to discuss many similarities and differences between both schools. During our free time, the staff there worked tirelessly to ensure we saw many of the main attractions that Cape Town has to offer, for which we were truly grateful. I look forward to continuing with the Afri-Twin project and watching it develop.

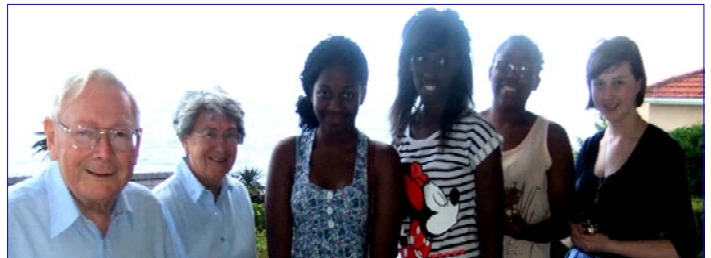
Ms McManamon, Curriculum Leader RE



The trip to South Africa was wonderful. Mr Millar, the headteacher, was more than welcoming and all excursions organised by him were phenomenal. The Afri-Twin girls came along with us whenever we went sightseeing and they were really enthusiastic, which made me relax and enjoy myself. It was fantastic and I would love to go back.

Joella, 10 Edith

Going to South Africa was definitely a memorable experience. It provided me with the opportunity to witness the poverty within the country and has encouraged me to contribute to charity in and outside of school. The pupils at Norman Henshilwood made us all feel very welcome. I befriended some girls who accompanied us on various excursions during our spare time, one of which was Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned. The tour guides on this expedition were ex-prisoners and could therefore provide us with



shocking but really intriguing information about past events on the island. We visited two developing schools in a township. On arrival at one of the schools, we were greeted by the choir who performed for us and made us dance too. Overall the visit to South Africa was great: the weather, the people and the food were fantastic. I would love to visit again.

Kayleigh, 10 Edith

The trip was amazing. The scenery, the people, the weather made the trip an invaluable experience that I will never forget. We shadowed some students at Norman Henshilwood during the day and visited some amazing places during our free time, including a beach full of wild penguins called Cape Point where the Atlantic and Indian oceans meet and Robben Island. We even attended their annual Valentine's prom. It was great to have the opportunity to dress up and dance the night away with our new friends. We had to give an assembly to the whole school about our experience (and demonstrate our vuvuzela skills), but they were all so supportive that we did not feel nervous. I would gladly go back.

Jackie, 10 Edith

My stay in South Africa was a unique experience due to the wonderful people, students and teachers, who were hospitable and welcoming. The learners at Norman Henshilwood were incredibly dedicated to their education and I have learnt many things from them. I loved South Africa, the country is beautiful.

Unity, 10 Edith



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

THE CARNIVAL



On Thursday 3rd of February we celebrated the feast of St Claudine by offering the entire year 7 cohort the opportunity to take part in a series of themed workshops. The day was brought to a close by Mass, which was celebrated by Fr Stephen Willis and attended by some of our Governors.

Dr L Bonelli, Assistant Headteacher

I enjoyed all of the activities, but the ones I liked the most were Art and Latin. I learned new vocabulary and words in Latin.

Isabelle, 7 Deborah

I enjoyed cooking the most and learned how to make a Caribbean Delight.

Luna, 7 Deborah

I thought it was good because we got to design a scarf with carnival motifs. As Carnival come from Trinidad, it started by celebrating the black people's freedom but now everyone gets to enjoy it together!

Aine Mackin, 7 Deborah

Cooking at the carnival was the best as I made pancakes and it was a fun experience putting our favourite toppings on the pancakes. I learnt that we have to be careful near fire or gas because we could burn the place.

Dulini, 7 Ruth

There was the Henna workshop when I enjoyed creating my own design and drawing on my hand. The teachers were very nice but I was a bit disappointed that the Henna dye was not real as it was face paint. I learnt that in Carnival there are dances which originated from the simplest things in life, like tiger or monkey movements and that the butterfly is a symbol of freedom in art.

Karima, 7 Ruth

I enjoyed choosing a design for Henna painting and creating our own dance. The Carnival started in Trinidad to celebrate freedom with dance and music.

Grace, 7 Ruth



I enjoyed the whole day especially the art where you get to express yourself with colours and celebrate the freedom of slaves. I have learnt that the carnival started from Trinidad and Tobago to celebrate their freedom and I have also learnt some Latin.

Paige, 7 Deborah

I liked the lively music and how we got to compose our own lyrics. My favourite activity was the art because it was more relaxing and there were less rules. I learnt some Latin too!

Tia, 7 Deborah

I learnt some Latin from the workshop and found that if you learn Latin you will find other subjects easier, for example, learning different languages. I enjoyed Henna painting on our hands as it was fun and I have never done this before. It looks really pretty on our hands.

Grazielle, 7 Deborah



I have learned all about Carnivals, Latin, Henna and what certain Art symbols represent. It was fun and the art activity was most enjoyable as we could talk to other students and make new friends from other classes.

Angela, 7 Deborah

It was really fun and I enjoyed it when we were split into groups to perform with Miss Lisk. She made it enjoyable and the lesson was great. We got new ideas from animal moves and learned to express them in a dance. The whole event was fun and there was nothing I did not enjoy!

Monika, 7 Ruth

It was fun meeting new people from 7Sarah and learning music, dancing without fear and using Henna to draw on our hands. It shows that a lesson does not always have to be boring and we can have fun all the way. Everything was very good and sometimes funny.



Francesca, 7 Ruth

What I enjoyed most about the Carnival was learning different dance moves like the movement of animals and bonding with other classes. I loved how we had a chance to design scarves for the Trinidad Carnival and compose carnival lyrics. The carnival was a great way to celebrate the freedom of the slaves!

Samara, 7 Ruth

GANG*STAR



Year 9 and 10 were invited to take part in a presentation called Gang*Star. Gang*Star is a play with urban music, featuring Rap, DJ and Breakdance, which focuses on the consequences of being involved in gangs. The play is set in an old community centre, which has been converted into an urban music venue called The Sunrise Street Youth Centre, where young people are able to create and perform music projects. The story follows four young people and the youth leader in charge of the centre as a gang impacts on their lives. The play explores the themes of gun and knife crime and, in particular, the consequences of female involvement in gangs. The girls really enjoyed the presentation and were actively involved in the workshop which followed. The presentation is part of our work delivered through PSCE exploring the dangers of gangs as well as consequences of poor decision-making. Our thanks to The Complete Works production team who performed the play.

Mrs G Quinlan, Assistant Headteacher

*What I liked about the Gang*Star play was that we had a chance to see what girls and boys go through when they are in gangs and how they really feel about it.*

Yejeida, 9 Thornton

I liked it because it was interesting and educational. We learned about gangs and it made me realise that being in a gang is very risky. It was very funny and the characters inspired me.

Francesca, 9 Fourviere

*I feel that the Gang*Star play was very creative because it shows us how the youth of today have been behaving recently. It also shows the situations youths of today could be in. The play told us how many years we could be sentenced or jailed for when committing different types of crime, for example holding a gun. I found it very informative and hope there will be many more plays to come in the year.*

Takyisha, 9 Ipswich

*I enjoyed the Gang*Star workshop because it was very funny yet educational. It showed the truth of how hard street life can be, and the dangers that come with it. Overall, it was very interesting.*

Judy, 9 Fourviere

*The Gang*Star play was educational but funny at the same time. It taught us the risk of joining a gang and its consequences: it's either death or jail. It was a very good experience!*

Zahraa, 9 Rabweh

*For me, the Gang*Star play was funny as well as entertaining and educational. I wish there were more characters and it was a longer play. I liked the humour in it and*

the actors were very good playing their parts. Overall, I think the play was very interesting and I would hope that they would perform again in our school.

Courtney, 9 Grevasio

*My experience of the Gang*Star play was really good as it will help me think twice about the choices I make in my life. I liked the fact that they used words that we understood and showed a good side too. I would be more than happy to see another play.*

Courtney, 9 Washingham

The play was absolutely fabulous and I liked the way it showed the characters and how they felt about guns and knife crime: LOL rapped a song about how he was trying to pull out the youth of today from street crime and death; the girl Sky escaped her past but it caught up with her. I think holding a knife is wrong and Guy's character showed that. Overall it made me laugh and it was very entertaining.

Daena, 10 Therese

The play we watched was really interesting and gave us a lot of information. The message they sent out was not to follow people and gang life always ends badly. The situation they played was a good idea because it actually happens to some people.

Mafalda, 10 Pio

The play we watched about gangs was very humorous. I thoroughly enjoyed myself and they were real life situations. It really spread a clear message on gangs and why not to join a gang. It made me think about my own choices I make in life and their consequences. The play was very realistic and effective.

Rianne, 10 Gianna

*I watched a very enjoyable performance called Gang*Star. The performance sent out a good message to young adults that being a gangster is not the way forward and carrying a weapon only lands yourself into more trouble whether you use it or not. I found this performance very interesting and funny as well as worth learning from.*

Kiden, 10 Seton

The play was good and I enjoyed the characters as they were really funny. I learnt that people should not carry any knives or guns or any weapons. Young people should not join gangs!

Imani, 10 Newman

*The Gang*Star play was very entertaining and yet very informative. I found it very near to reality and I could easily relate to the characters. Overall I will give it a thumbs up.*

Liliane, 10 Edith



ITALIAN VISIT

We welcomed a group of twelve students from the "Istituto Istruzione Superiore Tenente Colonnello G. Familiari" who had come to spend one day at the Convent as part of an integration programme organised by the British International School. The Italian visitors were each assigned a buddy and were therefore able to shadow their timetable, thus taking part in some of the year 11 and 12 lessons.

Dr L Bonelli, Assistant Headteacher

I enjoyed having the Italian visitors and I tried to speak to them in their language as much as I could especially in our discussions as a class. We got to interact with the Italian students and practise our speaking skills.

Jane, 12Aristole

I really enjoyed having the Italian visitors and trying to speak to them in Italian. They were able to speak to us in both Italian and English and could help us.

Nicole, 12Ignatius

It gave me the opportunity to speak to the Italian visitors in their language. They were here to learn about the English system and participate in our group discussions. We all picked up more Italian and they benefitted in learning more English.

Jennifer, 12Claudine

It was an enjoyable experience and I tried to speak as much Italian as I could. I think that they enjoyed our Italian lessons and learning about our school life. I liked the fact that we were able to interact with them and they were very patient with me. Hopefully we may have the opportunity to visit their school.

Michelle, 12 Ignatius

I had a great time! I tried to speak in Italian as much as I could. The discussions we had were in Italian and English and we had the chance to speak to native speakers

and practise for our exams and had fun at the same time. They are good for our chosen subject.

Maria, 12Plato

It was really fun. I felt that it helped me use the Italian that I'm learning. They spoke very little English so I spoke Italian to them most of the time. The debate between the Italian and the English was the most enjoyable and I think it helped us a lot. It really made a difference to our Italian lessons.

Alexa, 12Claudine

Below are some of the comments from the Italian visitors:

I appreciated the integration because I was able to find out about new methods and systems I did not know. The school is well organised and the girls are nice.

Giuseppina Spinella

I met girls who speak another language and with whom I have been able to improve my English.

Jolanda Minniti

I especially enjoyed the History lesson, mainly because the teachers utilised various teaching methods including the use of the interactive whiteboard.

Antonina Nucera

I enjoyed the Italian lessons because I have been able to interact with other girls speaking both English and Italian. In this way, I have been able to notice the difference between these two cultures.

Giovanna Gurnari

The lessons are structured very differently in England. I found the Sociology lesson interesting especially because we do not study this subject in Italy.

Michela Zirilli

TRIDENT APPEAL

All schools work closely with their Police Liaison Officers. In the week beginning 7th March we have been asked to take part in an appeal made by the Metropolitan Police's Trident team. This follows the murder of a young man last May which remains an unsolved crime. Officers from the Trident team will make an appeal across four secondary schools in the Borough. The appeal for information will be made at assemblies for Years 9 upwards.

As a school community we work closely with the extended community to promote the health and safety of all members. The appeal endorses our commitment to work with the wider community.

Mrs G Quinlan, Assistant Headteacher

Below is part of a letter issued by the Trident team:

I am writing to you regarding the murder of Mr Daniel Smith, who was shot dead on Saturday 22nd May 2010 as he left the KFC at 358 Harrow Road London W9. Daniel Smith was twenty-two years old, hardworking and honest. He qualified as an electrician and lived at home

with his family his mother and sisters. He was driving home after going out with a colleague after work. He stopped at the restaurant at just after midnight on Friday 21st May. He was at ease and chatting

over the phone. He left the takeaway and as he reached his car he was shot in the back. He was innocent. He had never been in trouble with Police. It is believed he was shot in a case of mistaken identity. The killers are believed to be local and have talked about this murder. Local people know who they are. Daniel was shot in the back and this could have been anyone making their way home from a night out. The death of this innocent young man has left the family traumatized.

The family and police are requesting the assistance of the local community to help find out who killed Daniel. This assistance will protect yourself, your family and your community by helping us to remove the cowards who shot an innocent man and ran away.

CHARITY FOCUS

Thank you to you and all the students and staff at the Convent of Jesus and Mary Language College. It was incredibly kind of you to raise money for us during Advent and your donation of £600 is wonderfully generous and very much appreciated. Your gift will make a real difference to the lives of the young people here who are working hard to get back on their feet. **Ms Sarah Deeble, Community Fundraiser at The Cardinal Hume Centre**