

Heartbeat



Monday, 21 February

Issue 19



The French connection

“4 PM, Sunday, at the airport, WITH PASSPORT!”

That was the mantra our Year 12 IT students had etched on their memories by the time school finished on Friday, January 28, writes ICT's Mrs Askew.

It must have worked, though, as all students were present and correct to set off on an educational three day adventure to Disneyland, Paris.

Accommodated in the Hotel Cheyenne, Disneyland Resort, pupils got a good night's sleep before being summoned to reception for a day's sightseeing in the romantic city itself.

Thanks to the excellent guidance given beforehand by Mr Atcheson and the fantastic orienteering skills provided by Mr Holt and Mrs Fagan, we navigated our way using public trains to the Arc De Triomphe.

A gruelling trek to the top via hundreds of steps on a spiral staircase was worth it as it offered fantastic panoramic views across the city (despite the mist). A short walk

down to the river took us to the underpass where Diana Princess of Wales was tragically killed and a fantastic view of the Eiffel Tower across the Seine.

Another short walk away, past the expensive boutiques of YSL and Givenchy was the Champs Elysees. From there, we moved down past the Place de la Concorde, Tuileries Gardens, to the famous Le Louvre art gallery (home to the Mona Lisa).

Explore

After a short food break, pupils were given some free time to explore the galleries before we met again to view the Notre Dame Cathedral.

A short train journey returned us to our temporary home and after an 'all you can eat' buffet in the hotel we made our way to the Disney Village for shopping and relaxation.

Day two consisted of two lectures in Disney about how they use ICT to design and run their rides and attractions and run their hotels and booking systems.

All good IT projects involve testing as part of the process so the rest of the day was spent in the parks, 'testing' the technology to see if what we had been told really was true.

One more lecture on the last day gave us an insight into the operations of Disney's IT department and how they designed the graphics for their new Toy Story Playland area. Again, the students were able to see IT in action in the parks.

On returning to the airport at 6pm, most were tired, cold and spent up before our flight to Liverpool at 9pm.

The experience has been exhausting, but has provided IT students with some excellent research for their coursework. What better way can there be to do research than to have fun at the same time?

The pupils, as always, did us proud and myself, Mrs Fagan and Mr Holt thoroughly enjoyed our time together with these mature, well-mannered and fun young people – I can't wait to do it all again next year.

The magic numbers

Congratulations go to a number of pupils who have excelled in Mathematics recently, writes *Head of Maths, Mr Pye*.

Before half-term, four of our Sixth Form students, Beth Hall, Laura Haines, James Hockey and Michael Wycherley, were part of the this year's International Mathematics Seminar along with fellow students from the UK as well as Spain, Holland and Germany.

During the two day conference, they were able to discuss and solve Mathematical problems together with their European counterparts.

The event was held at Hillside High School who, like our own college, have been members of a collaboration across Europe between teachers to help remove barriers between cultures and spread expertise. This is now the fifth year we have attended the Seminar and organiser, Peter Vandrager, who is Head of Mathematics in Drachden, Holland, was yet again delighted with the Sacred Heart pupils' enthusiasm for the event.

On the first day, the students were put into groups of mixed nationality and looked at some general Maths problems. They then looked at the Mathematics of Art and designed tessellations based on the work of MC Escher, a Dutch artist from close to the school in Drachden.

On the second day, they looked at the problem of designing a lift system for a multi storey building again in their international groups. The day was rounded off



with a presentation from each group, an exchange of gifts and a reflection on how the event had broadened the horizons of all concerned.

2011 UK Mathematics Trust Competition

We were again delighted to enter so many students for the UKMT competition before half-term.

The Junior competition was entered by 60 students, some of whom took part during their lunchtime.

We await their results in Spring, with gold, silver and bronze medals available for successful candidates and even the opportunity to go through to the next round and

compete for a place at The International Mathematics Olympics next year.

GCSE Success

We would like to congratulate all of the students who recently received their GCSE result from the Mathematics exam in November.

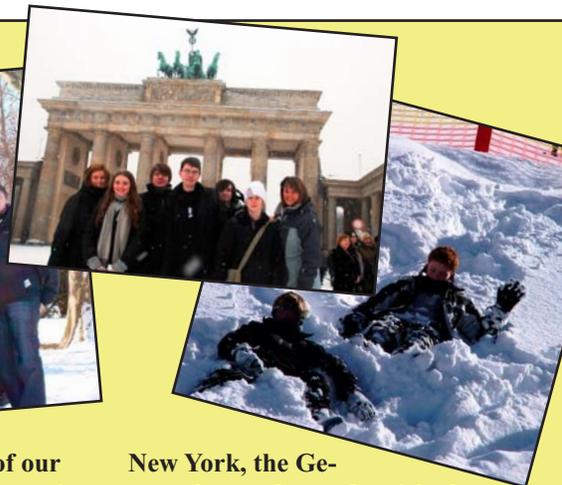
Special congratulations go to the 42 pupils in Year 11 who have already passed their exam and now have some extra time for work in other subjects too.

Also, well done to parents, Carmel Brinkley, Sylvia Nelson and Diane O'Connell, who entered the GCSE and passed. This brings the total number of parents who have passed their GCSE at Sacred Heart up to 25.

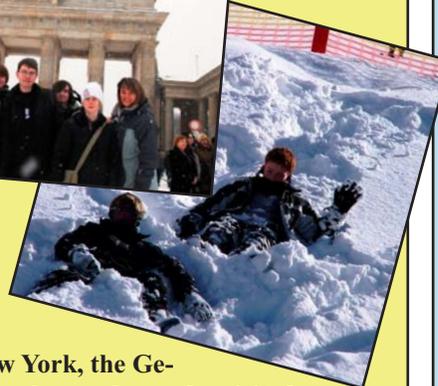
Coming up...



During half-term, a number of our staff and students were away on trips. In future issues, we will look forward to reading about the ski trip in Austria, the Sixth Form business trip to



New York, the Geography teachers who visited Sierra Leone and the Year 10 and 12 pupils who visited Prague. The images above are from previous trips.



The week in brief

The AS Drama Night takes place on Tuesday from 7.15pm. On Wednesday, the Art Project at the Plaza Cinema continues, on Thursday afternoon, the Music Masterclass takes place, the Silver Surfers meet in G8 after school and the Y8 Consultation Evening takes place.

Results round-up

Year 11 Football
Sefton Cup

Prelim rnd v Holy Family won 2-1

Rnd 1 v St. Michael's won 7-0

Merseyside Cup

Rnd 1 v Mosslands won 4-0

Rnd 2 v St. Edmund A'smith won 2-1