

Heartbeat



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Year 7 Review

Issue 32

Year 7 pack a lot in to first spell at big school

As we head into the final weeks of the academic year, we take a look back at some of the highlights for each year group from the past 12 months.

First up is Year 7, who, as our stories show, have enjoyed a busy 2013/14.

October



In October, Year 7 took a step back from lessons as they took part in a Retreat Day. Having had a couple of weeks to get used to their new surroundings and the busy timetable, the students had the chance to stop, think and look around their new College, to find out a bit more about themselves, their classmates and their Form Tutors, all within the context of Sacred Heart being a Christian community.

The day began with, 'This is me, who are you?' and playing 'personality bingo'.

Each person revealed some information about themselves and then had to complete their card by finding people who had similar likes and dislikes.

This set the tone for the rest of the day, with Eleanor Brett (7T) speaking for many people by saying: "The activities were fun and we got to find out lots of things about the rest of the team."

Following more in-depth interviews among themselves, pupils were presented to the class by each other. The students were presented as a leaf which was attached to a tree.

This linked with the saying of Jesus, 'I am

the vine, you are the branches', and introduced the thought that we do not go through school as individuals but as members of a community – an aspect which was emphasised by the presence throughout the day of our Sixth Form students. This allowed Callum Burgess (7A) to reflect that we are all on a journey, by saying: "My group leader was there when I was born, and it was nice talking to her", a thought echoed by Jacob Mangan (7T), who added: "We got to know the Sixth Formers and what their feelings were when they started Sacred Heart."

Of course, being part of a community means that our actions affect others, as the next activity, Making Photos, showed.

Louise Trivett (7A), said: "By far the best part was when we acted out a freeze frame. Our group did graffiti."

What her group was actually doing was challenging the class to think, 'What would you do?' Provoking reflection on how our actions affect others and how we need to take responsibility for what we do.

This was further developed in the afternoon when the groups examined how negative

actions drive us further away from each other and from God, whilst positive actions draw us closer to God and to each other.

All the fun and thoughts were brought together in the Mass of Welcome, celebrated by Fr John Seddon, a College old boy who was able to point to the very spot in the Hall where he sat his English exam and wrote his best poem.

Celebrating the Mass in the Hall was appropriate in that it is where we eat, meet for assembly, parents meet and exams take place: in many ways it is the heart of the College, so it is fitting that, with the Gospel and Jesus at the heart of all that we do, Mass is also celebrated there.

Perhaps the last word should belong to a Year 7 student, who encapsulated not only the mood of the day but also what we strive to create at Sacred Heart – an environment where people can grow. As Katie Kerrigan (7H) says: "I thought the Retreat Day was a good chance to get to know all the people in my Form. I read at the Mass. I wouldn't normally like to read but I found confidence and now I'm more ready for my future in Sacred Heart."

Year 7 say 'bonjour' to Bon Voyage performers

In January, Year 7 had a French lesson with a difference as they were treated to a performance from a theatre company.

Using full theatrical props, actors from Théâtre Volant performed Bon Voyage, a show aimed at helping to motivate the learning process and inspire the use of French. During the show, which featured, comedy, illusion, juggling, balancing, music and dance, pupils were able to use vocabulary related to food, the weather, numbers, time, gender, holidays, travel, directions, hobbies and interests.

French teacher, Mrs O'Grady, explained more: "Bon Voyage was pitched to give students confidence in their ability to understand and speak French. It made French friendly and accessible and is designed to engage today's young people. It reinforced students' learning and gave a truly memorable and positive experience of the French

language."

Bon Voyage was certainly a hit with the students, Peter McKillop (7H) said: "It was the most fun I have had all year. Not only was I learning, I was enjoying it. I really liked the funny bits and could understand more than I expected."

Chloe Quarton (7H) echoed Peter's views by saying: "The French play was really good. I could understand more than I expected and enjoyed every part of it. It was funny and everybody really enjoyed it. I learned a lot more from it and I would love to see it again."

Mrs O'Grady added: "Even though some of the students had difficulty understanding all of the performance, it still proved popular. The overriding feeling about the play was that the students enjoyed the performance and were glad Théâtre Volant visited."

January



Rugby team reach semis

November



In November, the Year 7 boys rugby team reached the semi-finals of the RFU Emerging Schools Rugby Tournament at Knowsley Park Centre for Learning.

The 16 boys won all three games in their group stage, beating both St Michael's and Woodchurch 4-0 and Ridgeway 5-0. They then progressed to the tournament semi-finals, out of 19 schools, where they were edged out 2-0 by an experienced Birkdale team. Accompanying the boys was PE's Mr O'Malley. He said: "The boys were a credit to the College and had a fantastic afternoon."

News in brief

Morning Eucharistic Services take place at Upper Site tomorrow and at Lower Site on Thursday. We have students involved in the Salters Festival of Chemistry on Wednesday. There are revisions sessions on Wednesday (Biology) and Friday (Maths).

February
In February, our young scientists (right) received praise for some outstanding work on cell structure. The budding boffins were given the task of making a cell and their efforts delighted our Head of Science, Mrs Morgan, who said: "The students excelled themselves and exceeded all my expectations."



Year 7 bookworms benefitted from a 'Buddy' scheme that encouraged their interest in books and helped improve their reading. The initiative proved to be the toast of Lower Site, as youngsters from both year groups were rewarded with a tasty breakfast treat for their participation.

Meanwhile, our swimmers made a splash by winning a staggering 20 out of 22 events at a gala in Crosby. In the other two events, they finished runners-up. Head of PE, Mrs Hewlett, praised the group for their achievements, she said: "To win 20 out of the 22 events and finish runners-up in the other two is an amazing achievement."

