



**Students and staff at Ronald McDonald House in Camberwell - see page 2**

## Dear Parents and Carers

### **Steve Narvaez Jara RIP 1997 – 2018**



*It was with great sadness that the community of St Paul's Academy learnt of the death of Steve Narvaez Jara who was tragically murdered on New Year's Day. Steve was a member of the Class of 2014, who completed his Post – 16 Studies at Christ the King Sixth Form College, Sidcup. He was an aspiring pilot and was one step closer to achieving his dream by studying Physics*

*& Aerospace at the University of Hertfordshire. He was passionate about Music as well as football. Steve was very well loved by his family and peers; he also was a very active member of the Ecuadorian community within London.*

*Steve is survived by his parents and three sisters. It is difficult to imagine that any good could come from the death of such a fine young man but the support to his family and friends in recent weeks, is testament to many communities coming together to offer support in a time of tragedy.*

**Steve, his parents, his sisters and his family remain in our prayers.**

## Teacher retiring

At the end of the autumn term it was with sadness that we said goodbye to **Jan Stevenson**, Director of Enterprise who retired after thirty one years at St Paul's. In her role as the Director of Enterprise, the Academy has raised almost £200,000.00 for a range of charities at local, national and global level.

We are delighted to welcome our new staff who have already commenced their role at St Paul's, **Megan McWilliams** and **Matthew Webb**.

Yours faithfully

**Patrick Winston  
Principal**



# Volunteering @ Christmas



Students leave St Paul's Academy at 6am with presents loaded in the minibus

St Paul's Academy once again – now a third year in a row – showed tremendous commitment to communities in need over the Christmas period. The difference this year was the amount of support we were able to give to a number of families. Students either gave their time or gave graciously towards the charity event and this showed how both within and outside the school community; they are assets.

What makes this trip so special each year is the extent of giving from students, staff, friends and families. This meant that we were able to deliver presents not just to the 20 families at **Ronald McDonald House** but also three wards: the **Lion Ward for sick children** with head injuries, the **Sunshine Ward** for liver disease and a new addition of the **Toni & Guy ward**. We had such an abundance of donations that it meant the families at Ronald McDonald House could wake up to presents underneath the tree and vouchers of £20 and above per family.

**Martin Shittu** – who was a patient at the Lion Ward for a lengthy period – was able to lead while hand-delivering presents to students in a similar position and give back to the staff who were so kind to him. Donating to these children was the main reason the students and staff were motivated to get out of bed at 5am! My brother (Edward) was also able to donate £1000 from Currys. Without the support of the Met Police, PC Verrall and the school community, none of this would have been possible. Thank-you to all!

Whilst many adults and children in Greenwich were sleeping and dreaming of Santa and presents, six Year 11 students, alongside Year 12 and 13, students who returned from college to experience Christmas volunteering for a second and third year – joined as St Paul's Academy to deliver presents to Ronald McDonald House in Camberwell. Moreover, they were dressed in Christmas attire! We even had guest appearances from **Miss Mallon** and **Mr Eldridge** who were welcome additions! The achievements of these students had already been celebrated with **Mr Davis'** appearance on Heart FM Radio station celebrating them as Christmas heroes!



Volunteers (from the left): Yetunde, Princess, Una, Shanelle and Year 12 Amy



Students outside King's College Hospital after donating gifts



Delivering gifts to King's College Hospital London

## Hands of Kindness Installation

# 2018

The students helped allocate in excess of 400 gifts to 20 different families at Ronald McDonald House, many of whom were seriously ill or were the siblings of these children that were away from home and unable to celebrate the festive season in the usual way. The Year 11 and sixth form college students helped allocate presents to each family with individual gift bags or wrapped presents with personalised cards from the Spanish department and these were placed under the tree or placed into Santa bags. The students also had time to give gifts personally to families in the house.

We had an amazing day which truly reflects the Christmas spirit of giving to others and underpins the activities that contribute to the school's total raised for the advent charities. These students really are fantastic ambassadors of the commendable work that the school does to support local communities and raise money for different charities. Well done to all the students involved (**Yetunde, Una, Shanelle, Princess and Sammy**), the Year 12 students returning from college (**Kwabena, Stephen, Lateef, Gareth and Amy**) and Year 13 students (**Habeeb, Miles and Martin**).

***These students are truly a fantastic testament to the charitable work being completed by the school and are an asset to the school community.***



Sammy – Year 11 volunteer



*"It is truly a privilege to be able to be part of a community that is so selfless and giving. Together we can make a small step towards a bigger change (Shanelle)."*

*#Where's your next classroom?*



Returning Year 13 students (from the left):  
Martin, Miles and Habeeb



Last term, all members of the school community were invited to draw around their hands, and inside the outline, write acts of kindness they would commit to in school and also in the wider community. Each person then decorated their hand and these were then collected to form a quote from St Paul's - "ALL ARE ONE IN CHRIST" in four foot letters which will be displayed on the wall in the KS3 courtyard. The effect is amazing and inspirational and many students have committed themselves to perform compassionate acts of kindness. These include: "to look out for those by themselves", "to share with others", "to speak kindly", "to look after my granny", "to care for the environment" are but a few pledges we have seen included.

*Thank you to all those who made this possible especially form tutors, Mrs Simper, Miss Sansom, Mr McTiernan, Miss Smith in the Art department, the RS team and Mr Tettey.*



## Eurovision: You Decide!

We are delighted to announce that our very own **Asanda Jezile** has been selected as one of six acts competing to represent the UK at Eurovision 2018. The year eleven student will be putting her pipes to the test on Eurovision: You Decide where she will be singing live in order to secure the public vote for her selection. Should she prove victorious, Asanda will then go on to sing for an audience of over 180 million Europeans to try and bring home the Eurovision crown.

Asanda will be singing the original song 'Legends'. She has described the song as 'unique... with a very energetic rhythm and tribal feel'. She says she thinks 'the melody and the lyrics come together to form a very beautiful and inspirational message that is relatable to everyone.' Currently the song has over 70,000 views on YouTube, far exceeding any of her competitors and suggesting this could be hers to win!

Asanda is no stranger to televised talent contests, having famously reached third place on Britain's Got Talent in 2013.

**Make sure you tune in to Eurovision: You Decide live on BBC Two at 7:30 Wednesday 7th February and vote for Asanda! #teamasanda #asandasgottalent**



## Youth St Vincent De Paul Society starts at St Paul's Academy

Wednesday 17th January 2017 saw the inauguration of the Young St Vincent de Paul Society (YSVP) at St Paul's Academy. At a Commissioning Liturgy attended by students, teachers, parents and members of the local parish, the YSVP was inaugurated. Executives were also inducted into office at the same ceremony. The event was facilitated by the Youth Development Officer of the St Vincent de Paul Society in Southwark, Dr Joanna Waller.

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international voluntary organisation, established by Frederick Ozanam in collaboration with Sr Rosalie Rendu, a Daughter of Charity 1833, with the purpose of tackling poverty and disadvantage by providing practical assistance to anyone in need. It seeks, in the spirit of justice and charity, to help those who are experiencing poverty in whatever form. Youth SVP is part of the big family of groups under the Vincentian charism or spirit.

So what is the purpose of the Youth SVP? This is a national programme, for young people, to put their faith into action by: helping people in need, working together, creating friendships, taking responsibility and becoming part of a major, global organisation.

The idea for the formation of YSVP at St Paul's Academy was inspired by Sr Franca Edet, a member of the Daughters of Charity. This is a women's religious organisation started by St Vincent de Paul in 1633 with the aim to do practical works of charity to help those who are in need. Working together with the Lay Chaplain of the Academy, Mr Raphael Tettey, they have actively taken on this vision and have rallied the students to embrace the St Vincent de Paul Society in our school. The group meets once a week in the chapel.

St Paul's Academy is a school that has taken 'faith in action' to its heart. Therefore the ethos of the Vincentian charism or spirit has naturally found its home here.

It is hoped that with the inauguration of YSVP at St Paul's Academy, students will be further encouraged, motivated and spiritually developed as they pursue the Lord's calling to reach out to help our neighbours in need.



# Bags for Life at the London College of Fashion



Daisy and Phoebe



Cameron



Bich

On the 18th, 19th and 20th of December, fifteen Year 10 and 11 students attended the London College of Fashion to take part in the Bag for Life project. The aim of the project was to educate the students about issues surrounding sustainability within the fashion industry. The outcome was to produce a bag from recycled garments. The finished product is then to be sold, with the proceeds going to St. Joseph's Hospice.

On our first day at LCF, we were introduced to the team of lecturers who would be delivering the sessions. Sincere thanks to Carol, Laura, Josh and Armando for looking after us so well. After being split into teams our students contemplated questions such as 'What is Fashion?' Carol led the discussions on sustainability: introducing us to many facts and statistics that could change our perceptions and habits towards clothing. **Did you know it takes 2,700 litres of water to make one t-shirt?**

Over to Armando. We were then instructed how to safely use a wide range of industrial equipment. It was impressive how well the students coped.

Day Two saw the departure of Josh and the arrival of Montana. Montana was a previous winner of the New Designers exhibition, lecturer at LCF as well as European Visual Merchandiser for Kate Spade! Her philosophy is 'to make rubbish beautiful' which she demonstrated through her award winning dress made from video cassette tape. We were able to look at her various portfolios. After a video about fast fashion and a discussion about form and function, the students began to select the garments which they would use to create their bags. The design process was in reverse. On the final day the making process was in full force. Knowing that the items had to be completed by that afternoon was a fantastic

motivator. Not surprisingly Paige was first to finish, making a second smaller bag to really rub it in! Bich was on a mission to break as many needles as possible, closely followed by Maria and Kelsey who attempted to use every sewing machine in the studio. Throughout the day students were given short inputs from Laura, who as well as lecturing has just started her PhD. Her research will revolve

around creating a new type of fastening that takes into account those who have difficulty with fine motor skills. We would like to thank Nadia from Peabody for introducing us to and enabling us to take part in such an enriching activity. Thank you to Lorraine from Peabody who accompanied us on the first day to ensure everything ran smoothly.

We are now in the process of deciding how to sell the bags in order to raise the most amount of money for the hospice.

## Cameron's thoughts:

*The trip to the London College of Fashion was a fun one and I would recommend it to a friend. It was fun for a number of reasons: one was obviously making the bag. Two, the first day, when doing the mind map; it was a great way of expressing everyone's ideas. The staff there were extremely helpful. I thought the workshop was not difficult because they gave us the steps for making the bag and there were members of staff right there to help.*



## ART Mystery

Members of the school community and visitors have been observing an increase in wildlife around the school recently. Magpies, swifts, doves and eagles have all been sighted, as well as the odd cat. It is likely a small group of students are responsible for these visitors but so far their identities remain a mystery.

Inspired by the artist Banksy, it appears they have created a series of stencils and roamed around the building, secretly painting the animals across all Learning Zones. This has taken great guile as well as an impressive amount of technical skill and endeavour.

If anyone has any information that would help us identify these audacious artists, please inform Mr Bond or PC Verrall.



## NVR: Rebuilding family relations - A welcome relief for parents

There is a quiet revolution going on at St Paul's Academy as parents are being empowered with parenting skills aimed at changing crisis situations with their children. This beautiful revolution is known as Non Violent Resistance, NVR for short. NVR means you are resisting your adolescent's challenging and self-destructing behaviour. Parents are realising that NVR, which is basically wisdom that has been used for ages in managing difficult situations, is not only a technique but a way of life.

### So what is NVR?

Non-violent resistance (NVR) addresses violent, destructive and harmful behaviours in children and adolescents. The methods and ideas of non-violent direct action and resistance from Mahatma Gandhi, and civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr and Rosa Parks are used in community and family settings to help parents and carers with their parenting. NVR can help parents and carers overcome their sense of helplessness; develop a support network that will stop violent and destructive behaviours both in and out of the home; and improve relationships between family members and the outside world.

### The pillars of NVR in parenting include:

- de-escalating conflicts
- increasing parental presence
- taking a firm stand against any acts of violence done by yourself and your child or adolescent
- announcing this commitment to your child or adolescent
- arranging sit-ins
- breaking the cycle of shame and silence
- recruiting and utilising supporters
- creating reconciliation gestures that are not linked to the young person's behaviour but increase positive interactions between parents and young people.

NVR also uses principles such as: Strike when the iron is cold; connection before correction; and prioritized response (the three baskets) to various problems.

St Paul's Academy has committed itself to supporting parents to be empowered to take ownership of their homes and families. Since the programme started a year ago, we are steadily seeing a group of parents who have themselves seen the value of NVR return as graduate parents to share their experiences with other parents going through tough times with their children. NVR is led by Dorota Rospierska, our CAMHS link worker.



### Testimonies from parents include:

*"NVR has been invaluable. Days I have felt unable to cope and the stresses at home have felt unbearable. Having a parenting support group to be able to come along to, speak to other parents and share my worries reassures me that I am not alone."* (Graduate Parent)

*"NVR has changed my life I thank God and St Paul's Academy for introducing me to this wonderful specialist parenting programme. NVR is now firmly planted within my parenting journey and all of my relationships!"* (Graduate Parent)

If you are interested in finding out more about NVR, please contact the Inclusion team or the School Chaplain who will invite you to attend a taster session.

## Greenwich Schools' Netball Tournament Champions



On Thursday 11th January upon their return from the Christmas break, our Year 10 and 11 netball girls travelled to Eltham Hill School to take part in the annual Year 10/11 Greenwich Schools' Netball Tournament. With this being the final borough tournament for our Year 11 girls before they leave St Paul's and with our Year 10 girls as competitive as ever, both teams were keen to impress on the day. This year the tournament recorded a record number of entries with no less than 8 KS4 teams taking part across 5 schools. With increased numbers of participation in the sport across all schools in the borough this helped to set the scene for the most competitive and closely contested netball tournament in Greenwich in recent times.

The Year 10 girls got off to a blistering start, recording wins over the hosts Eltham Hill's Year 10 team as well as one of their fiercest rivals in the Greenwich League Blackheath High School. SPA Year 10's defeated Blackheath High School 6-0 in their second game of the competition. This set the girls up nicely to progress on to win their group and make it to the semi-final of the competition.

The Year 11 girls also enjoyed a well-earned victory over hosts Eltham Hill when they defeated their Year 11 team in their opening game of the tournament. This was redemption for our girls who had recently suffered a defeat to Eltham Hill in the Year 11 League. With all teams in the same group as our Year 11's battling hard to finish top of the group, it ended with three out of the four teams in this group finishing on the same number of points. To separate the teams it then went to goal aggregate and our Year 11 girls ended up finishing 3rd in their group. This left them in the 5th/6th play-off match where they faced Eltham Hill's Year 10 team. Showing great team work and determination throughout,

the Year 11 girls ended their day with a win over Eltham Hill which therefore placed them in 5th position overall. This was a good result for our Year 11 girls against some tough opposition on the day. Well done ladies.

Next up was the semi-final of the tournament. Here our Year 10 team faced a strong Harris Academy side. From the off-set both teams fought hard and battled end to end to maintain possession and convert chances. With the score drawn at full time, extra-time was called for to try and separate the two sides. Upon the extra-time whistle, still nothing separated the teams. This gripping encounter had turned into the match of the tournament with neither side giving up and both wanting to record a win so dearly. To decide who would progress to the final, the decision was taken to implement 'Golden Goal' where the first team to score would win. Our Year 10 girls could have easily buckled under the pressure, however, they relished this opportunity and in true

St Paul's Academy style, embracing our sporting motto of 'Never give up, never let up' our girls scored to win the match to the jubilant celebrations of our Year 11 girls who were spectating.

After such an energy zapping semi-final match, our Year 10 girls had to catch their breath and compose themselves very quickly as they now faced Blackheath High School in the final of the competition. The girls knew that all of their heroic semi-final efforts would be in vain if they did not once again battle hard to take the title home ahead of Blackheath; the girls did just that. In what was a much closer and tactical encounter from Blackheath's perspective than the group fixture previously in the afternoon, both teams exchanged scores to leave the final coming right down to the wire. In the last few seconds of the game, with the match at a draw, SPA secured a crucial score before the final whistle to win the final match by a single goal. This was a heart-breaking result for Blackheath who provided tough opposition for our girls as always.

*Congratulations to our Year 10 team who are now the current Greenwich Schools' Tournament Champions 2018. Throughout the tournament the girls displayed excellent levels of both individual and team skill, showing exactly why, for the last four years they have remained undefeated as a team across all borough competitions. This a remarkable achievement which is testament to the dedication and hard work the girls show each week towards training and continuous improvement as a team. Well done girls, keep up the brilliant work.*



# ENTERPRISE SPECIALISM

## Advent Appeal 2017

### We raised in excess of

# £9,000.00

### Charities and local organisations supported

- Sr Ann's Education Project in Kenya
- Anerley Across: a charity which takes disabled people to Lourdes on an annual pilgrimage
- Help Jacob Hear
- King's College Hospital: Critical Care Unit
- Leukaemia UK
- St George's Hospital: Children's Ward
- Thamesmead Food Bank
- The Christmas Tree Project
- The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton
- Weybourne Care Home

**Since becoming an Academy we have raised for  
Charity in excess of**

# £190,000.00

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## Ditch it and Donate it Day

### Wednesday, 28th February

All students and staff are asked to donate items of clothing, boots & shoes, coats, handbags, bedsheets and duvets for our recycle bin.

Items will be collected from students as they come into school, outside the Restaurant Area.

*Please ensure that your items are in good repair and clean.*



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### TERM & HOLIDAY DATES 2018

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#### Spring Term

Monday, 8th January  
Wednesday, 28th March

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#### Spring Half Term

Monday, 12th February  
Friday, 16th February

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#### Summer Term

Monday, 16th April  
Friday, 20th July

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#### Summer Half Term

Monday, 28th May  
Friday, 1st June

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#### Autumn Term

Wednesday, 5th September  
(Year 7 only return)  
Thursday, 6th September  
(Year 8 – 11 return)  
Friday, 21st December

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#### Autumn Half Term

Monday, 22nd October  
Friday, 26th October

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