

Heartbeat



Monday, November 7



Issue 8

It's a Big Apple for the students

More than 20 students enjoyed a trip to New York recently as part of their Art & Drama studies. Among them was Drama teacher Mr Thirlwall. Here is his account of the trip.

Twenty-three Sacred Heart students and three staff recently enjoyed an Art and Drama trip to New York.

The excited party were waved off by their parents at Manchester Airport on the morning of Wednesday 12th October, before checking in for the seven and a half hour flight to the 'Big Apple'.

After touching down at New York's John F Kennedy International Airport, we made the short coach journey through the borough of Queens and across the East River via the 59th Street Bridge to Manhattan Island, where we were dropped off at the Vanderbilt YMCA – our accommodation during our stay in the city.

A short time later, we headed off on the short walk to Grand Central Station, a place – like so many locations in New York – instantly recognised by many in the party, owing to its appearance in numerous famous films over the years. We headed down to the station's bustling dining concourse, where the range of food offered was mind-boggling. The choice was so good, we decided that this would be where we would go for breakfast each morning.

So, loaded up with filled bagels, donuts and coffee the next morning, we walked across Manhattan to the Hell's Kitchen area for a drama work-

shop led by Larry – a stage manager for many Broadway shows.

Although some of our students had no drama experience and were self-conscious to begin with, Larry soon had them having the time of their lives doing lots of fun activities. We were joined by Bret Schuman – an actor in the Broadway show we were to see later that evening - for the final half hour of the workshop. He spoke about his role, before answering some great questions from our students.

Next up on our itinerary was a Circle Line ferry trip around the island of Manhattan on both the Hudson and East Rivers, taking us past the Statue of Liberty, the new World Trade Center and below many iconic bridges – the most famous being the Brooklyn Bridge. The party then had their first experience of the New York subway, taking a train a few miles south to the 9/11 Memorial Plaza – site of the world's most devastating terrorist attack 15 years ago.

Our students were reflective and sombre as they stood amongst

continued on p2



continued from p1

hundreds of visitors at the Memorial Plaza – the centrepiece of which is a huge water feature surrounded by a plaque engraved with the names of the victims of the attack.

That evening, the group, weary from walking quite a distance during the day, made their way from the YMCA, past the world famous Times Square and on to the Lyric Theatre in Broadway, New York's theatre district, for a performance of *Paramour* - a critically acclaimed show by theatre company

Cirque du Soleil, known for their death-defying acrobatics.

The show did not disappoint: students and staff alike were overawed by the stunning performances. Brett Schuman, who we'd met at the workshop earlier that day, even took time during

the show's interval to respond to Jenny's tweet, writing about how the students had been 'awesome' and that he hoped we enjoyed the show. We certainly did.

After a well-earned night's rest, we set off the following morning to Grand Central Station, where before breakfast, birthday girl Eleanor McKay was presented with a small cake, complete with lit candles and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday' by the whole group. After breakfast, we headed to the Guggenheim Museum via the subway. In addition to the many iconic works of art on display, students and staff alike

were overwhelmed by the modernist style building itself, designed by renowned American architect, Frank Lloyd Wright.

A short walk, crossing 5th Avenue, brought us to Central Park, where we enjoyed a stroll past the Metropolitan Museum of Art, before taking lunch at the side of the boating lake in the beautiful autumn sunshine. This was shortly followed by a visit to the Strawberry Fields memorial to John Lennon, just a short distance from his New York apartment in the Dakota Building.



Next up was a subway ride to Rockefeller Plaza and a short walk to MOMA – Museum of Modern Art, where we were treated to galleries packed with some of the most recognisable art works of the 19th and 20th centuries. The group then indulged in some retail therapy at the world famous Bloomingdale's department store, followed by a brisk walk back to the hotel for a quick freshen up before heading back to Times Square and dinner in Dallas BBQ. Birthday girl, Eleanor was then treated to a 'surprise' rendition of 'Happy Birthday' from the restaurant staff, who also brought out fairy cakes

for the whole group, as a birthday treat.

No visit to New York would be complete without a visit to the iconic Empire State Building, where we headed after a hearty breakfast of American pancakes with maple syrup. The elevator rapidly took us to the viewing gallery on the 102nd story, from where the views of Manhattan and New York's outlying boroughs were simply breathtaking – especially under the clear blue skies and glorious sunshine with which we had been blessed for

most of our visit. Before heading back to JFK Airport for our Saturday night flight back home, there was just enough time to visit Macy's department store for the group to buy any last minute gifts and souvenirs. Several hours

later our travel-weary tourists were reunited with their excited families at Manchester Airport. Even the drive home from the airport for the teachers - Mrs Campbell, Mr Burke and myself – was eventful, when they got out of the car to help push-start a hapless motorist who had spun out of control on a roundabout. It was a good job Mr Burke was wearing his new NYPD t-shirt and cap. Students and staff alike agreed that this had been a truly unforgettable and awe-inspiring experience. All offered special thanks to Mrs Campbell, who had organised the trip so meticulously.

DofE delight

At the beginning of half term, students from Years 11 & 12 embarked on their DofE expedition to Scarisbrick, writes Miss Cutler. They worked on their navigational skills as they hiked for two days with an overnight stay under canvas. They had to orientate their maps, take six figure grid references and take compass bearings to get themselves from their start point in Burscough, to their end point in Lydiate. They performed brilliantly over the two days and completed the expedition successfully.



News in brief

There is a Road Safety talk today at Lower Site. There is a meeting at 6pm in St Edward Hall tomorrow for the parents of those students going on the London trip. Good luck to our netball teams taking part in the Sefton Netball Tournament on Wednesday. Years 11 and 13 will have their photographs taken on Thursday. On Friday, there is a visit from Branwen Jeffreys in the Drama Studio and the PTA Social starts at 7.30pm in the Lower Site Hall.