

# Heartbeat



Monday, June 3

Issue 33

## Netherlands exchange trip was a master class

*In the second part of our Comenius Exchange trip, we focus on those students who travelled to Drachten, Holland. Here is DT teacher, Mrs Stewart's account of the trip.*

Comenius is a European exchange project that gives students an opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the diversity of European cultures and languages and to help young people acquire the basic life skills and competences for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship.

Three Year 12 students, Lydia Smart (12R), Isabelle Hughes (12T) and Michael Torpey (12S) and myself set off for Drachten in Holland.

This was to fulfil the second part of the exchange programme. In November last year, Sacred Heart students and their families hosted visitors from both Holland and Italy and had a wonderful week introducing their European peers to life at Sacred Heart and Liverpool culture through a range of activities in and out of the College.



Lydia, Isabelle and Michael were very excited to meet up with their host partners and families in Drachten again. Following a short flight, we arrived at Schiphol Airport at 9pm but still had quite a two hour train journey to get to Drachten. It was after midnight before we arrived at our destination.

We were picked up at the station by our hosts and taken to our new homes for the week.

Sunday was a day for relaxing and settling in with our host families and time to recharge our batteries in time for the full and exciting week's itinerary provided by CSG Liudger school. The theme for the week was 'Masters'.

On Monday morning, all the visiting students came together for the first time. Students from Holland, Germany, Italy and the UK had a lot of getting to know each other, so it was important to begin the day with dance.

Visitors were given a guided tour of the school and an intro-

duction to life at CSG Liudger. Following this, students set off on a treasure hunt involving a mathematical challenge around the town of Drachten.

Tuesday was a full day of Masters' Workshops, such as becoming Master Chefs making Dutch pancakes, Masters of Forgery, which involved recreating the work of famous Dutch artists, Master Detectives, that saw the students solving a crime and playing a Dutch game of mystery, 'Werewolves'.

The afternoon was spent mastering the art of Fierljeppen, this is a traditional game which involves a long pole and water. Wednesday saw the students take a trip to The ir. D.F. Woudagemaal - the largest, still operational, steam-powered pumping station in the world.

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### Views in brief

**Lydia:** This is the best experience and holiday I have ever had in my life. It has made me so much more confident to think about independent travel in the future and given me a good understanding of what it is like to live in a European town, much more than just visiting on holiday.

**Isabelle:** I had the best time ever. All Year 12 students should do this, you have a great time and it is also so cheap, as you only pay for your flight.

**Michael:** I have made friends for life through this experience. I will be travelling back to Drachten very soon. Can I do this again next year please?





# Year 11 share cup after six goal thriller

*Our Year 11 football team came to within a whisker of winning the Merseyside Cup recently but had to settle for a share of the spoils with West Derby.*

*ICT's Mr Summerfield gives us his account of a pulsating final.*

Our boys started the match slowly, conceding a goal early on. The first half did not get any better, as West Derby scored a second on the stroke of half time to go in at the break leading 2-0.

After the interval, our boys came back strongly, fighting for every ball and controlling the game.

Following a number of missed opportunities, John Holloway finally gave us a way back into the game when he stuck out a leg to convert from a corner.

Sacred Heart continued to pressure and, following a through ball that split the West Derby defence, Michael Gilmore had a clean run at goal and slipped the ball past the advancing keeper.

We continued to pressure, although West Derby forced the impressive Phil Hoose to save on two occasions to keep it level.

With ten minutes remaining, Sacred Heart had a third goal disallowed, as the linesman flagged for what the referee presumed was offside. After some debate, the referee awarded a penalty for handball, instead of giving the goal.

Joe Ralston converted the spot kick to give our Year 11s a well fought and deserved lead.

Unfortunately, victory was snatched away in the last minute, when West Derby scored from a free kick, which proved to be the last kick of normal time. Sacred Heart did not let their heads drop and continued to press in extra time, coming close on a number of occasions.

There are no penalties in the Merseyside Cup, so the trophy is shared. It felt like a defeat, as the win would have been well deserved. The team showed great composure and represented Sacred Heart magnificently. The boys can be extremely proud of themselves throughout the season and deserved to win the Merseyside Cup. Their name will still go on the cup and they also received winners medals.

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The afternoon was spent becoming Master artists mastering the art of watercolour painting at the seaside, which was a very relaxing and enjoyable activity in glorious sunshine.

Thursday brought the highlight of the week with a trip to Amsterdam. This was a busy and packed itinerary with a stop off at the Afsluitdijk Dam, and an old style Dutch village with traditional working windmills and cheese manufacturing.

First stop in Amsterdam was a visit to the Hermitage Museum and a Tour of Peter the Great exhibition. Then students got some free time to explore the wonderful delights of Amsterdam with their host. Our final activity was a cruise tour along the canals and an informative and interesting overview of the historic city and famous landmarks.

Friday involved a great deal of preparation for the National item and international buffet evening. Students were involved in food preparation, writing newspaper articles and organising their own, and collective, performances.

On the evening itself, Michael demonstrated his skills as a Master of Ceremony and provided a masterful performance singing and playing guitar, that received a rousing applause from a pleased and very impressed audience. This brought a close to the wonderful week of making new friends, living in different environments and actively learning about our European community.

## News in brief

GCSE Exams continue this week and Year 7 Assessment week starts today. On Tuesday, PTA meet at 6.30pm in D1. On Wednesday, good luck to those students involved in the Salters' Festival of Chemistry, at Liverpool University. Also on Wednesday, there is a meeting in the Drama Studio at 6pm for those going on the ICT Trip. On Thursday, there is a trip to the Playhouse to see Lion Boy. On Saturday, there is Maths Intervention from 9.10am in the Prep Hall.