

ISSUE 10 · APRIL 2015

# HEART NEWS

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

"I would have founded the society for the sake of one child"  
MADELEINE SOPHIE BARAT



**RAMBERT  
SCHOOL  
OF BALLET**  
A successful audition



**CHI ONRUWAH  
MP VISITS**  
Celebrating International  
Women's Day

## Oxbridge Success!



## KIDNAPPING OF NIGERIAN SCHOOL GIRLS

**The 14th of April, will mark a year to the day, of the kidnapping of 276 girls from a secondary school in Nigeria. The girls ranged in age from 16 to 18 and were studying for their final exams.**

The extremist organisation Boko Haram have claimed responsibility for the kidnapping. It is believed the girls were targeted because their 'Western Education' goes against the beliefs of Boko Haram. Boko Haram believe a 'Western Education' interferes with their religious beliefs and that women should not be educated.

At the time of its occurrence, the kidnapping caused outrage across the world and the Nigerian authorities, supported by many world powers, launched a search for the girls. Though some young girls escaped in the early stages of the kidnapping, there has been no further breakthroughs with regards to the case; the position of the girls is still unknown.

It is believed many are being forcibly converted to the extremist religious beliefs of Boko Haram, as well as being abused and forced into marriage. However, the case has faded from the media and is no longer a 'priority' for the Nigerian government.

**As an all-girls school, which is passionate about the effective education and empowerment of young women, Sacred Heart believes it is important that we re-raise the profile of this case, and ensure these girls are not forgotten about.**

As a result, we are hoping to hold school assemblies on the matter to raise awareness of the case within the school, and will write a letter to our local MP, urging her to consider the matter. We hope we can play a small part in the rescue of these very unfortunate girls.

**LAOISE SWEENEY, HEAD GIRL**



## OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE NEW Community... Intellect... Faith... Character... Social Awareness

**These are the worldwide Goals of Sacred Heart education and this year, in common with the other five Sacred Heart schools in England, we are working on the Goal of Social Awareness. The focus of the Goal is that we consider the idea of Social Awareness as a spur to encouraging activity in the field of Social justice.**

There has been no shortage of activity throughout this year.

Before Christmas the Sixth Form Justice and Peace Group organised a food collection. As usual our students responded with amazing enthusiasm and generosity. Cans were collected for donation to the Diocesan Asylum Seekers project and the West End Food Bank.

This was followed by our post-Christmas challenge which was to donate at least one item of clothing to the 5p Bus operated by St. Cuthbert's Care. The fundamental idea was that for each new piece of clothing delivered by Santa at least one good quality item would be donated to our appeal. We were overwhelmed by the response from across the school but especially from Year 8.

On a cold January morning the 5p Bus visited school. Year 8 students were able to hear something about the work of St. Cuthbert's Care before they were invited to see the bus and gain a first-hand experience of this very unusual shop. They were then gainfully employed as a human chain to transport the clothes to the bus!

**Our support for St. Cuthbert's Care continues with this term's £10 Challenge which is colloquially known as 'Tenner for Your Talents'. More information about the inventiveness of our students will be included in the next newsletter.**





### IZZY TAYLOR

In October I applied to study History and Spanish at Wadham college, Oxford. The application process for Oxbridge is intimidating and

somewhat overwhelming but the support of the school was invaluable at every stage.

At first, my form tutor directed me to Mrs Hills who, as a history teacher, advised me as to which books would broaden my understanding of the subject in order to strengthen my personal statement. Having sent off my UCAS form, I had to sit two aptitude tests. Mr Mather, my Spanish teacher, helped me a great deal in my preparation for this test which involved learning content which does not feature on the A Level syllabus.

School did not then waste any time beginning the preparation for potential interviews. I am extremely grateful for the useful (and scary) series of mock interviews arranged by Mr Bartley and Miss Germany. The experience of being under pressure and questioned on my subjects was the best preparation possible and there is no doubt that the feedback they gave put me in a far stronger position in my real interviews.

When I went to Oxford in December I discovered I was required to have five interviews, I had to look at unseen Spanish poetry, an Historical source and discuss both subjects more generally. This was, of course, very daunting but a couple of times we discussed ideas and concepts which I had already explored with Mr Bartley and Miss Germany which helped to put me at ease.

**Thanks to the support I received from a large group of staff, I received an offer from Oxford, something I never thought I would achieve.**



### DANIELLE FORSTER

I am so grateful for the work of many teachers in looking at my

personal statement helping me to improve my application to study Architecture at Jesus College, Cambridge.

**Within a short space of time the school helped me prepare for my interview by guiding me towards certain reading materials about architecture, in order to develop my knowledge of the subject. I believe that expanding my understanding of architecture in this way really stimulated my passion and enthusiasm for the subject.**

In addition to this, school arranged mock interviews including one hosted by St Anthony's High School, Sunderland. This experience in an unknown environment helped me to improve my skills in formulating concepts and coherently articulating my thought processes. This practice was crucial for my interview at Jesus College.

The day consisted of two interviews one of which was to understand my thought process on architectural problems whilst the other involved me analysing and discussing my portfolio, which I had prepared in addition to a general discussion about the course Cambridge offers. Later in the day I was asked to sit a written test on a topic about architecture which predominately focused on writing skills rather than being topic specific.

**Having spent so much time discussing my subject with other teachers I felt far more confident exploring aspects of architecture which interested me and in answering difficult questions posed to me by the tutors. I have received an offer from Cambridge to study architecture and I am really excited to begin study there in October.**



# OXBRIDGE SUCCESS!



### LAOISE SWEENEY

I was really inspired to study Education with English and Drama after Mr Bartley arranged for me to have a chat with his daughter Sarah who

studied the same course at Cambridge. It was really exciting to see what an ex- Sacred Heart pupil had achieved at Homerton college doing such a broad and interesting course.

**I received great help from the English department in writing my application and organising a piece of work to send to Cambridge; we discussed periods of literature which we do not study in the A-level course, and what forms of literature really interested me.**

I received a lot of support from school in regards to my personal statement in order to connect English and Drama with education, whilst also trying to convey my passion for the two subjects through carefully selected examples of wider reading.

The interview preparation organised by Mr Bartley, Mr Sewell (Mrs Perry's dad) and Miss Germany was truly invaluable as it helped me to prepare for many possible scenarios at interview. I had the chance to look at an unseen text so I could get used to discussing my ideas on the spot with no preparation time. The work I have been doing with Mr Bartley and Mr Spraggon for my 'Extended Project Qualification' (EPQ) was extremely useful in my application to Cambridge.

At interview I was asked in detail about my EPQ on education, as it is a highly valued qualification at Cambridge. Being able to talk about a subject I am passionate and confident in was certainly a strength in my interview process.

**I am so pleased to have been offered a place at Homerton College following in the footsteps of two other students to go to this college from Sacred Heart.**



# Sacred Heart in Top 3% of Schools Nationally

Mrs Bath has received a letter from David Laws, the Minister for State Schools, which congratulates the staff, students and governors on being in the top 100 of non-selective state schools for GCSE performance in the country. This puts Sacred Heart in the top 3.3% of schools nationally for GCSE results.



## Visit of Chi Onruwah MP

**Chi Onruwah, Member of Parliament for the Newcastle Central constituency, visited Sacred Heart to celebrate International Women's Day.**

Chi spoke to Year 12 and 13 students on a broad range of issues that the Sixth Formers proposed, from the bedroom tax and university tuition fees to the need for more female students of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects. Chi also spoke about her own career as a parliamentarian.

The students who attended the talk were Ifrah Hussain, Hazel Richardson, Kate McCaughey, Shannon Penman, Katie Barrett, Katie Forsyth, Jade Potot-Warren, Laoise Sweeney, Sama Ibrahim, Alex Choat, Trixia Mercado, Abigail Middlemas and Joanna Ward.

**Chi Onruwah later tweeted 'Busy morning celebrating women & #IWD first with STEM, feminist & political groups at Sacred Heart' and told the students it had been 'a really enjoyable morning'.**



Rt Hon David Laws MP  
Minister of State for Schools

Our ref: KS4CL/2015/137708

Mrs Anita Bath  
Sacred Heart Catholic High School  
Fenham Hall Drive  
Fenham  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE4 9YH

5 February 2015

### YOUR EXCELLENT 2014 KEY STAGE 4 RESULTS

Dear Mrs Anita Bath

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on the excellent performance of your pupils in 2014.

The percentage of your pupils achieving five or more A\*-C grade GCSEs (or equivalent), including English and mathematics GCSEs, shows that your school is one of the top 100 performing non-selective state funded schools in England.

I would like to congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for their hard work and success. My thanks also to you personally and to your leadership team for continuing the drive towards the highest standards of educational achievement.

Yours sincerely,

David Laws MP



Nick Gibb MP  
Minister of State for School Reform

Mrs Anita Bath  
Sacred Heart Catholic High School  
Fenham Hall Drive  
Fenham  
Newcastle-upon-Tyne  
NE4 9YH

Dear Mrs Bath,

4 March 2015

I am writing to convey my warmest congratulations to your school for its excellent English Baccalaureate performance in 2014.

The percentage of your pupils attaining the baccalaureate shows that your school is one of the top 100 non-selective state funded schools in England based upon achievement in these core academic subjects.

These subjects reflect the knowledge and skills young people need to progress to further study or to rewarding employment.

I would like to congratulate your staff, governors and pupils for all their hard work and to thank you personally for your leadership in continuing the drive towards ever higher academic standards.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Nick Gibb MP

Mrs Bath has also received a letter from Nick Gibb, the Minister of State for School Reform, which congratulates the school on being in the top 100 schools nationally for performance in the English Baccalaureate qualification.

## A Note from...

**SSAT** | inquire  
inspire  
innovate  
impact

**Sacred Heart Catholic High School is one of the best in the country for student progress and attainment at GCSE.**

Sacred Heart Catholic High School has received national recognition for the value it adds to enable students' high achievement at GCSE.

SSAT, the Schools, Students and Teachers Network, recently undertook its annual in-depth analysis of official Department for Education data on all state-funded schools in England and identified Sacred Heart Catholic High School's success.

The school has qualified for two SSAT Educational Outcomes Awards by being in the top 10% of schools nationally for progress made by pupils between key stage 2 results at primary school and GCSE results at age 16, and in the top 10% nationally for high attainment.

**The school has been invited to receive their award at a regional celebration ceremony hosted by SSAT at Acklam Grange High in Middlesbrough on 20 April.**

Sue Williamson, Chief Executive of SSAT said:

**'Sacred Heart Catholic High School should be congratulated for their exceptional achievement.**

**They have proved themselves to be leading the field in improving GCSE outcomes for their students. There is so much good practice that this school could share, and I hope they will join us at the celebration evening for the chance to network and share strategies with award-winning schools.**

'These results are testament to the commitment and hard work of the students, teachers and leadership team at Sacred Heart Catholic High School, and show what can be achieved when skilled teachers have high expectations and ambition for every young person. I am proud that this school is a member of the SSAT network.'



# Code Wars

**The Computing department has been working closely with HP and recently submitted a team to take part in their inaugural UK version of their popular "Code Wars" concept.**

Sacred Heart entered a team of enthusiastic Year 10 girls who worked tirelessly on Saturday 7th March, working against teams from schools around the region completing challenges in Python programming.

Although the girls finished just outside of the top 3 positions everyone involved found it a great day and an excellent challenge in logical thinking and problem solving.

# Maths Challenge

## INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

140 girls from Years 9, 10 and 11 took part in this year's UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. The girls did very well with 4 girls achieving a Gold certificate, 15 a Silver and 34 a Bronze certificate.

**Two girls in Year 11, Amy Hudspith and Syeda Ahmed scored highly enough to get through to the next round of the competition. This involves a written paper that they will sit soon.**

## MATHS CHALLENGE

### 3. Eat Me, Drink Me

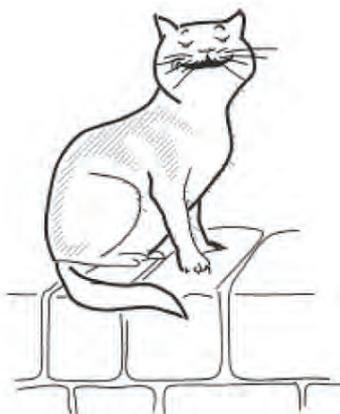
On reaching the bottom of the rabbit hole, Alice finds a bottle labelled 'DRINK ME' and a cake with 'EAT ME' written on it in currants. She takes a drink from the bottle, which causes her to shrink. A bite from the cake then makes her grow a lot bigger!

Assume that Alice is 120cm tall to begin with, that the drink shrank her height by 60cm and that the cake increased her height by 100cm.

List all of the possible methods for restoring Alice to her original height, using the minimum possible number of drinks and the minimum possible number of bites of cake to achieve this.



## SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE



### 5. The Cat's Whiskers

The Cheshire Cat has made himself invisible to hide away from Alice and is sat on the perimeter wall of the Duchess's garden. The garden is rectangular in shape, with the perimeter walls running from North to South and from West to East.

He is located 5 metres from the North-East corner of the garden, 14 metres from the South-West corner, and 10 metres from one of the other two corners. The Northern wall is longer than the Western wall.

Use a scale of 1cm = 1m to draw diagrams, accurate to the nearest mm, showing the possible measurements of the Duchess's garden and marking the Cheshire Cat's location on each diagram.

How far is he from the fourth corner?



# Discover Medicine



## Raspberry Pi Challenge

**The Computing department has been involved in exciting activities recently, with the challenge of creating an innovative concept using a 'Raspberry Pi' computer.**

A group of Key Stage 3 students are working towards the development of an interactive bear. Every Tuesday after school Bernard the bear is powered to life with a built in pocket sized computer called the 'Raspberry Pi' connected to a touch screen and camera.

**The aim of the project is to provide young children with a 21st century toy. The touchscreen interface has been programmed to include Scratch based games and the camera was programmed in Python.**

All students involved have an opportunity to develop their programming, logical and creative thinking skills which will also support them across the Key Stage 3 Computing curriculum.

On completion of the current project we are looking to welcome new members who are interested in the development of mobile Android applications.

**The club is organised by Miss Zalas and takes place in ICT3 every Tuesday after school.**



**Students from Year 8 and Year 10 took part in an event ran by Newcastle University called 'Discover Medicine.'**

Two groups of 30 pupils participated in workshops ran by the university's medical students. The sessions touched upon some of the areas which pupils would study if they chose to study for a degree in this area.

**The pupils also had the opportunity to quiz the students on what it would be like to study medicine, and what skills they would need to follow medicine as a career.**





## Art Life Drawing Class

We took the opportunity this term to offer a life drawing class for the first time to GCSE students. This was offered in addition to the usual afterschool workshops held with sixth form students.

**"You don't know what it is like until you experience it. I felt more confident and learnt new skills."**

This was a fantastic opportunity to support a wider breadth of study and develop more confidence in drawing skills. This supported their coursework and exam topic.



## Year 10 Art Visit to Sunderland Glass Centre

The Art department have taken two groups of Year 10 Art and Design students to Sunderland Glass Centre to take part in taster days.

**They gained experience in 'Glass Fusion' working with artist Effie Burns, took part in discussions regarding the historical significance of glass to Sunderland, witnessed a glass blowing demonstration and had an opportunity to tour around the undergraduate and post graduate artist studios.**

The students were impressed with the courses on offer at the university and gained knowledge of further education opportunities. This supported higher aspiration in the groups, many of which had not considered university as an option.

The glass work produced will support their GCSE coursework adding another technique to the many skills they have developed so far on the course.

**Their work has been framed and is now on display in the school entrance. Look out for the amazing work.**



# Artist in Schools - Glass Screen Printing

PHd student and artist Megan Randell came into school to work with Year 10 Art and Design students.

**She worked closely with our technician Danielle Caruthers training and setting up the equipment to facilitate the glass screen printing. Megan worked with students and staff to provide the workshop to produce screen printed glass tiles.**

This was a new skill for the Art department which we hope to replicate for other groups of students. The glass work was fired in the department kilns.



## ETCHING ARTIST IN SCHOOL

The Art department welcomed a local Etching artist, Helen Donly, in February to carry out a workshop with 15 A-level students. The girls represented both the Ceramic and Fine Art A-level courses. This provided an opportunity to acquire a new skill to support exam preparation. Students were able to discuss routes of progression in the field of Art and understand Art as a vocation.

**"It was a great experience getting the chance to work with an artist and explore different media. The artist gave me an insight into careers I could pursue after University."**





# Justice and Peace update!



## BEING HEALTHY

At Sacred Heart this last half term the students in Year 7 were studying Being Healthy in PSHCE. One of the sessions on Health was given by 'Nick the Chef' who helped the students to gain a greater understanding of healthy eating and food groups with the help of three audience participants.

**The volunteers chopped, mixed, stirred and seasoned to produce several tasty dishes which were passed around for students to try. The dishes were nutritionally balanced and easy to make at home. Well done year 7 for being such a welcoming audience.**



As the year goes on, so do the actions of the Sixth Form 'Justice and Peace' group. We have already engaged in a variety of different campaigns throughout school and our 'Bread and Cheese Lunch' once a month has raised money for a range of different charities, while also continuing to support our sponsored child in Rwanda.

**Our campaigns began with the 'Can for Christmas' appeal in December 2014.**

**A fantastic number of our students kindly donated a can to the appeal and in the last week of term these were delivered to the West End Food Bank and the Diocesan Refugee Project. The appreciation of these organisations for the generosity of Sacred Heart students was overwhelming and the donations were all gratefully received. Alongside this our 'Traidcraft' stall is doing incredibly well and all of the money raised from this goes to promoting fair trade for farmers and producers across the globe.**

One of the most popular events amongst members of our group is the monthly 'Bread and Cheese Lunch'. We have now hosted three of these, with another four to come before the end of the year. Our first lunch, held in December, was led by Rachel Henry. Rachel used to be the Chaplain here at Sacred Heart before moving to work for the charity 'Open Gate' - a charity aiming to support and rehabilitate women who have been in prison. She led a very inspiring talk about the work that she does and the problems these women face in re-building their lives upon their release from prison.

**Our next visiting speaker was from CAFOD (Catholic Action for Overseas Development). The talk was incredibly interesting and our speaker talked about his own time spent overseas and the experiences he had while there, as well as the work that the charity does in the UK and what we can do to support them in their work.**

This was particularly interesting as this year Sacred Heart is actively supporting and fundraising for the work of CAFOD, so it was both insightful and inspiring to hear a more detailed account of their projects and aims.

We were then joined by Gerard Shepherd who, in his previous role as an RS teacher and Chaplain in another school in the diocese, went on a visit to Rwanda. He spoke passionately about his experiences visiting a school in the country as well as the impact of the 1994 genocide. The group were all

shocked by the atrocities that were committed and the legacy of those that can, in many respects, still be seen today.

In all cases we were able to make a donation to these charities (as a result of the kind donations made by the members of Justice and Peace) but alongside this we have also been using the money the group has raised to support a child we collectively sponsor. We thought it was particularly apt that she is the same age as our Year 7 students and we now can, as a group, support her throughout her school career and in her spiritual development.

There is still much work for Justice and Peace to do as the year goes on! Speakers to our next 'Bread and Cheese Lunch' events include representatives from: The Samaritans, to align with 'Mental Health Awareness Week'; Freedom From Torture, an organisation providing support and counselling to refugees from torture and a visit from Declan Stokle, a member of our diocese who, with his family, visits Burma to provide aid and relief to those in poverty and raise an awareness of the plight of the people of Burma back in the UK.

**I am sure you will agree that the group has definitely been busy! We look forward to getting involved with many more campaigns as the year goes on and in engaging with charitable and worthwhile causes both locally and internationally.**



# Star Student Game

Northumbria University came into school and worked with all of the Year 8 pupils to highlight different progression routes in Higher Education.

The students worked in small groups of 30 and participated in a game which involved them finding out lots of facts about studying at Northumbria University and what it would involve.

**All of the girls had loads of fun!**



## YEAR 8 Night at the Museum

In February, 79 students from Year 8 participated in an event ran by Newcastle University called Night at the Museum.

The aims of the event are to highlight to year 8 students possible progression routes in Higher Education.

**The students took part in several events ran by students from the university and this culminated in the students having a sleep over in the Hancock museum!**

**All of girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves and felt inspired to go to university!**

# SKIING REWARD

As a rewards for all their progress and hard work last half term, Miss Collings and Mrs Naylor took a group of Year 8 pupils to Silksworth Ski centre in Sunderland.

**All of the girls took part in a one hour ski lesson. Great fun was had by all and a few potential ski stars were discovered!!**



# Pancakes for Charity

As near as we could get to Shrove Tuesday, we kick started our last day before Lent in style as sixth form students sold pancakes with all sorts of fillings and toppings for us to enjoy.

**The pancakes went down a storm and all the money raised went to charity.**





## U15 Sports Hall Athletics Competition

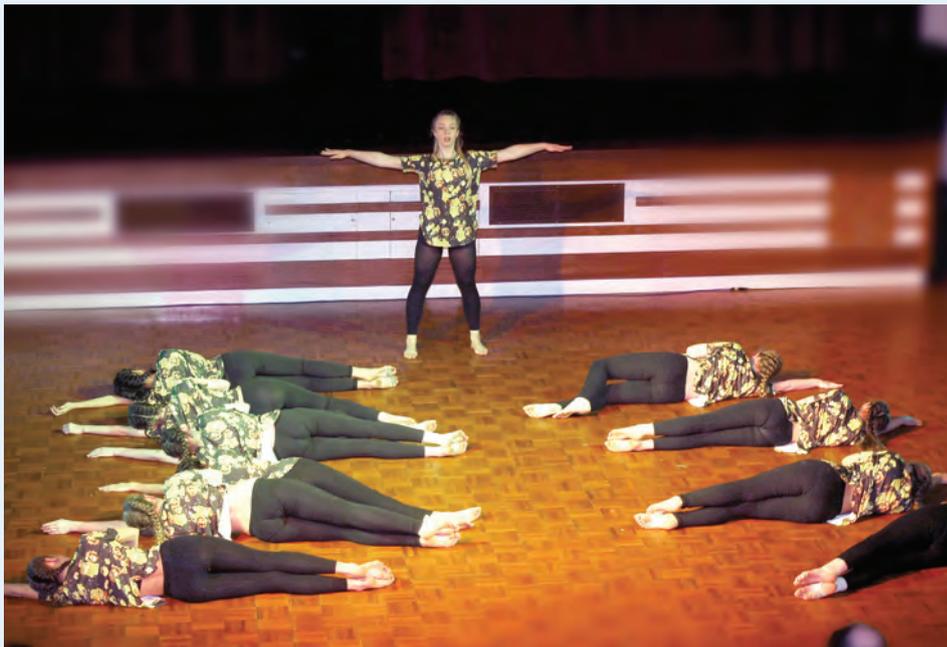
**A team of four athletes represented the school at the U15 Newcastle Sports Hall Athletics Competition held at the Centre for Sport on Thursday 20th November.**

Orieoma Chukwu-Etu, and Olivia Smith from Year 10 with Penny Duncan and Naomi Evans from Year 9, competed fiercely in their events and performed to their maximum levels achieving overall 3rd position.

**A special mention must go to Orieoma who won two of her events. With a score of 2m 24 she tied for 1st place in the standing long jump and her determination and focus ensured a win in the 2 lap race.**

**Congratulations to all the girls!**

# Dance Showcase 2015



On the 24th & 25th February Sacred Heart hosted its third Dance Showcase which featured over 50 students from across the year groups.

**The performers have been rehearsing every Monday and Thursday to ensure their performance was polished and professional, at this they certainly did not fail!**

The audience were introduced to a variety of dance styles such as ballet, contemporary, Bollywood, Street and Jazz along with superb performances from our year 9 dance company 'Blend'. All students have shown incredible dedication and have worked extremely hard in putting together a fantastic show.



## Associated Board Music Examinations

Nineteen students took ABRSM exams at the centre held in school in February, and all passed with flying colours. Three students were awarded their grades with Distinction, including Joanna Ward, who was awarded the very high mark of 136 for Grade 8 Singing.

Eleven students were awarded merits, and all deserved their excellent results after much hard work and practice. Girls, as ever, were expertly supported by our team of instrumental teachers.

## BASKETBALL SUCCESS AT COUNTY FINALS



The U14 and U16 Basketball teams were invited to represent Newcastle at the Tyne and Wear finals at Sunderland University on Thursday 29th January. This was the first time most of the U14 (Y7-9) team had played against another school.

**It was a fast paced tournament with very little time for coaching and guidance. The girls were committed in both attack and defence demonstrating an excellent sporting attitude. All the players improved greatly throughout the tournament.**

The U16 team were the stars of the tournament comfortably winning all of their games. The team consisting of Ana Amezaga-Kutija, Livia Merle, Fyza Yasir, Oriema Chukwu-Etu, Lucy Jordan and Heather Topacho demonstrated exceptional team work and understanding as well as displaying some outstanding individual performances. The hours of training the

girls do both in and out of school really paid off with the results qualifying for the regional round of the competition.

**A special mention to Emily Taylor who was injured but travelled to Sunderland to coach and manage both teams. She did this superbly demonstrating excellent leadership skills.**



## Cross Country Qualifiers

Following the city round of Cross Country 4 girls were selected to represent Newcastle at the County Cross Country Championships.

**Year 7:** Zoe Price, Olivia Lozinski and Eleanor Rowe

**Year 10:** Holly Willis

**It was a freezing cold day making conditions underfoot difficult. There were patches of hard frozen ground and other parts of the course required the athletes to run through thick mud. All the girls came well prepared and ran extremely well.**

Zoe Price in Year 7 finished 4th in her race, ahead of nearly 100 other students. Holly Willis in Year 10 finished 9th. These top finishing positions mean both girls have been selected to represent Northumberland at the regional Cross Country Championships.



## Sports Leaders

The School Games organisers requested our assistance at their annual Year 5/6 Sports Hall Athletics Competition. 17 of our Year 10 and 11 Sports Leaders prepared themselves for this competition which attracted approximately 250 young athletes.

The Sports Leaders demonstrated excellent organisation and communication skills to lead the younger students both effectively and efficiently. In addition to instructing the students in the event, the leaders measured, timed and recorded the scores of the athletes.

Ian Kendall who organised the event was extremely appreciative of the leader's ability commenting that "the assistance Sacred Heart has now given 2 years in a row is very much appreciated. Your girls are great leaders, hence the reason I asked you again to support the event."

**Well done to all the Sports Leaders involved!**



# Rock School Gig



## New Tyneside Orchestra

Sacred Heart hosted an open rehearsal with the New Tyneside Orchestra on Monday 16th March. The local amateur orchestra played a piece for their upcoming concert that was also a set piece on the current A Level syllabus.

**This was an excellent opportunity to hear a live symphony orchestra perform, particularly for students thinking of taking, or already taking A-Level Music.**

It was also an invaluable experience for students studying music at GCSE or for those learning to play an orchestral instrument.

**Music students from other schools also attended and we are very much looking forward to hosting the orchestra again.**



**On 12th February, bands from Sacred Heart and Heaton Manor came together to perform in the O2 Academy in Newcastle. Seven bands from Years 9, 10 and 11 performed to a packed house of nearly 200 people, including parents, friends and music enthusiasts.**

All of the bands performed exceptionally well, but a special mention must go to the Year 9 bands: they had only formed as bands in November, and for some girls this was their first time performing on a new instrument.

The girls performed music by bands such as the Arctic Monkeys, The Zutons, Adele and Bruno Mars. Some highlights (of many!) were the whole crowd dancing along to "Uptown Funk"!

**Well done to all the performers and the BTEC Music Technology students who worked so hard to put this amazing gig together!**





## Rambert School of Ballet

Year 11 GCSE Dance student Hayley Walker has successfully auditioned for a place at the prestigious Rambert School of Ballet and Contemporary dance in London.

**Hayley will begin her training in September and we wish her the very best of luck for what will undoubtedly lead to a career as a professional dancer.**



## ROYAL SHAKESPEARE LEARNING AND PERFORMING NETWORK

**The department has recently started an exciting, intensive three-year programme of engagement between local primary schools, Newcastle Theatre Royal and the Royal Shakespeare Company.**

The project starts in the summer term with an RSC 'First Encounters' production of The Famous Victories of Henry V being performed at Sacred Heart and the Theatre Royal. RSC actors will perform a distilled version of Shakespeare's Henry IV Part I & II and Henry V using original text which is a perfect introduction for Key Stage 3 students.

In 2016 the anniversary year (the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death), we will begin working with the two prestigious theatre companies on

developing and delivering the teaching of Shakespeare workshops to students. In addition to this students will be given the opportunity to perform alongside an RSC cast in a production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

**We are delighted to be involved in the project and look forward to the unique learning experiences and wonderful performance opportunities the scheme will bring.**



## PSHCE DRAMA

During PSHCE in March our Year 7 students experienced a drama production by Gibber.

**The production was about getting to school sustainably and improving their health and reducing their Carbon Dioxide emissions at the same time.**

The students were enthusiastic and well-mannered. The production team stated that they were very impressed with the girls' behaviour and participation.





## Year 10 Residential Retreat

The Year 10 residential retreat took place at the end of January. The theme of the retreat was 'Story' where we had a chance to reflect on 'My story', 'Our story' and 'The story'. We were encouraged to see that our own stories have an impact on each other's stories and we were reminded by 'The story' of God's ultimate plan and salvation for us. These are some of things said by students who went:

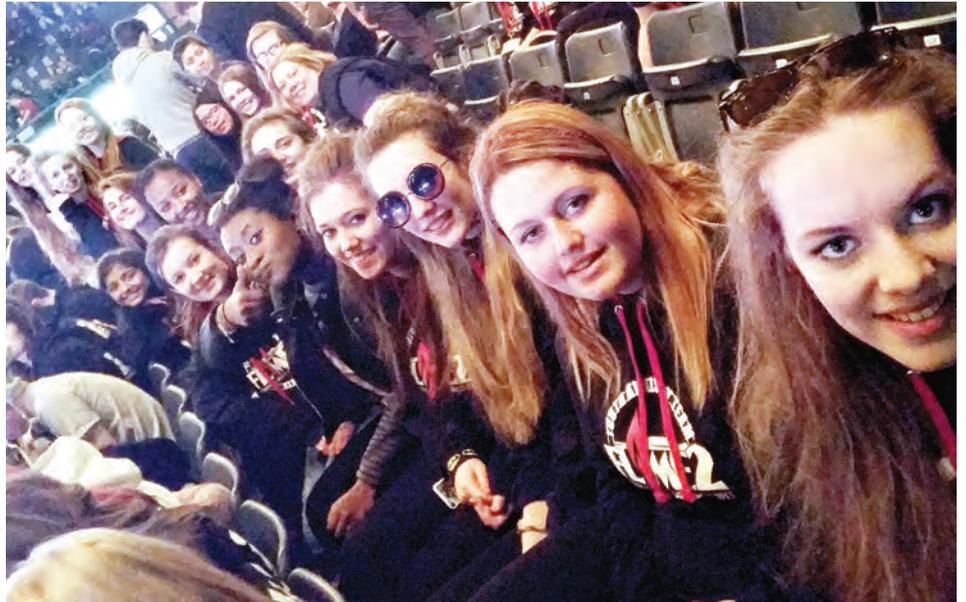
**'It helped me have time away from school to reflect on my relationship with God and to help me get inspired to help grow with faith'**

'That nobody is worthless and everyone has a story which has made them the way they are today'

'It was really helpful and made me feel more confident and see that there are many reasons to smile'

**'It was very good. An eye opener and a life lesson that I/you are worth it and not a mistake'**

'Thank you for changing my mind on my opinion of myself, the night time was very inspirational and I hope I could change someone's life like the team and retreat have changed mine'



## Flame 2 Congress

**On Saturday 7th March, 17 students from Sacred Heart joined a group of 550 other young people from schools and parishes across the Diocese to travel to Wembley Arena for the Flame 2 Congress.**

This congress was organised by "CYMFeD" (Catholic Youth Ministry Federation) who are a national

organisation. The congress aimed to gather people in faith to be inspired and challenged to live out the 'joy of the Gospel'.

With fantastic music and speakers, including David Wells and international speaker from the Portsmouth Diocese and Cardinal Tagle from the Philippines, the day was uplifting and spirit-filled!

## YEAR 7 AND 8 LIVING STREETS - WALK TO SCHOOL CAMPAIGN

**All of Year 7 and Year 8 took part in a four week long walking challenge with the aim to encourage students to increase the amount of walking they do on a daily basis.**

A group of 8 students from Years 7 and 8 introduced the project to their respective year groups at assemblies, and were on hand to promote the campaign and try and get everyone involved.



The two year groups were split into 8 teams, 7A and 8A were team 1, 7S and 8S team 2 etc, and the winning team was the group of students who had logged the most steps as a team each week. Two random winners were then drawn from the team, with the lucky students each winning a £10 shopping voucher.

**Overall the walk to school campaign has been a great success and really highlighted the social, health and financial benefits of walking to school.**