

Heartbeat



Monday, October 6

Issue 5

Taster trip gets top marks



Eight of our Year 12 students enjoyed an informative and interesting visit to Oxford University last month.

Among those accompanying them was Mr Daw and Mrs Garner from the English and History departments respectively. Here is Mr Daw's account of the trip.

The eight students enjoyed the hospitality of Trinity College, staying overnight in student accommodation and experiencing breakfast and lunch in the impressive dining hall.

They were given a guided tour of the college, taking in the beautifully kept gardens and the college library, before returning to the hall to hear an informative talk from senior admissions tutor, Professor Valerie Worth.

The admissions process was explained succinctly, before students dispersed to hear smaller presentations from course tutors, which the students found useful.

Adam Clarke (12R), who attended a talk on the Politics course said: "It was really enjoyable. I got a great understanding of the course, which seems quite open. You

have quite a lot of choice in the areas of the subject you can study."

After lunch, we took the students to see the grand environs of Christ Church College and, by contrast, the more intimate setting of St Peter's College.

We thought it was important that the students gained an understanding that the experience of student life varies quite a lot from college to college.

One of the strengths of the collegiate system is that students can choose a college with which they're comfortable.

While the students are some way off formally applying for a place at Oxford, this early taste of the Oxford experience has been invaluable. "It really helped me gain an insight into university life," said Tom Miller (12S), "as well as the collegiate system, which was completely new to me." Adam Clarke agreed, adding: "The trip really changed my perspective on higher education."

In addition to the trip to Oxford, the College also organized a trip for some Year 11 students to attend a Higher Education

workshop, run by Oxford and Cambridge Universities locally

The students were given an interactive presentation on higher education in general and the benefits of choosing Oxford and Cambridge in particular.

Topics included student life, entry requirements, choosing the right course and student finance.

It was a lot to take in, but the students found it very helpful. "I didn't realize there were so many courses to choose from," said Patrick Boyle (11C).

"Finding out about which A level options can lead to which degrees was really useful."

News in brief

Year 8 will get a final briefing during Form time tomorrow regarding the forthcoming Ypres trip. On Wednesday, good luck to our students involved in the English Schools Cross Country. Finally, over the weekend, there is a Duke of Edinburgh qualifying expedition to Oswestry.

Harry Potter trip was magical

Earlier this summer, our students swapped whiteboards for wands as they travelled to London for a two day trip to look at the use of ICT in the making of Harry Potter. Among those accompanying the young wizards was Mr Forrest. Here is his account of the trip.

After a long journey down, we arrived at the River Thames for a boat cruise to Greenwich, taking in many famous sites such as Big Ben, Tower Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.

After the cruise, we had lunch at Covent Garden, where the pupils took in a number of street artists from jugglers to acrobats. We then headed to the West End to take in the stage show, Mamma Mia.

The show had pupils and staff out of their seats dancing and singing. After such a long day it was time to retire to the hotel for the evening to rest ahead of our second day.

Another early start saw the group head to the Warner Brothers Studios for a tour of the set of the Harry Potter films. This included a classroom session looking at how ICT was used in the making of the films. During the session, the pupils got to look at costumes from the set and how some of them were made. This was followed by a continuation of the tour, where pupils were given the chance to ride on a broom and fly in Harry Potter's car, as well as casting a spell with his wand. After lunch, we visited Harry's house in Privet Drive, the Night Bus and Diagon Alley, where some pupils also got to taste some Butter Beer. I would like to pass on my thanks to the staff on the trip, Miss Clarke, Miss Lynch, Mr Summerfield and Mr Gardiner and the pupils who were yet again a credit to the College.



Sacred Heart Catholic College



Open Evening

— Thursday —

23rd October 2014

— 6.30-8.45 —

Upper Site • Liverpool Road



Headteacher's Welcome
7pm and 7.45pm



'Caring and Achieving Excellence within a Christian Community'