

Reflections on a Career teaching English to the Youth of Heywood and Middleton

I've been a teacher over a period of forty years and I could honestly not have wished for a happier working life. At 18, I left my home in London to go to Manchester University to study English Language and Literature.

I loved the subject and I quickly grew to love Manchester so I made it my home and I've lived and worked in Middleton now for most of that forty years.

I've only ever worked in three schools, all in Rochdale Authority; I began at Heywood Community school (originally Sutherland High School) in Heywood then I taught Year 6 at St Peter's Primary in Middleton, and the school I've spent most years in is Cardinal Langley.



Inevitably, over four decades I've seen a lot of changes, the most notable of which is the ongoing technological revolution which is impacting on how knowledge is imparted and how students learn. Believe me, teaching is a two way street these days! The students instruct me every day when it comes to computers, projectors, phones and anything that resembles a gadget.

Now that I've had to finally admit that my time to retire has come, I can reflect on how very privileged and lucky I've been to have spent all my working life doing something I've genuinely loved.

Despite the climate of educational change and high stress levels, I feel I have been so very fortunate both in the wonderfully supportive colleagues I've had and the huge number of students I've taught, so many of whom have been inspirational young people. Over my teaching life, I've guided approximately one thousand students through GC(S)E and hundreds through A Level.

It is reward enough when I see a past pupil in Manchester or in Middleton and they take time to say 'hello' and tell me they've just graduated, or they're doing well at their job or they've just got married or even, 'My daughter is in your English class now!' How those years have whizzed by! I'd better retire before they say, 'My granddaughter is in your class!'

The staff at Cardinal Langley have supported me in so many ways, making it a very special place for me, far more than merely somewhere to work. The atmosphere here is quite unique; it has been a real pleasure and privilege to be part of the Chaplaincy team with active involvement in Services and in the Catholic life of the school.

I can honestly say there's never been time to be bored and I've not had one day when I haven't wanted to teach. I wanted to be a teacher from the year dot and, thanks to the 11+ and the days of University grants, I got my way.

What I tell the students here in terms of motivation is that aiming high will empower you to have more choice in what you do for a living, and you're a long time earning that living. The greatest wish for our 'leavers' is for them to be happy in what they get up for every day. I want them to feel how I've always felt about going to work.

For me now, it's time to slow the pace a bit in retirement and make time for the writing I've always wanted to do. I can finally switch off the alarm clock! It goes without saying I will really miss Cardinal Langley; it will leave a gaping hole that I will have to fill. I'm leaving, though, with: a very happy heart; a great sense of fulfilment and an assured feeling that the time is right.

I would like to thank all the staff who've been my work mates and my friends, all the parents over the years who have backed me, and all the students present and past who've given me such great joy.

Cardinal Langley's VOICE



Inspired by Faith Education Leads to Progress

Summer message

As we come to the end of another successful year at Cardinal Langley, it is time to reflect on the hard work and achievements over the last twelve months.

As a school we take great pride in developing the gifts and talents of all students and it is with immense pleasure that we can share with you their fantastic accomplishments in this newsletter. I am also looking forward to another summer of excellent academic achievement and am confident that the GCSE and A-level results in August will reflect the commitment and dedication of both the staff and students.

At the end of each academic year we say goodbye to our year 13 students who

are about to embark on the next stage in their education. We wish them every success and I am sure they will have a special place in their hearts for Cardinal Langley as we will for them.

There are some important pieces of information contained in the newsletter, and will be on our updated website shortly, so please take time to read them. I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable summer holiday.

Mr A Bridson



Team Cardinal Langley take on the Greater Manchester 10K

On the 18th May 2014 Team Cardinal Langley once again put on their running shoes and braved sweltering weather conditions and took part in the BUPA Great Manchester 10K run to raise funds for a very worthwhile cause.

This year's chosen charity was Cancer Research UK. With a much smaller team than last year we were still able to raise £1079.00. We are hoping that this will become an annual event and maybe next year we will even drag out the fancy dress and make it a day to remember!!!



Mr Doherty is leaving the Building

Unfortunately, after three short but fantastic years my time at Cardinal Langley has come to an end.

Being part of the teaching staff at this school has been one of the best experiences of my life and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff and students for making me feel so welcome. I am moving to Bahrain a tiny Island of the coast of Saudi Arabia (even smaller than Ireland!) where I will take up the post of Teacher of Design & Technology at St. Christopher's British International School. At this stage in my career I feel I need to experience as much of the

world as possible and I hope to do extensive traveling while away. Hopefully I will return to the UK or Ireland in the next few years a more knowledgeable teacher and a better-rounded individual.

As my Dad often says to me when we are either shearing the sheep or saving turf on the farm back in Mayo 'travelling is an education in itself'. Finally, I would like to give a special mention to my form class. They have been my best experience of Cardinal Langley. They are a group of wonderful young people and I have no doubt that they have bright futures ahead.

slán go fóill



Mr Ormsby takes up the Headship of Holy Family in Carlton Yorkshire

As I sit down to write this, I feel a mixture of emotions; excitement about my new role, and sadness due to the realisation that I will be leaving Cardinal Langley. I have worked here for 7 years in a number of different roles;

I was appointed as Head of Maths in 2007 and I have since been promoted to Assistant Headteacher, and most recently Deputy Headteacher. When I reflect on what the community of Cardinal Langley has accomplished in my time here, I am truly in awe. There is no better example of what a fantastic community Cardinal Langley is than when the school went through a significant building programme.

At times our resilience was tested, but throughout that 2 year period, the staff and students of Cardinal Langley pulled together, supported one another and ensured that educational outcomes were never compromised. I would like to thank the parents for their support and students for their dedication because without this my job would have been so much more difficult. So as I sign off from Cardinal Langley, I see a very bright future for staff, students and parents, and I truly recognise that in my time here I didn't accomplish anything, but we accomplished many things.

Year 10 Impartial Information Advice and Guidance Week

As our students in Year 10 approach the end of the academic year they are given time out to explore the opportunities available to them as they think about the next stages of their lives and what is required to achieve their goals. The timetable is collapsed for a week and the students get the opportunity to experience being a sixth form student for the day, life at university and the demands of the world of work. In addition they receive financial guidance, careers advice and the opportunity to hone their interview skills.



Year 9 GCSE Drama class being Dramatically Healthy

Dramatically Healthy is a theatre company in residence at Bolton Octagon Theatre. They create theatre with and for young people about issues related to health and well-being. Their last show, *The Little Things*, toured Greater Manchester during the spring of 2013 and was watched by an audience of over 1,300 young people.

This year Dramatically Healthy will be re-visiting this production with Cardinal Langley year 9 GCSE Drama students to stage and tour a new version throughout Rochdale schools. The project is funded by Rochdale Healthy Schools.

The play explores the topic of mental health and well-being for young people and follows the story of a year 9 pupil who is struggling to juggle all aspects of his life; family, job, exams, coursework, friends and girlfriend.

Since January two members of Dramatically Healthy Theatre Company have been coming into school once a week and working with the year 9 GCSE drama class. They have explored the subject matter through discussions and practical workshops and are now beginning to explore the play and the characters within. Throughout this spring term, the class will begin rehearsing the script and putting together their version ready for touring in late June.

The group will tour this show around secondary schools within Rochdale as well as performing at the Healthy Schools Conference at Middleton Arena.

This has been a fantastic opportunity for the Year 9 Drama students, giving them a real insight into what it might be like working for a theatre company and a chance to develop performance skills whilst exploring a very important issue. At the end of the tour, all the students involved will achieve the Arts Award Bronze certificate.



Year Seven on

Retreat at Savio House

Following an immensely successful experience over the past ten years, we once again visited Savio House Retreat Centre in Bollington near Macclesfield, with our year seven. The centre is owned by the Salesian community who run retreats and days of reflection for schools and other groups throughout the year.

The retreat began with games and a walk in the Cheshire countryside, and went on to include a disco, group problem solving and time for reflection. The theme of the retreat was 'sheep'; emphasising the message of being a good shepherd to each other.

The highlight of each retreat was the group celebration mass. The children interpreted a section of the mass into a drama, piece of artwork, mime, dance and musical composition.

This included a fantastic piano piece played by Isobel Coughlan and singing by Isabel Arnold.

The children were a pleasure to spend time with and a credit to Cardinal Langley. We hope their time spent at Savio House, and particularly that of prayer and reflection, has helped them to develop a deeper understanding of their faith and relationships with others.

St Jean Baptiste de la Salle College, Perpignan visit Cardinal Langley

34 pupils and staff from College St Jean Baptiste de la Salle Perpignan came to complete the English leg of our interschool exchange programme.

The head of English from St Jean, Mme DeMecquenem and the French party arrived in the evening of Friday 4th April and were met at the airport by their English host families. During the weekend they spent their time

with their families and were treated to various different visits and experiences. Trips to Old Trafford and the Etihad were popular. Shopping in Manchester and at the Trafford centre were also much appreciated by our French visitors.

Some were taken to enjoy the thrills and spills at Blackpool Pleasure Beach and one English family hosted a big party for all of the pupils on Saturday night.

On Monday the French children came into school and enjoyed an official welcome from Mr Bridson and a bacon butty breakfast.

They spent the day in normal classes with their English hosts or helping out in French classes. Mrs McDonald, the chief organiser laid on an improving English lesson for them all.

On Tuesday all of the pupils, English and French went on a trip to Liverpool to see the Beatles museum and do some more shopping. Many souvenirs were bought and with such good weather many souvenir photos were taken.

The French visitors left from Manchester airport the following morning to complete another very full and successful exchange visit.



Cardinal Langley's Greengrocers

Sowing - Growing - Eating

Our gardening club started in March this year and as a team we were shown how to sow vegetable and flower seeds.

We sowed seeds such as radish, lettuce, tomatoes, sunflowers and many more. We also planted potatoes.

Over a few months we have watched the seedlings grow and we then planted them into our raised

vegetable beds. We have regularly watered and cared for our growing plants. We have enjoyed working and learning and now we are harvesting our crop to enjoy eating.

The Gardening Crew:

Amy Howarth, Camilla Sierputowska, Kelsey Wellens, Ciel Jones, Kieran Harris, Chloe Madden, Victoria Taylor, Kieran Dunn, Joshua Braid, Michaela Holmes, Charlie Donaldson, Weronika Korasiak and William Baron.



The Last Days of Troy...History Outing

Our AS History class embarked upon a voyage to the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester to watch 'The Last Days of Troy'.

This was a theatrical adaption by poet Simon Armitage of the classic tale 'The Iliad'. It told the story of two civilisations, the Greeks and the Trojans, battling a ten year war for the most beautiful women in the world, Helen, played by model and actress Lily Cole. In this tense stand-off between these two great powers, desperate actions lead to extreme and unexpected reactions, both on Earth and among the Gods of Olympus.

There were powerful performances from Simon Harrison as brave Hector and Jake Fairbrother as the charismatic Achilles. Within this tale the demi-God Achilles is portrayed as being the saviour that the depleted Greek army require in order to bring an end to the war.

One of the most enjoyable features of the play was that it was both dramatic whilst at the same time had many comedic moments. Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience for our class and we cannot wait to go the theatre again.

Brendan Kelly described it as "Absolutely smashing, a thoroughly enjoyable experience!"



Rotary Club Young Citizen of the Year Awards

On Thursday 19th June the Middleton Rotary Club held their annual citizen and young citizen of the year awards at St. Anne's Academy.

Juliette Waterhouse and Beth Duxbury were nominated for the young citizen award by Mr Doherty for their outstanding contribution to the school ethos and to recognise their achievements outside Cardinal Langley. Unfortunately the girls missed out on the young citizen of the year award but both girls were given award certificates highlighting the community's appreciation of the girls' efforts both inside and outside of school. It was an extremely proud moment both for the girls' parents and the teaching staff of Cardinal Langley.



A Mancunian Meander

Mike Garry, poet and writer, arrived on Friday 13th June to work with our KS3 students. Now they say, you should never judge a book by its cover – and this is certainly true of Mike. He arrived wearing bright orange trousers and the shirt to match; eccentric by any definition. But within moments, the first perplexed students were transfixed by his work, his enthusiasm for words and his passion for Manchester.

During the day, Mike provided a whistle-stop tour of approaches to creative writing and poetry analysis. Pupils found his poems interesting to explore and they left thirsty to read more of his work and the writing of other poets that he talked about during the day. Mike shared his story: his journey began reading poems as a child, albeit reluctantly at first. But this early witness to poetry has given him a rich tapestry of experience that the students loved hearing about.

Mike Garry is a published Mancunian poet who has taken his love of words all over the world. He is currently touring with John Cooper-Clarke and his most recent appearances include playing with New Order at the Carnegie Hall in New York. Mike's future plans include an appearance at the Night and Days festival in the Big Sur, California, with Philip Glass. Mike's poetry features in advertising campaigns for Manchester United and pupils revelled in his experience in the music industry. His charity single, 'An Ode to St Anthony' is due for release in August: all proceeds going to Christies Charitable Foundation.

Mike talked of his writing process: '...I just write. All of my thoughts, I put them down in this book...' He encouraged everyone to engage with writing at any opportunity – using their experiences as inspiration. Mike's passion is writing about the ordinary, everyday lives of people, and he thoroughly recommends writing for all: 'It's cathartic. You feel better about anything when you write about it.'

Pupil quotes:

"It was a great experience to see what the poet was like behind the book."

"A very real poet that proves that poetry isn't just about flowers and stuff like that!"

What starts out as a few ideas in a notebook could eventually get you on a stage in New York with your idols, or have you shaking hands with United players.' 'We are the Threads that Weave' is a poem created for Manchester United and the people of Manchester.



We are the Threads that Weave
We are the threads that weave,
We are the busy bees,
We are the fabric and the seams
The reason why we achieve.
We are the warp and weft,
We earn our daily bread,
And we work, and we work,
'Cos hard work brings success.
We're born out of industry,
Cotton sewn through history,
We're revolutionary.
We work while others sleep.
We're in the bricks and mortar
We're the mothers fathers sons and daughters,
The very DNA,
Of what make this city great.
We are the wool, the wind, the twine -
We're crafted tailored and designed,
We're the sign of the cross,
We are temples, synagogues and mosques
We interlock and bisect,
We crisscross and intersect,
We are the textile of time –
The fundamentals of life.
We are the battlers and fighters
and invented all nighters,
We're in the pulse, the heart, the sound,
We are the earth the sky the clouds,
We are the contour lines,
We are the Isobars,
We're ugly beautiful - we carry battle scars.
Success is our main goal,
Our defense is our attack,
And if you give us your soul,
We'll give you our heart and soul back.

"He was funny but he got across his serious messages very well."

"I like how he gave us tips for analysing poetry."



Cardinal Langley's MAD group help to raise awareness about Mental Health

For the second year running the Social Science Department and MAD (the Making a Difference group) showed their support for 'Mental Health Awareness Week' which ran from the 12th - 18th May.

During the week long awareness raising campaign students were involved in the promotion of 'Anxiety Awareness', by running a stall during their lunch times.

The students handed out literature to help both students and staff understand 'Anxiety'. They sold Friendship bracelets, so that people could send them to a friend to show them that they were thinking about them. Our theme in school for the week was 'Show a Friend you Care'.

Due to the hard work of the Year 9 MAD group and the generous donations of students and staff, a grand total of £100 was raised and donated to Mind.

Mind provide advice and support to empower anyone experiencing mental health problems. They campaign to improve services, raise awareness and promote understanding. With the money donated Mind will be able to reach more children and young people where they need it most. They offer expert counselling which can make a lasting difference. They believe that it is only by intervening early and providing accessible support that children and young people have the best chance of succeeding later in life.

Year 9 Football Squad visit England Football Training Centre

The Year 9 Football squad visited and trained at St Georges Park £120 million pound football centre after having a very successful season once again.

St Georges Park is considered the best training venue in world football where each of England's 24 representative teams prepares for key matches throughout the season.

The lads had a full facility tour including state of the art changing rooms and a full size indoor 3G pitch. St Georges Park also has a full size replica of the actual Wembley pitch where England play all of their home international matches.

After the tour, a full two hour coaching session was provided on a blisteringly hot day where plenty of water breaks were required. Y9 midfielder Jack Dance remarked that St Georges Park had the best football facilities he had ever seen and wished he could train and play at the venue every week.

The Year 9 football team came very close to winning 3 of the major trophies on offer at schoolboy football. After regaining the Greater Manchester Catholic Cup, the Rochdale Schools Cup was also added to the trophy cabinet. The third final in early June saw

the lads just miss out on the Greater Manchester County Cup after losing 9-8 on penalties.

Many thanks to P and A Catering who provide all of our School meals, Direct Office Solutions Limited who are our local stationery suppliers and Mr Bridson for securing the sponsorship to enable the visit to take place.



BBC News School Report Media City

For the past three years Cardinal Langley has taken part in the annual BBC News School report where a group of students spend a whole day in March gathering, writing and presenting news.

Hundreds of schools all over the country take part and are linked to the BBC website throughout the day. Most schools are linked with a reporter from the BBC who liaises with the students and often spends time with them before the actual day. We have been lucky enough to be linked with BBC Sports reporter Martin Hammer who is also a passed pupil of Cardinal Langley. He has stayed in touch with the school for the past three years and this year we were lucky enough to be invited to spend the school report day at Media City.

We were teamed up with another BBC reporter called Simon Needles, also a past pupil of Cardinal Langley and the team (Emma, Beth, Juliette, Katie, Abigail and Orla) spent the day gathering and reporting sports news. Simon showed the group how to present articles and repost them on twitter and Facebook where thousands of people viewed and reposted the tweets the girls had written.

The group were given a tour of some parts of Media City and were allowed to sit in the studio where "Good Morning" is presented and also meet a Dalek in the studios.

The highlight of the day was when two lucky students Katie and Juliette got the chance to be on live TV with Nina Warhurst during a sports bulletin. Nina interviewed them about the work they had done that day. They talked about the Malaysian Grand Prix and the latest football news. While Katie and Juliette were filming the live bulletin, the rest of the group got to watch from the media room.

"It was really good and I enjoyed being on TV" Stated Katie Hulston.

You can view highlights of the entire day at www.bbc.co.uk/schoolreport

Roll on next BBC News School Report day 19/04/2015



Bridgewater Hall School Choir Concert

On Sunday 15th June 2014 the school choir performed at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester as part of the Greater Manchester Hub Celebration.

The concert was arranged by 'The Greater Manchester Music Hub' to celebrate and showcase the achievements of talented young musicians from throughout the Greater Manchester region. It included a jazz band, brass band, string orchestra and a choir. Cardinal Langley's school choir was chosen to represent the borough of Rochdale and joined 400 singers from various schools and music services across the Greater Manchester region to form 'The Greater Manchester Hub Choir' conducted by Stephen Threlfall (Head of music at Cheethams School of music). The piece they performed was Karl Jenkins - Adiemus and they were accompanied by a string orchestra.

Mr Wilkinson, Mrs Astley and Mr Turner were 'very humbled, proud and privileged' that Cardinal Langley had been chosen to represent Rochdale and perform at such a prestigious venue.

The Greater Manchester Music Hub is a new and exciting partnership between 9 local authority Music Services and 15 regional and national partner organisations. All partners are finding new ways to collaborate to ensure that children in Greater Manchester get the best possible music education.

The new Greater Manchester Ensembles for advanced musicians are a result of new ways of working and give young people the chance to be involved in high quality music making with nationally renowned conductors, teachers and composers.

Developing and celebrating the Gifts and Talents of our Pupils

Cardinal Langley has a wealth of pupils with particular strengths and talents and as a school we strive to develop these gifts and talents over the course of the school year.

This is achieved in Key Stage 3 by getting the pupils involved in a series of project days. A key purpose of these days is to take pupils out of their familiar learning environment and get them working collaboratively with pupils from other Year groups in the Key Stage. Each project day has been planned by a specific department to facilitate extensions of learning that could not normally be covered in class time. In the last two years there have been 7 different project days which have challenged and stimulated our pupils.

As the pupils progress into Year 10 and 11 the focus changes and the emphasis is placed on widening our pupils experiences of what is available to them post Cardinal Langley which includes visits to Universities and Careers conventions. This programme is supported by a mentoring programme in Year 11 which is designed to help and support our pupils in the lead up to their examinations.

Project Days

Geography: Manchester - A World City? - Our pupils spent a day in Manchester City centre gaining a practical understanding of how the city centre has evolved. They supplemented their findings with research back at school and then had to apply their learning to another city and present their findings to a panel of Judges.



Student Quotes:

'It was brilliant; the G&T day pushed me and helped me to use new skills'

History: Who killed JFK? - Students developed their ability to evaluate the usefulness of evidence and analyse the strengths and weaknesses of differing historical interpretations using the conspiracy theories which surround the assassination of JFK in 1963. Their task was to produce an evaluation of one of the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of JFK.

Student Quotes:

'I enjoyed engaging with evidence at the different stations.'

'I enjoyed mixing with other students of similar ability, investigating the issues, it was a good day.'

ICT: Designing an app for Cardinal Langley - The students were given the task of developing a mobile phone application for Cardinal Langley with the winning team having their app adopted by the school. Pupils worked in teams of 3 to create a working app and at the end of the day the groups presented



their work to a panel consisting of Mr Bridson - Head teacher, Mr Ormsby - Deputy Head and Mrs Gaskell - Head of Gifted and Talented. The winning app utilises the house style adopted by the school and reflects the Catholic nature of our school. The winning group commented on how they wanted the app to be used to share important information with students, parents, carers and visitors to the school.

Student Quotes:

'Can't wait for the app to be used to share information with students, parents, carers, and any visitors to the school'

'The project day helped me to improve my team working skills and also gave me confidence to speak to people I never met before'

Science: Escape from Arctica - For this activity pupils found themselves trapped on a planet after their space ship crashed. Their task was to survive in the alien environment and devise



a means of getting home. Pupils were required to engage in creative thinking, modelling and the evaluation of data in their quest to survive and get home.

Science: Forensics Day - The purpose of the day was to place pupils in the role of Scenes of Crime Investigators working on a murder scene. Students had access to a range of forensic techniques for the collection of evidence with the ultimate aim being the use of the evidence to identify the murderer.



Student Quotes:

'It was great fun and I learnt a lot too'

'The forensics day was really fun and challenged us to try new things'

'Flying the rockets was hilarious and working with different year groups for the first time was really good'

RE: Who was responsible for Jesus's trial and death?

The purpose of the day was to examine in detail each character, which may have played a part in Jesus's trial and crucifixion. The pupils were split into groups and after examining the evidence the pupils were asked to prepare posters to be used at the 'mock' trial. Some of the pupils were eye witnesses; some were defence and prosecuting lawyers.

One of the pupils played the part of a judge; she listened to the evidence and pronounced the verdict at the end of the trial. Towards the end of the trial we had a star witness! Mr Mc Anenny, in the guise of the Devil and some pupils believed it was a cameo role!



Student Quotes:

'I really enjoyed the day especially the trial. It was really interesting to see how the defence and prosecuting lawyers tried to be very persuasive and the interrogation skills they used on the witnesses.'

'It was a really different day. I enjoyed working with older pupils'



MFL: French Theme: Tour de France - Pupils were given the task of producing a bid to host a stage of the Tour De France. Every aspect of the bid had to be completed in French and each bid was judged on the quality of information used and the standard of spoken French.

MFL: Spanish Theme: The World Cup (Los mundiales) - The staging of the World Cup in Brazil presented an ideal opportunity for a cross-curricular theme in Spanish. Pupils had to use skills from Geography to identify the location of Latin American countries involved in the World Cup. They then had to profile a member of their national team and all of this had to be completed in Spanish.

Student Quotes:

'A great day loved it!'

'I knew nothing about the tour de France, but now, ask me anything'

Cardinal Langley Music Department

Rocking and Rolling

Although you may not have seen much of us recently, all is most definitely not quiet in the Music department! For the last 6 months we have been extremely busy on a project that has involved greatly expanding the number of instruments we have available for our students to use both in and out of music lessons. Acting Head of Music Mr Wilkinson had this to say about the project:

"Our expansion plans have involved two separate phases so far. In phase one, we wanted to increase the number of acoustic instruments we had available to our students, and so we purchased 6 acoustic guitars and 6 ukuleles to complement our existing School Guitars.

This then allowed us to run Musical Futures style lessons where our students can get to grips with instruments that they may never have played before and teach themselves how to play. After an extremely successful trial period on these instruments last term, phase two saw us add 5 electronic drum kits, 5 electric guitar kits and 5 bass guitar kits to the collection.



These kits come complete with everything you'd need to set up your own Rock or Pop band - amplifiers, carry cases, tuners, spare strings... and even a tutor DVD.

The introduction of these instruments has helped a number of rock and pop bands to form within the School, and the practice rooms are fully booked with students rehearsing every break time, lunch time and even after school.

We are delighted with the effect that the introduction of these new instruments has had in the department, and we are looking forward now to phase three of the project, which will see us expanding our Music Technology equipment and software."



A Fond Farewell to colleagues retiring from the Teaching Profession

As the school year draws to a close and our students and staff look forward to the summer break, five of our colleagues are calling time on their teaching careers.

Mr and Mrs Boylan, Mr Henderson, Mr Meredith, and Mrs Fray who between them have 118 years of committed service and have made outstanding contributions to many aspects of our community, are saying their goodbyes. As a community we will miss them, not only as colleagues who contribute to the Catholic Education of our pupils, but also as friends who have shared with us the ups and downs of life. It goes without saying that we wish them a long and happy retirement and perhaps on Monday the 1st of September, when for a nanosecond they might wonder why the alarm clock hasn't gone off, they might spare a thought for the rest of us back at the chalk face and try to restrict the length of the grin on their faces. God speed to you all and thanks for your company on the journey.

The R.E Department in Focus

The R.E department here at Cardinal Langley consists of 5 experienced members of staff who between us have given 80 years teaching R.E to thousands of young people.

This September we are delighted to welcome two very experienced R.E specialists to the team, Mrs Fox and Mr Sidlow.



Here to stay...

Last July the R.E department moved their suite of four rooms to the heart of the school on the first balcony. We are proud to be able to share our faith through vibrant displays illustrating the different parts of the liturgical year and indeed pupils work as an expression of their own love for God and their school community.

Success

Last summer we celebrated our best ever set of G.C.S.E results with 74% of students leaving Cardinal Langley with 5 A*-C, one student Daisy Cripps (now in year 12) managed an astounding 100% in both papers!

This success reflects the hard work and dedication of not just our students but the staff. We hope and pray for our current YR11's this summer and wish those who aren't returning as YR12 students all the best for the future.

This year we also say goodbye to Rehema Musa in YR13 who is about to embark on a degree in Theology and Religious Studies with a possible career in teaching R.E in the future.

All Change

This is an exciting time for Religious Education in the Safford Diocese. The new inspection framework the 5 W's (welfare, witness, word, worship and welcome) has been launched recently and as leaders of R.E in a Catholic school it is our job to help support the wider school community in ensuring the word of God permeates through every aspect of the school curriculum and that spirituality is at the heart of everything we do.

As we move to a three year key stage 4 in September we are currently reviewing our KS3 provision in line with the Diocesan framework and Church's social teachings. We are hoping to pilot a new KS3 teaching and learning resource for the Diocese here at Cardinal Langley in the autumn term.

The new Church's social teaching framework which runs from early years through to KS5 has been devised in conjunction with Caritas in Action. Caritas is an international Catholic organization whose mission is to work to build a better world, especially for the poor and oppressed.

We believe that in an ever changing and increasingly multi-cultural and multi-faith society our role educators in a Catholic school has never been so important as we strive to prepare our young people for life and give them the spiritual nourishment and development they need. With this mind, last September we decided to move away from AQA and like most others Catholic schools in the Diocese move to Edexcel.

In year 10 our students follow unit 3: Religion and life (believing in God, matters of life, marriage & family and community cohesion) and in year 11 they explore issues such as rights and responsibilities and the environment. A group of YR10's were recently asked about their experience in R.E and they responded with real enthusiasm, sharing with us how relevant they felt their G.C.S.E course was to their lives and to our society as well as giving them the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith.

"I love debating in R.E and listening to other people's views."

"The media aspect helps me engage more with the topic and makes the lesson more interesting."

"We can ask ourselves this question:

Am I stuck on a playground or do I wish to fly high?

Am I tied to a herd, blindly doing what everyone does, seeking only self-satisfaction, focused on myself, or do I look above to fly high?

Don't be scared, dare to have fabulous plans.

I encourage you to not be afraid to dream, to have great ideals, to be builders of hope."

Pope Francis

'St Joseph's Penny Appeal'

The 'St Joseph's Penny Appeal' has long been a tradition in Catholic schools across the Diocese of Salford where students raise money for children and families in need.

This fundraising contributes to people's lives in a number of ways, from helping to provide places to sleep for homeless people to giving expert counselling to people trying to overcome tough issues. The fundraising takes place throughout the season of Lent and Cardinal Langley came up trumps again and managed to raise £902.56!! Fundraising included cake sales, fancy dress

competitions, discos and sponsored events to name but a few. To recognise this we were invited to the celebration Mass at Salford Cathedral with Bishop Brain. The photo shows a selection of our students after they had presented the cheque to Bishop Brain and Mark Wiggin, the CEO of Caritas. Well done to everyone at Cardinal Langley for their efforts!



Year Nine's Adventure to Yorkshire

A group of year 9 students took part in team building and challenge activities at Hatfield Activity centre. One activity involved scaling a vertical 'obstacle course' and abseiling down it.

Despite some fears of heights words of encouragement from their respective teams ensured that all students met their challenge on this task. Some students with a little trepidation were able to stand up at the very top level and have a bird's eye view of the centre.

One or two students challenged each other to a race to the top. This could only be achieved through team work and a careful steady hand when guiding the ropes. More ambitious students completed the task blindfolded!

The second challenge meant getting wet, in fact very wet. Students were divided into teams and given equipment to build a raft: wooden poles, rope and barrels. This task meant team work, communication, leadership and vision. Once the vessel was constructed students took their raft to the lake side and launched it with themselves on board.

Optimistic students thought they were going to remain dry! Teams that listened carefully to instruction on how to work together using paddles were soon heading across the lake. Less fortunate teams cruised around in circles blaming each other for not have any strategies or leadership skills to move forward!

To increase the level of challenge a speed boat was used by the activity staff to create turbulence in the water so that rafts tilted and dived. Careful listening to safety instructions on how rescue team members out of the water came in more than useful at his point.

Some rafts arrived back to shore with their teams intact where the less fortunate carried the raft back piece by piece! Everyone was having too much of a good time to complain about the temperature of the water.



Abigail achieves International Honours

Sixth Form student Abigail Chesters has been selected to represent Great Britain at handball in the Viborg Cup in Denmark this summer.

Abbie has been playing handball for three years and travels to Wolverhampton every weekend to train. Hopefully, we will see Abbie representing Team GB in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro!



Athletics Success in the Rochdale Schools Championships

Gold medals galore for Cardinal Langley athletes competing at the Rochdale Schools Athletics Championships.

The event was held at the Manchester Sports City Arena on 17th June with years 7-10 both Boys and girls representing various individual and team events throughout the day. Cardinal Langley 'Golden Girls' - Year 7 Alyssa Davey, Year 8 Mary Murphy, Year 9 Olivia Davey and Year 10 Chloe Lockett each winning gold in their age group and dominating the 1500m event. In the boys 1500m Year 7 Harry Collier won Gold and Year 9 Luca Navaro won Silver. Ellie Brown achieved Silver medal position in the 800m.

Great success in the Girls Year 8 sprint events, with Gold medal winners Latoya Gray in the 100m and Alfie Farrell in the 200m. Year 8 Girls also bagged Gold in the 4 x 100m - Latoya Gray, Alfie Farrell, Vanessa Luamba and Tara Lang. In the field events Tara Lang won a silver medal in the Year 8 Girls long jump. Congratulations to all the students that competed on the day, we represented the school in a very respectful and competitive manner with huge efforts all round.



Year 7 Rounders team

Congratulations to the Year 7 girls who claimed joint 1st place with St Bede's RC High School in the Greater Manchester Catholic Schools Tournament.



Year 10 Clinch County Netball Championship

Champions of the Greater Manchester County Tournament held at Wright Robinson College.

On a very cold windy day, the squad fought against the elements and claimed victory remaining unbeaten in all games on the day. Fantastic season and the squad will transition into year 11 and continue the success.

Well done to all the Netball teams this season, it has been a very successful season for Cardinal Langley and we are looking forward to another successful season next year.



Football Season Roundup

Year 7 - The Year 7 team qualified to play in the final of the Rochdale Schools Football Cup, against Middleton Tech.

The team fought hard against tough opposition with the match finishing 2-7 and Cardinal Langley coming runners up. Congratulations on a great first season!

Year 8 - Rochdale Schools Cup champions with a fantastic result against Holy Family winning 5-0 with goals from Ethan Allan, Ewan Cartwright and Ryan Beard.

Ryan Beard claims the top goal scorer of the season with 16 goals, well done. A great season for both the A and B squads.

Year 9 - A victorious season for the Year 9 squad who narrowly missed out on achieving the treble! On the road to achieving the double, the squad remained unbeaten all season.

Double champions winning both the Rochdale Schools Football Cup in a 5-2 Victory against St Cuthbert's and the Greater Manchester Catholic Cup after a 2-2 result in Extra time the team won on penalties 4-3.

A 2-2 draw in extra time of the Greater Manchester Schools Cup meant a penalty shootout and unfortunately on this occasion the team lost 9-8 claiming runners up position.

Congratulations on a fantastic season boys and let's replicate this success in Year 10!

Year 10 - Finalists in the Rochdale schools football cup competition. Fantastic performances throughout the knock out rounds lead to a very commendable runner up result. Well done.

Year 11 - Huge congratulations to the Year 11 squad on a strong performance this year and over the past 5 years at Cardinal Langley. The final season for the squad was a good one. Having successfully reached the Semi-finals of both the Rochdale Schools Cup and the Greater Manchester Cup, the squad narrowly missed out on the finals in the GM Cup conceding in extra time to Canon Slade. Some members of the squad will be staying at Cardinal Langley for sixth form and we look forward to them joining the sixth form squad. Thanks for all the hard work boys and good luck to all those heading to pastures new!

Sixth Form - A fantastic end to the season was making the Semi-finals of the Greater Manchester County Cup. Tremendous team work and mental toughness brought the squad from a 4-1 deficit to a 4-4 draw at full time.

Extra time was required, and the team held onto the score until unfortunately conceding a goal in the very last minute and just missing out on a place in the final. We are looking forward to year 12 students returning for next season and wish good luck to those heading to University.



Year 9 Rounder's team reign supreme!

On Monday 23rd June 2014, the Year 9 Rounder's team took part in the Greater Manchester Catholic Schools Rounder's Tournament at Newman College, determined to reclaim their crown that they narrowly lost by half a rounder last year.

A tough group stage saw the team progress to the semi-finals and a rematch against St Bede's. Determined to put right early errors the team set about the semi-final with only one aim in mind – to win and they did.

The final saw the team face Loreto, who after losing the toss decided to bat first. Although they hoped this would throw the team of course, the girls were delighted as they could continue to demonstrate their excellent fielding skills. Coach Leah Gillespie impressed on the team the importance of keeping focus, making the correct decision whether it be stopping the half rounder or tactically getting players out.

Despite Loreto showing they could produce some big hits; the fielding was once again exceptional as after 10 good balls they had failed to score any rounder's. Unfortunately, a lapse of concentration during the final five good balls allowed Loreto the opportunity to score 4 rounders.

The team could not have got off to a better start as first batter, Emerly Carroll Nicoles scored a rounder, swiftly followed by the next two batters scoring a rounder and a half and by the time Mudia took to the square, we had already reached three and a half rounders.

The atmosphere was intense and the pressure was on, but Mudia showed excellent focus and ability as she smashed the ball past the fielders who could only stand and watch. With the team now half a rounder up, our next batter scored a further half a rounder to ensure we were firmly ahead.

The team had triumphed in fantastic style and were crowned worthy winners of the Greater Manchester Catholic Schools rounder's tournament!

