



Scholars' News

Autumn 2017 Newsletter

Houses of Parliament Welcomes All Saints

Positive and vibrant experiences foster and focus ambition. A key element of the Scholars' Programme is debating and discussion of current social and political issues. Where better to see this in action than the Houses of Parliament? Oracy and the ability to marshal one's viewpoint through logical argument are highly important, not least in the political arena. Our students may include future MPs or indeed a Prime Minister, if that is where their interest lies! A tour of the Houses of Parliament and

the opportunity to speak with members aimed to give students first hand experience of the UK political system. They are currently in favour of lowering the voting age to 16. Watch out for your seats, MPs!

The two day visit also included tours of Westminster Abbey, the Globe Theatre, St Paul's Cathedral and visits to Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace.



Scholars' Success



Congratulations to three scholar graduates who achieved 25 A and A* GCSE grades between them. They were students of the initial cohort established in 2015.

Clearly the aspiration and ambition nurtured by the Scholars' Programme is producing results.



Oxford University

Welcomes All Saints

Having seen the Houses of Parliament in action students were aware that many MPs had attended top universities as students, including Oxford and Cambridge. Not surprisingly, Mr. Dearing arranged a study visit. Tours and the opportunity to speak with students and lecturers offered our scholars fascinating insights and a deeper understanding of university life.

"The visit reaffirmed my wish to attend a top university. It has encouraged me to believe anything is possible."

Year 10 scholar.

"I was greatly inspired by the variety of clubs available and the diversity of students."

Year 10 scholar.

Year 8 Scholars give their Verdict

We regularly seek students' views on the Scholars' Programme in order to refine and improve their experience. One year on, our Year 8 students gave their verdicts:

"Debating skills with Knowsley Youth Parliament has given me confidence and taught me how to plan a logical argument."

"Calligraphy with the Confucius Institute at Liverpool University was great. Loved it!"

"I understand what university is all about now."

"I am determined to attend university."

"I have a much greater understanding of the career opportunities that are available to me."

I enjoyed listening to the author, Cathy McPhail, and her advice about becoming a writer."



European Director of Amazon Prime Answers Scholars' Questions

Jason Weston is responsible for developing Amazon's European retail business, including the ultrafast delivery service, which has a base in Liverpool. Scholars in Years 9,10 and 13 listened to an inspirational talk from Jason and had the opportunity to quiz him on employability skills and the qualities needed by business. Brexit, government, career possibilities and the future of education were all on the agenda. Jason's parting shot of advice was to be passionate about what you do and to work hard to create your own success.

"I feel inspired by this event to work hard and create my own future." Year 10 scholar.



Welcome to All Saints - Rt Hon. George Howarth MP and Steve Rotherham (Metro Mayor of Liverpool)

The Mayor, Steve Rotherham, described his plans for the future development of the City Region and outlined his own career journey. In Parliament, George Howarth will be continuing his fight for Knowsley residents.

Both gave further insight into the political system with empowering and inspiring speeches to our Year 9,10, 11 and 12 scholars.



Merseyside Young Medics - Liverpool University

We currently have four students on this 3 to 5 year course. As part of their studies they work with doctors in general practice and hospitals, broadening their knowledge of a variety of medical careers.

This approach of gaining first hand experience across a wide range of disciplines underpins the Scholars' Programme.

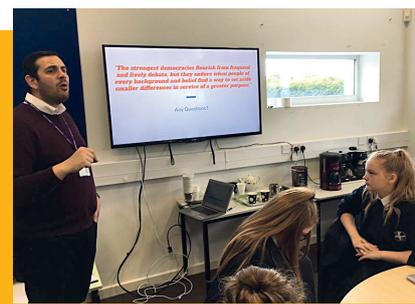


FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology)

FACT is based in Liverpool and Year 9 scholars visited the UK's leading media art centre to watch the film, 'Groundhog Day'. In discussion that followed they analysed the film's underlying message, 'have a growth mindset'. The day concluded with a guided tour of historic Liverpool that included the Bluecoat School and the Athenaeum Club, a forum for some great debates in the past.

Knowlsey Youth Parliament - Election Day Special

As part of the Scholars' Programme students will acquire a fuller understanding of the UK's political system and structures. Typical of this was the Election Day Special, organised by Knowlsey Youth Parliament. This gave Year 9 scholars the opportunity to examine and discuss the manifestos of the different political parties. Having heard the arguments they could then cast their votes. Political awareness starts early at All Saints!



University of Liverpool Summer Residential



Every year Liverpool University hosts residentials for the students of the future. July saw some of our Year 10 scholars spending three days at the University. They stayed in University halls of residence, attending lectures and workshops and generally getting a real taste of university life.

Our students chose Science, Humanities and Life Sciences as their focus areas. There was also the opportunity to visit the Liverpool Humanities Fair where they enjoyed workshops on Irish politics, Roman history and archaeology.



Magdalene College Cambridge - North West Challenge

Year 10 scholars enjoyed speaking informally with students and lecturers about life as a Cambridge University student. On a more formal note there were also sample lectures and discussion groups. Held annually at Goodison Park



in partnership with Everton F.C., the theme of the day was 'Achieving Excellence'. Parallels were drawn between Premier Division football clubs and the top universities. All were aiming for excellence.



The Scholars' Programme

Now entering its third year our Scholars' Programme is expanding in both the range and variety of activities on offer. This year All Saints is working collaboratively with 'Shaping Futures' to increase the number of university visits.

There will be advice on student finance, sample lectures and information on study and career choices. Confidence in oracy skills will also be a focus with opportunities for debate, discussions and presentations.

We want our students to be aspirational and informed so that they develop the skills they need to achieve their ambitions. Resilience, hard work and focused planning are needed.

"I want the very best educational outcomes and opportunities for our young people."

Tony McGuinness, Headteacher.

"The rationale behind our Scholars' Programme is to offer young people the chance to follow their vocation and passion. We want to open students' eyes to the wealth of possibilities available."

Paul Dearing, Scholars' Champion.

Year 7 Scholars' Poetry Programme



WE ARE WHAT WE REPEATEDLY DO. EXCELLENCE, THEN, IS NOT AN ACT, BUT A HABIT.

ARISTOTLE



Local writer and poet, Ged Thompson, led a poetry programme for Year 7. Ged, a former pupil of St Marie's, was returning to his Northwood roots. He explained that he wanted students, **"to think outside the box and realise that not all answers can be found on Google"**.

He worked with our scholars to produce performance poetry, asking them to reflect on their emotions and personal experiences. Under Ged's guidance their oracy skills have improved enormously.