

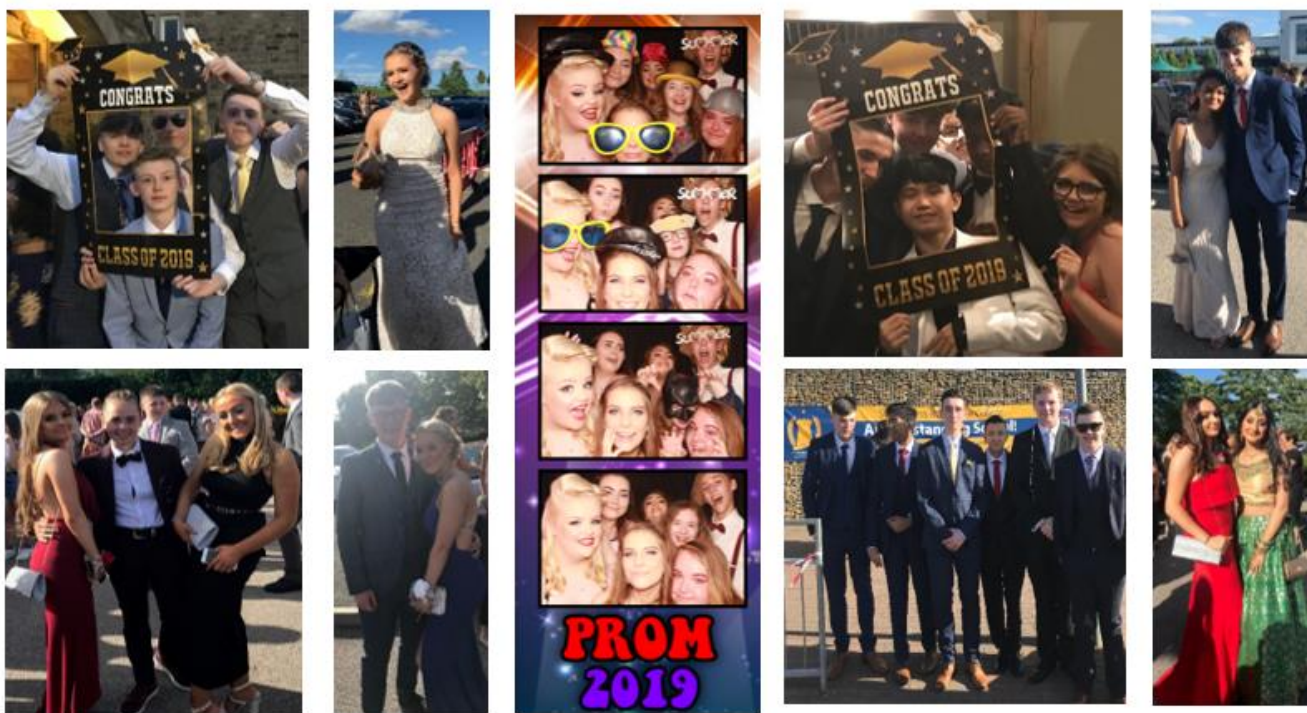
Welcome to the last newsletter of this academic year ! The following are some of our recent highlights and I hope that you are as proud of our fantastic children [and staff] as I am. School closes for Summer on Friday 19th July at 1:30pm and we return to school on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 when we look forward to welcoming the new Year 7's into the St Damian's school community.

Class of 2019



Year 11 celebrated their time at St Damian's with their families with a lovely leavers Mass thanks to Ms Taylor and Fr Simon. So many happy memories. Students were congratulated on all their hard work and dedication to studies over the past 5 years. Results day is **Thursday 22nd August** and pupils can collect their results between 10.00am - 2.00pm. If pupil's don't collect their results, we will post them out after 2:pm on the 22nd

A fantastic night at The White Hart, Lydgate at our Year 11 class of 2019 Prom - everyone looked amazing ! Year 11 you are a *real* credit to your families & St Damian's. Best of luck in the future class of 2019. We will miss you !



Charity at St Damian's



It was great to see Ms McConnell who spoke to Year 9 about Willow Wood Hospice and whilst she was here we were delighted to present her with a cheque for £700 raised by pupils in the Dragons Den Challenge. Year 9 will visit Willow Wood as part of ASPIRE day to experience the health care workplace and employment in action.



We would like to invite you to our coffee morning on **Friday 27th September 2019 – 10.00am until 12.30pm**. If you are unable to attend and would still like to support the event, donations of cake would be greatly appreciated. Last year we raised an amazing £629.97 – we hope that we can equal that again this year with your support and generosity.

SIMS Pay

At St Damian's we use a cashless system for payment services - **SIMS Pay**. This is a secure and convenient online payment service that enables you to add credit to your child's dinner money account and pay for other school activities and items available from school such as school trips and our school online shop. It is easy-to-use and will offer you the flexibility to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7. You can be safe in the knowledge that payments are secure as it uses the highest level of card security and means that funds will reach school safely. For further information on **SIMS Pay** please visit our website www.stdamians.co.uk [<http://www.stdamians.co.uk/index.php/parents/parent-online-payments>] or e-mail parentapp@stdamians.co.uk to get started.

SIMS Pay | Secure Online Payments



Can we remind parents that because of the cashless system we don't hold any money in school so please ensure your children have the correct money for their dinner money and their bus fare.

Uniform

At St Damian's we pride ourselves on our high standards and this includes our uniform. Our pupils appearance is second to none and there is a great sense of pride in wearing our uniform.

- ❖ *Skirts*. These should be of a suitable length. Increasingly several girls are repeatedly rolling up their skirts and this has the effect of them looking too short. This is not acceptable.
 - ❖ *Jumpers*. A small minority of girls are pulling the excess material of their jumpers into a bobble at the back. This makes the jumper shorter and tighter and is not acceptable.
 - ❖ *Fake tan/nails*. This is not allowed. Please ensure that pupils do not get fake tan or nails over the holidays.
- Any pupil not following these simple rules will be sanctioned. Please support our fair and accepted rules so that St Damian's continues to provide an outstanding education for your great children.

Duke of Edinburgh

Congratulations to the Year 9 students who collected their Bronze DofE North of England award after a year of hard work. Students have volunteered throughout the local community, learnt new skills and completed two grueling expeditions in the Peak District. Miss Price said '*I am so proud of them and their achievements, they are a credit to St Damian's*' Well done



Tameside Schools Inspire Sports Awards 2019



Congratulations to our PE Dept who were awarded the 'Innovation in PE Award' for their use and development of Orienteering in the curriculum, and Mr Fay was awarded the 'Teacher Impact Award' for his tireless work with football in the borough 🏆

Fantastic achievements and a huge well done to our PE department Ms Guilfoyle, Mr Burtles, Mr Fay and Mrs Rothwell ☆ 🏆 ☆

Awards



St Damian's are honoured and exceptionally proud to receive a Certificate of Excellence from Pearson National Teaching Awards for Secondary School of the Year - making a difference and celebrating excellence in education across the UK.



At the recent MEN Schools Awards Mr Logue was awarded the Headteacher of the Year Award. This award reflects the fantastic support St Damian's receives from parents, governors and of course the great students, you all play a crucial roll in making St Damian's the outstanding school it is today.

There was double recognition for Ms Yates as she received a Pearson Teaching Award Certificate of Excellence at The Pearson Teaching Awards and she was also a finalist in TES Classroom Support Assistant of the Year



Mrs Marshall was overwhelmed to receive a Certificate of Excellence from Pearson for Lifetime Achievement and dedication to the Teaching Profession.

Dr Mitchell is absolutely delighted with her Certificate of Excellence and the recognition from Pearson for Teacher of the Year in a Secondary School



Year 6 Induction Day



Friday 5th July marked the day that St Damian's had the pleasure of meeting the new Year 7's – The Class of 2024! It was a jam-packed day that began with an assembly. Key members of staff were introduced and hopefully any fears or misconceptions the pupils may have had were dispelled. Form tutors were on hand to meet their tutees and the wonderful year 10 prefects were there to support. We understand what a big step it is, making the leap to secondary school and we really wanted all the year 7's to feel as welcome as possible in the "St Damian's family". After assembly, it was a chance to go to form rooms and go over some house rules and get involved in an icebreaker task – this gave everyone a chance to meet new friends, and become more familiar with the school surroundings. Later pupils were taken to some taster lessons, where they could get involved in and experience: Spanish, French, Religious Studies, Science and Music.



After break they went on to make our “Peacock” – The aim was to create a lasting collage from each form to represent their first day at St Damian’s. Everyone’s handprint was included with a positive message. The aim of the activity was to show pupils “*we are each unique and beautiful, but together we are a masterpiece*”. The day culminated with a parental mass by Father Simon to celebrate the new Year 7’s becoming part of the community, that is St Damian’s. It was a great day, and we really look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.



Share Day

The fundraising has begun as Mr Logue sets the bar in the Malteser Challenge at 15 and on Share Day Mr Logue will come face to face with the overall winner in an attempt to beat them – someone has already managed to get a startling 50 Maltesers in – so the challenge is definitely on !!



School Bus Information

From September the morning 771 will be run by Belle Vue and the 8:32am 775 will be run by Rosso Buses. A comprehensive school bus timetable for September can be found on the school website.

We have also been informed that from the start of the 2019/2020 academic year, school bus fares will increase in line with inflation.

Fare Type	Old (£)	New (£)
Child Single (IGO)	1.35	1.40
Child Single (no IGO)	1.75	1.80
Child return	2.30	2.40
Child Weekly	7.30	7.40
Adult Single	2.70	2.80

Year 9 pupils visited the University of Manchester where they participated in a range of activities, finding out more about university life. Pupils took part in a couple of classes, had opportunities to talk to current students and went on a tour of the campus. All pupils enjoyed the day and their behaviour was exceptional.



Year 7's enjoyed creating spaghetti and marshmallow towers as part of a maths project. The goal was for the towers to be tall, aesthetically pleasing and able to support the weight of a small box. There were many amazing designs, but the winners were Thomas, Andrew and Jake! Congratulations from Mr Jones and Mrs Marshall.



In an attempt to reduce plastic waste and the number of single-use plastic bottles we now have our own branded 800ml transparent plastic drinks bottle.

St Damian’s water bottles can be purchased on our online shop SIMSPay <https://www.sims-pay.co.uk/Home> for £5 each @BanSingleUse #SingleUse #plastic



The liturgy group celebrated their achievements and their commitment to the liturgical life of the school with a surprise Pizza party. Not only do these pupils go above and beyond every day supporting the Liturgical life of the school but they also live out our Mission Statement through their actions. The Liturgy group have been passionate and dedicated to the Catholic life of the school. We are immensely proud of them and know that they do what they do because it is who they are; kind, caring and loving young people.



St Damian's Liturgy Group

⚽ Staff v Pupils Football ⚽



We had great fun in the sun with our annual staff v pupils football match.

Congratulations to the teaching staff who won by a penalty shootout after full time 🏆



Matilda



As many of us were lucky enough to see, at the beginning of July St Damian's put on "Matilda the Musical" (in 20 minutes). The cast certainly gave energetic, humorous and impressive performances uplifting the audience with great choreography, drama and singing. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed this brilliant show, none of which would have taken place without the fantastic direction of Mr Tuck and Mrs Evans. Last week the cast were rewarded with a party that included lots of music, dancing and cake !!

ASPIRE Day – 15th July 2019

Our Summer ASPIRE Day on 15th July 2019 saw pupils engage in a wealth of activities.



Year 7 pupils engaged in a range of character-building activities doing practical first aid gaining vital life-saving skills. They took part in orienteering and also looked at sustainability and environmental awareness in the local community. Year 7 met representatives from Animal Aid and from Infinity Initiatives, educating pupils about the work of the local food bank. Year 8 pupils engaged in two different STEM workshops with Cadent. Firstly building models of a gas network from the beach to the meter and responding to problem-solving tasks and secondly playing the role of the person dispatching jobs

and creating schedules for employees. Year 8 attended a workshop run by Tameside College which explained to them the range of vocational courses and apprenticeships available to them. They attended a session about planning a pathway to University taking on board planning for Options, GCSEs, A Levels and BTEC courses and considering different types of degrees, the variety of accommodation available and also student finance. The Army outlined the range of jobs available, not just on the front line and Access Creative inspired pupils with a wide range of opportunities in Music.



Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to leave school and take part in a workplace visit. Pupils were asked to investigate and consider job roles and responsibilities within organisations, working hours, holidays, a typical working day, qualifications and training, health and safety and equal opportunities and to reflect on skills and qualities needed. Groups visited Sainsbury's, Brother, Findel Education, Willow Wood Hospice and Ashton Fire Station. One group, based in school, explored the roles of

catering, the site staff, admin, finance, exams, data, teaching and leadership.



Year 10 attended talks given by two of our parents, Mara McKenna, Regional Director of EMEA and Heather Abbott, a Bid Manager for top law firms. Pupils were given information on apprenticeships by the Growth Company and had their fitness tested by Elite Army Skills through a range of challenges. Pupils also attended sessions on taking a gap year



and careers in law. The police explained the different routes into the police and gave pupils a flavour of the challenges of the job and explained to pupils what have given them job satisfaction.

Diary Dates

Monday 15 th July 2019	Aspire Day
Tuesday 16 th July 2019	Sports Day
Wednesday 17 th July 2019	Trips Day
Thursday 18 th July 2019	Share Day
Friday 19 th July 2019	Break up for the Summer – Early finish – 1:30pm
Thursday 22 nd August 2019	Results Day
Tuesday 3 rd September 2019	Pupils return to school at 9:am

School Buses

School finishes at 1:30pm on Friday 19th July. Unfortunately, Stotts are unable to accommodate this change of time. This will mean that there will be **NO** Stotts 771 to Clayton or Stotts 775 to Fitton Hill – all other buses will run as usual.

On behalf of the great staff and Governors at St Damian's, we wish you a great summer holiday when we can hopefully enjoy plenty of sunshine. Looking forward to seeing everyone return safely in September.

Term Dates 2019/2020

AUTUMN TERM	First Day	Last Day		No: of Term days
INSET DAY closed	*Monday 2 nd September 2019			School
Autumn 1 st Term	Tuesday 3 rd Sept 2019	Friday 25 th October 2019	Pupils in school	39
Half term holidays	Monday 28 th October 2019	Friday 1 st November 2019	School closed	
INSET DAY	*Friday 15 th November 2019			School closed
Autumn 2 nd Term	Monday 4 th November 2019	Friday 20 th December 2019	Pupils in school	34
Christmas holidays	Monday 23 rd December 2019	Friday 3 rd January 2020	School closed	

SPRING TERM	First Day	Last Day		No: of Term days
Spring 1 st Term	Monday 6 th January 2020	Friday 14 th February 2020	Pupils in school	30
Half term holidays	Monday 17 th February 2020	Friday 21 st February 2020	School closed	
Spring 2 nd Term	Monday 24 th February 2020	Friday 3 rd April 2020	Pupils in school	29
INSET DAY closed	**Friday 20 th March 2020			School
Easter Holidays	Monday 6 th April 2020	Friday 17 th April 2020	School closed	

*Easter Sunday is 12th April 2020

SUMMER TERM	First Day	Last Day		No: of Term days
Summer 1 st Term	Monday 20 th April 2020	Friday 22 nd May 2020	Pupils in school	24
MAY BANK HOLIDAY	Friday 8 th May 2020			School closed
Half term holidays	Monday 25 th May 2020	Friday 29 th May 2020	School closed	
Summer 2 nd Term	Monday 1 st June 2020	Thursday 16 th July 2020**	Pupils in school	34

**Next year's early May bank holiday will be moved back by four days for the whole of the UK to coincide with the 75th anniversary of VE Day. May Day is traditionally held on a Monday but will be put back to Friday 8 May 2020.

*STAFF INSET DAYS: (school closed to pupils)

Monday 2nd September '19

Friday 15th November '19

Friday 20th March 2020

** It is anticipated that autumn term 2020/2021 will commence Tuesday 1st September 2020