

Years 7,8,9 and Form 10 also prepared spiritually for Advent. The former went to Wisdom House, run by the Daughters of Wisdom, for their day of reflection. The main theme for their days was **God's creation and our stewardship**. The students first received a talk from one of the sisters about the reasons why Wisdom House was founded. Then the students spent the day exploring their creation theme. They collected fallen leaves from the Abbey grounds and park and produced beautiful pieces of art work with them. One group produced a huge tree using their leaves - it looked fantastic! They also participated in a guided meditation. Form Ten took a look back at their formative years at College and reflected on the vital years ahead. (10a,11,11a will visit after Christmas.)

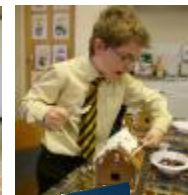
Another very important aspect in preparing for the future was stressed by the Team from **No Limits, Years 7 - 10**. Students explored the themes of self esteem and bullying. In these photographs they were acting out assertiveness role plays, practising different techniques to deal with peer pressure and bullying. As part of the session students were asked to discuss the collages they made for their homework. At St. Mary's College we know that good exam results are the ideal but we also strive to encourage spiritual growth to cope with the uncertain adult years ahead.



Charlton was deeply indebted to Mrs. Wright for guiding every pupil through a hands-on Christmas adventure. Gingerbread houses, Christmas trees and Advent Wreaths came alive as excited faces and nimble fingers produced fantastic results. These few photographs do not give justice to the hard work and thought that went into this. Nursery made wreaths; Year 2 tackled trees; and the other six classes constructed houses.



**TECHNOLOGY and ART:** no excuse for **YEAR NINE** to be late on Tuesday January 3rd! Regarding the former, their project was making a clock; and regarding the latter, their objective was Chinese Art



(above) Nursery, Yr. R, Yr 1; (left) Yr. 2, Yr. 3; (below) Yr. 4, Yr. 5 & 6



(right) Our **NURSERY** gave us the perfect Christmas preparation during 'Christingle'



## **PE and Games Half-term highlights:**

### Table Tennis

#### U13s and U16s City Team Championships at Upper Shirley High

U16s lost their games against some very strong opponents, some of which have represented the South of England. U13s managed some better results, with Dylan Kirkwood winning both his games and Dan Wallis and John Ingram winning one game each. As a result the U13s won two matches and lost two. This resulted in the teams adding up the number of sets won, with Upper Shirley High narrowly going through to the next round winning 16 – 14.

#### Southampton Table Tennis League

Simmarians B

This year Dr K and Mr Cheeseman have entered the school into an adult table tennis league. This has already dramatically increased the standard of the students table tennis (and staff), which will significantly impact on those who take GCSE PE. The division above has an Old Simmarians team playing also. To see student averages, league tables etc. go to the website below. Simmarians B have been entered into division 4, with Simmarians A in division 3. <http://www.stta.co.uk/>

Squad:

Year 11 - Piero, Dan Maher, Harry Sykes, Harry Wilson, Ryan Long

Year 10 – Reid Gallagher, Derek O'Carroll and George Christidoules

Staff: Dr K, Brother James & Mr Cheeseman

#### Form Champions

Form 10: Winner – Derek O'Carroll 10 & Holly Lawton 10

Year 11: Winner – Harry Sykes 11 Winner – Josh Young 11a & Emma Wilkin 11a



### Football

**Year 11 Hampshire Cup Quarter Final** – Lost 4 – 2 against Mountbatten. Despite being two goals up at half-time, the pressure from a very strong Mountbatten side eventually told, with them scoring three goals in the space of five minutes. St Mary's battled to the end taking many risks to grab the equaliser; but unfortunately it wasn't to be. Goal scorers – Sam Kirkwood 2. Man of the match – Jack O'Conner.

#### Year 8 5-a-side Tournament:

The following boys took part in the City tournament and are one of the four teams to progress to the final at Testwood Sports College after Christmas: Dyan Kirkwood – 2 goals Dan Wallis – 5 goals Billy Shiner – 1 goal John Ingram Will Hughes



### Cross Country

City Cross Country Championship at Southampton Sports Centre

Many congratulations to **Alex Ruggles** who finished 1<sup>st</sup> and therefore is Southampton City Champion. Other Notable performances: Inters Boys: Bronze medallist Jack Lynch, 5<sup>th</sup> Sam Kirkwood and 9<sup>th</sup> Dan Maher.

*Furthermore, Alex and Jack both ran for Hampshire in France. Alex finished 4<sup>th</sup> running for the year above and Jack finished in the top 10. In addition their team came in the top 30 in the South of England road race. Moreover, Alex's team came in the top 50 in England at the national cross country and relay championship – again competing for the year above.*

The intermediate team were also champions including: Alex Ruggles, Jack Lynch, Sam Kirkwood and Dan Maher.

Inter Girls: Su-Ann Chew 10<sup>th</sup>

Juniors Boys: Dylan Kirkwood 6<sup>th</sup>, James New 11<sup>th</sup>.

Junior Girls: Many congratulations to Rosie Lynch who won the bronze medal.



#### Hampshire Inter Schools Cross Country Championships at Basingstoke

Against a huge field of runners, some races had over 100 students competing St Mary's College held their own.

Special mentions: Rosie Lynch finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the Year 8 girls race.

Dylan Kirkwood finished 13<sup>th</sup> in the Year 8 boys race.

Freya Davey finished 51<sup>st</sup> in the Year 7 girls race.

Matt Jansen finished 49<sup>th</sup> in the Year 7 boys race.



### House Matches

#### Football

After two weeks of fiercely competitive house matches including A & B, single sex and mixed games, with 3 points for first place, 2 for second and 3 for third, the final results are: **St George – 22 St Patrick – 15, St Michael – 8.**

#### Cycling

Last month Tim Stringfellow competed in the Hill climb time trial championship at Dean Hill for Sotonia Cycling Club. Out of 43 participants across 3 age categories, junior, senior & veteran, Tim came a highly credible 9<sup>th</sup> overall, and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the junior category.

#### School Football Fantasy League

Updated on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

Currently Joel Palmer leads, with Mr Cheeseman in 2<sup>nd</sup> and Mr Falvey in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The manager of the month for November was Joel Palmer:



## CHRISTMAS 2011 NEWSLETTER

This term is always dominated by three integral spiritual events: MASS to celebrate **FOUNDER'S DAY** lead this time by Year 4 (CH) and Form 8 (SMC); the **ADVENT FESTIVAL** in words and music; and the **CAROL SERVICE**, held in St. Edmund's Church. For the FESTIVAL, it was an absolute pleasure to see the broad array of talent on display. From REM to Chopin the students from St Mary's College and Charlton House produced one of our best festivals yet! With Orchestral, Band and individual performances, there was something there to entertain everyone. Our thanks go to **Brother James** for all his hard work in organising and rehearsing the students; Mrs. Sarah Salmon; and all the **Staff** and members of the **Parents' Association** who made contributions to the show itself and (behind the scenes) with the interval buffet. For the first time ever, Charlton also acted the drama of John de La Mennais during their Mass. *We thank you for collection made at the Carol Service: £170.*



### From Mr. Craig Lickley

It was this time last year that the country was suffering some of the worst and most persistent snow and freezing temperatures on record. The end of term this year, except for the odd cold day, could not have been any different. However, the autumn term is marked by more than just the weather and the events described within the news letter and blog highlight a rich and varied term. Students continue to 'raise the bar' both academically and within so many other events; from the Advent Festival to Cross Country, Debating to reflections on 'Creation' with the Daughters of Wisdom. Next term we look forward to the College production of 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Rehearsals started 4 weeks ago and the students have already shown great enthusiasm for the play. The College also has its entrance examinations on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> January, parents for these should have received details already through the post. Mrs Thom will be absent next term on maternity leave and both I and the students wish her well. This maternity cover will be undertaken by Mrs. Gemma Shwodler. We will also be joined in the New Year by Miss Anna Turvey who becomes our new Head of Modern Foreign Languages. Term starts on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January, a date to be etched onto the same walls you may be tempted to 'drive-up' during the break! As the Advent season draws to a close and our students depart to spend time with their families, I would like to wish you all a very peaceful and happy Christmas. You are reminded that Father Michael will be saying midnight Mass in the Chapel, all are welcome to attend.

**(please remember that the school blog and wavemf will be used to inform parents regarding school closures as a result of adverse weather conditions).**

By Alejandra, Finlay, Milly, Teo, Hannah, Adam, Michael, Ollie and Illan.  
I love you God. Bless God.  
Please help the people to be kind to one another. Bless God.  
Please God, keep everyone safe.  
Thank You for the trees, I love your world. Bless God. Bless God.  
Thank you for the lovely fruit, Please help the hungry people.  
Bless God. Amen

### From Mrs. Dee Owen

I don't want to gloat, but at this time of year I know that I have the best job in the world. When talking to some of our Nursery and Reception children the other day, I was touched by the absolute conviction in their faces when discussing Santa and his reindeer. When rehearsing for our Christingle, I noticed that Scarlet, who was Mary, kept pulling at the blanket around the baby. I asked her if everything was alright and she told me that Jesus was cold. It does us all good to see the Christmas season through the eyes of children and I'm sure there's going to be lots of fun in your homes in the coming two weeks. We will be reminding the children on Friday of the real reason for the celebrations in the hope that the holiday is not solely focused around presents. I would like to thank you all for supporting your children in their 'Talents Challenge'. The final total is **£1,150.69** which will be taken by the Brothers to Haiti to aid the regeneration of their schools and communities. I was impressed by the ingenuity of the some of the schemes that the children came up with and delighted that our original investment of £57 and 60 tubes of Smarties turned into such a treasure trove. I would also like to thank Mrs Wright who, for the last two weeks, has spent time in every class helping the children to make wonderful, seasonal gingerbread houses. They look amazing! Fr. Michael has captured many moments in the making, as you can see from the photographs elsewhere in this newsletter. Finally, may I wish you a Christmas full of peace and joy. The staff and I look forward to welcoming you back on **January 3<sup>rd</sup>** and to seeing you at Mass, led by Years 1 and 2 on **January 5<sup>th</sup>** at 9.15am.

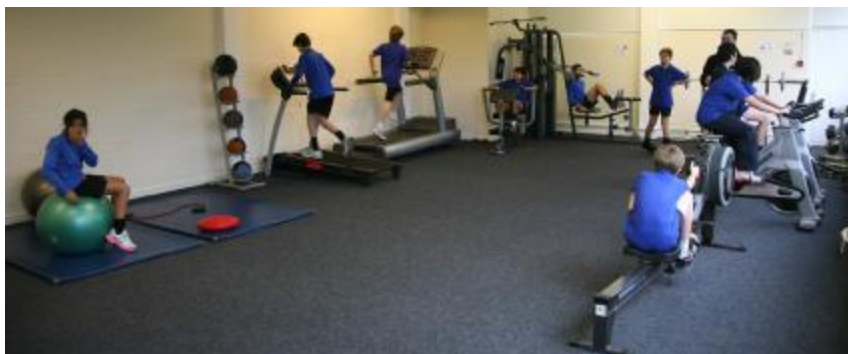


Two young Indonesian student Brothers made their first profession on 8<sup>th</sup> September. They are the first native Indonesian Brothers. The plan is for them to go to Manilla, Philippines to start undergraduate studies in an inter-congregational setting. The courses are given in English and hence their arrival among us. They have been with us for three weeks

and already they are beginning to speak English and over the next months they will be concentrating on developing their English skills. They are used to 30° temperature so our winter beginnings are challenging. They are looking forward to seeing snow for the first time. We wish them every success in their language pursuits.



Alejandra celebrated her Birthday on Charlton Feast Day (Dec.8th); and others in her class (Year One) joined her in composing prayers to The Lord in thanksgiving and in preparation for the holy Season of the Birth of Jesus Christ. **Peace and Joy to everyone**



The **FITNESS ROOM** has proved to be a favourite place during the lunch-hour.

**Gymnastics:** At the Southern Region **Acrobatic Championships** last month, **Lucy Skilton & Alex Ross** won **GOLD** in tumbling. They like so many others-gained their enthusiasm from Charlton Gym Club. Mrs. Zebedee now has 40 plus boys and girls at various times during the Monday lunch hour



### YEAR SEVEN

have so involved themselves this term that we feel they have been with us for ages. Whether it is a **HISTORY** project (Orla, Joshua and Oliver explain some facts regarding such diverse topics as shields for battle and making an apple crumble which any soldier would appreciate); or **BADGES**, as part of **Des/Tech**, their enthusiasm has been a joy to watch. They will be leading our **New Year Mass, Friday 6 January, 9am. Everyone is welcome to join us**

**Remembrance Day and the Month of November.** Thank you to **Form 8a** and Mr. Bray for their excellent assembly. The students talked about the significance of Remembrance Day; they read poems and reflections. The message of their assembly was very meaningful and gave our students a lot to think about in the month of November (dedicated to all those who have died). *A reminder to families of the PRAYER BOX in the Chapel, You are encouraged-students and their families and friends-to drop in names of anyone for whom you wish prayers offered. It could be for someone who has died (R.I.P.), or is poorly, getting married, taking an exam. The list is endless. Fr. Michael presents these petitions to Our Lord in his daily Mass at College.*



It was good for our **Yr 6 (10-11)** to meet up again to receive their **Civic Award** from the Mayor of Southampton on Saturday 22nd October. We congratulate **Emmy, Nikhil, Harry, Julia, Lexus, Jake, Freya, Daniel, Joshua & George** for all their commitment. Thanks go to their parents also for supporting them through the scheme

**Our FASHION SHOW** London, Paris, Milan and now St Mary's. The 'cat-walks' of the fashion industry had better watch out! The College Sports Hall was transformed into a professional fashion house, with lights, music and 'cat-walk'. Parents and students from Charlton and College enjoyed an entertaining evening watching and participating in the show. Parents were able to enjoy a drink and browse the Craft Fare afterwards in the Dining Room. **Thank-you to the Staff and Parents Association for all their support and hard work setting up the event. Thank-you also to Mrs Yates for organising the show and Mrs Young for the planning of the Craft Fair.**



The **Annual firework Display** was once more a popular and successful event. Postponed due to the poor forecasts for 5th, this did not deter the huge crowds of students, parents and visitors who passed through our gates on Sunday. The school dining room was swelled with past and present students with their families and friends. They enjoyed not only a spectacular display of pyrotechnics but also games, fancy dress, food and a well stocked bar. A very big thank-you to the



PTA for their great efforts in organising the event, and to all the volunteers both parents and staff who made every effort to ensure this event remains one of the most prominent on our calendar. A very big thank-you goes to **Peter Gallagher ('Shirley Market' Shirley High Street)**, for supplying the Fireworks. The Ghost stories and the

'Spooky Walk' added atmosphere to the evening, and not forgetting **James, our Chef**, who worked non-stop behind the scenes before-on-and after. *The PTA are already making plans for 2012*



ARE THESE DATES IN NEW DIARIES ?

Sat.17th. Ski trip (return 23rd)  
 Sat.31st. Midnight Mass at College..  
 Tues. 3rd.January, 2011. SCHOOL.  
 Thur. 5th. New Year Mass 9.15 (CH)  
 Fri. 6th. New Year Mass 9am (SMC)  
 Sat. 7th. Entrance Exam (externals)  
 Mon.9th. Next P.T.A/ meeting 7.30  
 Thur. 12th. Year 11 Parents eve.  
 Fri. 13th. Form 10a. To Park Place  
 Sat. 14th. Entrance Exam (C>H>)  
 Tues. 17th. CH Parents' evening  
 Sun. 29th. Play Dress Rehearsal  
*Play runs from Thurs..2nd.- Sat.4th. Feb.*



The School PLAY

Next term we look forward to the College production of 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. Rehearsals started 4 weeks ago and these will intensify in January. Dates will be published weekly on the BLOG as well as in hard copies for all the actors.

Several times the Parents' Association name appears. Mr Steve Hulbert offers these words of gratitude.....

As we slip slowly into the festive season, when all good children get a break and parents liaise with Santa, ensuring all good children get what they think they deserve, it is good to reflect on the past year and look forward to 2012. The Parents' Association has continued to flourish under the stewardship of Solange and we saw the completion of some important and fun projects, like the fitting out of the SMC fitness room and the training of climbing wall supervisors. We have continued to hold successful events, like the Fun Day and Fireworks night and have recently held the SMCPA fashion show. The fashion show proved to be a financial success and the team of parents who worked hard to make a success of the evening, should be congratulated – and it is good to see so many of the mothers and children taking on the roles of models, it is astonishing just how much Dutch courage champagne can offer the more nervous models! 2012 will see some more important and exciting projects and events, the continued support of as many of you as is possible is much appreciated. The [SMC uniform shop](#) continues to provide funds for the Association and provide a good service to the parents and school. Already this year the shop has donated £2,000 to the Association general funds and paid for the installation of the chapel projector screen and is in the process of paying for some equipment for the support of the school play back room team, namely radio mics. The shop has endeavoured to maintain, and even reduce prices this year, whilst supporting the school and main Association with funds. The stated aim was to provide £3,000 and with the donations and payments for goods and services the shop will have provided in excess of £3,500 this year; so thank you all for supporting the shop and the volunteer team for their efforts. On behalf of your committee, have a great Christmas and here's to a wonderful new year for the children, staff and parents. God bless and keep you safe. (SH Chairman)



St Marys College (including Charlton House) will celebrate its 90th Anniversary in 2012, with two events. There will be a past pupils Re-union Dinner on *Friday, 5th October* and a Celebration Ball (with partners) on *Saturday, 6th October*. It is hoped that we will attract past pupils and ex-members of staff to one or both events – and that we will maximise numbers. The Ball will be for existing parents as well as past pupils. Both events will be at the Novotel in Southampton – full details will be circulated in due course. For those who might be interested to know more about these events – please pass your e-mail address to [smcreunion@sky.com](mailto:smcreunion@sky.com) so that direct approaches can be made by the organisers. We are keen to reach as many Old Simmarians as possible and would request that if you know of others that have lost touch to please circulate this news



Year Seven enjoyed a practical demonstration of woodwind instruments given by Mr. Salmon. We thank him once again for giving his time and enthusiasm to students both in College and in Charlton House

St Mary's enjoyed great success at the first round of a Public Speaking Competition organised by the English Speaking Union. *Natasha Howls (chair), Grace Chaplin (speaker) and Anna Godsell (questioner)* travelled with Mr O'Farrell to the Bournemouth School for Girls and performed with confidence and clarity in a highly nerve-wracking setting. Grace spoke eloquently on the topic of 'The jury system is outdated' and Natasha and Anna introduced and questioned a speaker from the Thomas Hardy school in Dorchester on the topic of 'The media control the way we think.' The heat was won by Bournemouth School for Girls, but the St Mary's team finished as runners-up, meaning that they go forward to the Regional final in Salisbury in January .

Don Bosco Camp,2012. A reminder that all applications must be made direct to Fr. Mark. We are reducing numbers now with less places for College students. It will be first-come-first-served.

Thank you, everyone, for your Birthday cards and gifts. Thank you to Year Six for sharing your talents in providing table-games. Thank you to 'Crazy M' for coming and entertaining the whole school. Thank you to the Brothers. Founder's Day ,2011, was so memorable (Fr.Michael)



Year Three examine the art work on the minibus. 'We shall have to make sure we are PERFECTLY behaved when we go somewhere' said one; but in reality we receive many positive comments from the places we visit. 'If only all the schools were as polite and responsive' are among the remarks made to me (Fr. Michael) on the many educational excursions we have made. 'It makes all the trauma of sitting the MIDAS TEST worthwhile!' (This is the minibus written and practical test that Staff of Charlton and College were asked to fulfil during the term. Certificates lasts for 4 years.

It was a momentous occasion to be able to drive the minibuses into their parking spaces without having to negotiate the raised kerbs. This was a small task but with such valuable results. Other practical jobs have been undertaken around the site by parents and friends. Staff and students are ever in your debt for the time and trouble you have taken. *Enjoy a break.*





(left) our **Charlton House Choir** visited the Sisters at Redcote Convent, Bitterne to offer them a musical preparation for Christmas and (right) **Christopher Olding** was faithfully ever-present to accompany our College Choir at the Carol Service in St. Edmund's Church. Chris was awarded the Diocesan Medal for 25 years service to music. *Our congratulations to him. Thank you to everyone who attended and for donations to City homeless.*



*Dr. Jackson and Yu-bi-oh. Are YOU any the wiser?... find out soon!*

**Our pantomime was 'Peter Pan'** We booked at 'The Mayflower' a year in advance for the front seats of the Dress Circle. This enabled us to appreciate fully the magnificent flying sequences. 'Great'



**CHRISTINGLE**

In small groups, we made our own Christingle, which is made of an orange, a lighted candle, a red ribbon and dried fruit and sweets on cocktail sticks. We found out the meaning of each part.

1. The **orange** is the world.
2. The red **ribbon** is the blood and love of Christ.
3. The lighted **candle** is Jesus, the Light of the World.
4. The **four cocktail sticks** of dried fruit and sweets are the four seasons, the fruits of the earth and God's good gifts.



**Operation Christmas Child 2011** This year I have again enjoyed the Show Box Appeal which is organised by The Samaritan's Purse. If you have not heard about this project before the scheme collects special shoe boxes filled with small gifts and personal items to send to disadvantaged children overseas who may never have received such a gift before, and last year nearly 1.12 million children received shoeboxes from the charity in 14 countries across the world from supporters in the U.K. This year Charlton House collected a fantastic 48 shoeboxes and they will now be on their way to surprise a child somewhere this Christmas. Although this small box may not seem much to some, to these children it will mean the world. I always wonder on Christmas day who might be opening the shoebox with all the little bits and pieces I have chosen and also I like to enclose a card with a photo of myself so the child can see who has sent their goodies. Please help us in 2012 to collect even more show boxes and become involved in this very worthwhile cause if you can. *Emily Cooney,*



The annual visit from Vanessa (of the Spring Chiropractic, Portswood, is eagerly awaited by the youngsters. They first have to listen then put into practice her teaching. Does YOUR child follow up her advice at home ??



**Yr 6 Guided Meditation**

Mrs. Thom invited Year 6 back to the College for another guided meditation session. This time she took the students to a warm sunny beach where they meet Jesus. The meditation allowed the students to talk to Jesus and discuss their successes with him. The whole experience was very spiritual. *Thank you, Mrs. Thom, from Year Six*



27 Year Six students from Woodhill, St Anthony's, Highfield, Springhill, St Patricks and Charlton came to our taster day. They experienced lessons in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, RE Maths, and Drama. The students experienced the exciting and challenging lessons that they



could expect at the College; and see our warmth and welcoming nature awaiting them (see the DIARY for the coming two Entrance Exam dates)



*Milestones* remains one of the most popular of the educational visits for Year 4 (who study Victorian times) and (here) Year SIX going down Memory Lane in the early Twentieth Century. *As with all our educational visits there is a wealth of photographic delights available. Fr. Michael is very willing to e-mail any you wish; please just ask. [eugene.peters1@btopenworld.com](mailto:eugene.peters1@btopenworld.com)*



**Year 4 trip to Eastleigh. Olivia Lloyd wrote the following account:**

*On the 23rd of November Year 4 from Charlton House went with their teacher and some parent helpers to the town centre in Eastleigh. The purpose of the visit was to find local amenities and look out for Victorian buildings. The sights were a mixture of old and new. We even walked through the Swan centre! We travelled in two white minibuses to Eastleigh and I was in Mrs Dare's group with Kaytlin, Sophie, Justin, Edward and Connor. We had a great time investigating our locality and enjoyed ourselves very much.*

Our gratitude to Mrs. Dare and Mrs..O'Connor for giving their time to accompany us.

