



July 2013

SFX NEWSLETTER



Message from the Head Teacher

As we come to the end of a busy year it is good to reflect on the many achievements and activities that our young people have been involved in over the last term.

The opportunities to excel and pursue interests have been very wide and have included a great sports day, a number of school trips including RE visits to Wycliffe, a History trip to Vindolanda, and an English trip to London, where students saw the West End production of War Horse and went on the London Eye.

One of the most keenly anticipated and exciting nights of the

year came with the schools first production for 18 years.

'Oliver!' was a great spectacle enjoyed by students, staff and parents and we hope to make drama an integral part of school life in the future.

Wednesday 17 July was our junior awards evening and it was a privilege to see so many young people receiving awards for their academic achievements as well as to those who received awards for their wider contribution to school life.

On Thursday 19 July St Francis Xavier hosted the Hambleton and Richmondshire District School Sports Awards, a number of students from our school received awards at this prestigious event.

Due to the government encouraging work experience at post 16, it was decided last year to

organize a programme of alternative activities including a post 16 providers day and an enterprise event held at Darlington College. Students in year 10 also listened to an inspirational testimony from Stephen Mendelson, an 87 year old holocaust survivor.

Finally we will be saying goodbye to several colleagues, all of who have made a massive contribution to the lives of our children. We wish them all the best for the future, whether it is in their promoted posts, teacher training institutions or retirement.

Thank you to all of the parents and pupils who have been supportive of the school this year and I wish you a happy and restful summer holiday.



...cese and we have made some very good friends. We did a lot of walking throughout the week and when we were not with the V.I.P's we took part in the pilgrimage ourselves and this proved to be a very spiritual experience. We were a group that stuck together and we had a laugh all the time. Some of us swapped badges and hats with the military from all over the world who were also in Lourdes on pilgrimage. The week was an unforgettable experience full of laughter and friends who will remain friends for life.

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

By Lisa Brewitt, Beth Lees & Rachel Masterman

After hours of travelling by coach to Lourdes we arrived at our hotel Mediteranee on Saturday. The hotel was very modern and the food was traditional French fayre.

We worked every day with the VIP's, chatting to them, taking them to the Masses and walking in the processions with them. It was very emotional learning about their stories and their reasons for being in Lourdes. We met tonnes of young people our age from the dio-



Oliver!



Oliver!

St. Francis Xavier's production of 'Oliver!' brought together all the talents of the school to create an outstanding theatrical experience for an appreciative audience on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th July. The whole cast acted like seasoned professionals and produced two memorable and entertaining evenings of musical theatre. Behind the scenes a plethora of able students work tirelessly on the technical demands of the show so that the lights worked, props appeared and disappeared when they should and actors (some who had several costume changes) were ready to go on stage. A big thank you to everyone who took part and to all the support from the audience, willing everyone on.



“ A lot of hard work was put into this production, but it was totally worth it! I am so utterly proud of the cast and it was a joy to watch them grow in confidence. ”



The Little Big Assembly

By Mrs Masterman

On Thursday 4th July year 8 represented the school at the “Little Big Assembly” delivered by the My Mission Team at Trinity Catholic College in Middlesbrough. We joined lots of other Catholic schools in the diocese to celebrate the Year of Faith by sharing our stories. We listened to God’s diary entry and watched a drama about the Prodigal Son. We were reminded that we all have our own faith story just like the Lost Son and in particular his older brother who spent all his time working hard for his Father and did inherit all his father’s wealth.

Sports Day

With the sun shining and the pupils keen to do their best, this years sports day was set to be outstanding. Although we can't reveal the final results (that will be announced at the whole school assembly on the last day of term) here are a few images from a great day of sport.



Calendar Dates

A few handy dates for your diary:

July

Tuesday 23rd
End of Term

September

Wednesday 4th

Term starts

Thursday 19th

Year 7 Welcome Evening

Thursday 26th

School Open Evening

October

Friday 25th

Term ends