



**St. Rose's**  
Inspiring Education, Therapy & Care

## NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2016



### NEWS from Sheila Talwar, Principal

Christmas festivities are in full swing at St Rose's as we fast approach the end of term. Yesterday we celebrated with our traditional party day which started early in the morning and continued well into the evening and today we will gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus at our Carol Service.

As usual it has been an extremely busy term with two monitoring visits from the local authority and an inspection visit from Ofsted to St Martin's. I am pleased to say that it went very well and we eagerly await the final report which is due early in the New Year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for their continued dedication and a special mention must be made to Jean Bankhead who works tirelessly to ensure that our education is always of the highest standard.

The Friends of St Rose's have been busy this term. We held a very successful Coffee Morning where we raised in excess of £1,000 and tonight we will be Carol Singing at our local Tesco store. We have had fantastic support from the staff at Tesco and were delighted to receive £10,000 from them recently. This money is going to be used to develop our outside classroom.

This term we also welcomed members of Ecclesiastical Insurance for their Community Day. They helped us with decorating projects and tidying the sensory Garden as well as making a fantastic donation to the school and college.



St Rose's Christmas Tree display at St. Laurence Church in Stroud.

The trustees and governors have begun looking at plans to investigate how we can develop our residential areas and I look forward to letting you know how we progress in 2017.

All that remains is to thank all of you for your support and to wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

We look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



16 Dec 2016

END OF TERM 3.30PM

3 Jan 2017

IN SERVICE DAY—STAFF ONLY

4 Jan 2017

STUDENTS RETURN 08.55

**St Rose's School, St Martin's Post 19  
& St Rose's Nursery**

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Charity No. 271922



**NEW SCHOOL YEAR MASS** What a lovely gathering we had for our new school year Mass. Canon Tom led a joyful service as we celebrated gathering together as a whole community. The prayers were read beautifully by all our reader especially the main reading by Ryan Davis and the Bidding prayers by Jacob Pope, Thomas Carroll, Gemma Bullock and James Gray. Students brought up the school banner and presented some work done as a part of the Year of Mercy. They made a 'Holy Door' that is now in the Chapel for everyone to enjoy and visit. The music was most definitely full of praise and it was just so lovely to have the St Rose's community gathered and be able to say welcome back and to look forward to another year together.

**Cheri Baxter-Steele**



## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST LAURENCE CHURCH IN STROUD

Classes have been visiting the Christmas Tree Festival at St. Laurence Church. St. Rose's decorated a Christmas Tree which is on display.





# WORK RELATED LEARNING WEEK

## 10TH—14TH OCTOBER 2016

**Students in St. Martin's took part in work related learning week in October. We had a variety of guest speakers come to visit.**

Ex student Charlotte came to talk about her experiences since leaving St. Rose's, including further education, overcoming barriers to learning, hiring your own PA and her job as a music facilitator.



Sarah went up to the school kitchen to experience what it is like to be a chef.



The mum of a former student came in to tell us all about nursing. We really enjoyed the talk, but unfortunately Jo did not fall for any of our tricks!



PCSO Gary Lynch came to talk to us about policing and what his job entails.



Student Kai gave a presentation to the other students about the work he does in the library.





# ST MARTIN'S



This term we have welcomed five new students to St Martin's. We now have twenty students altogether and they are in four groups. They have settled in really well to St Martin's and there's a great atmosphere. We have also benefited from new staff. We have had some new volunteers for our Student Forum which continues to give our students' opportunities to express their views. We have increased our link with South Gloucestershire and Stroud College (SGS) and several of our students are attending for Graphic design, Personal and social development (PSD) and Health and beauty and Kai is attending for PSD, Cookery and Art. They have been learning new skills and have found these courses very good and particularly enjoy participating with other students.

The courses are going well and we have again given students the opportunity to input into their timetables and have increased the amount of English and Maths some of our students are doing because of this. We have a group of students who benefit from a more sensory approach and they have shown progress in their engagement with different activities.

Just when we thought it was nearly Christmas we had a call from Ofsted to say they were visiting St Martin's and they spent three days with us last week. They talked to Leadership, observed lessons, talked to students, staff, parents, governors and employers and looked at and discussed a lot of paperwork. It was a very positive inspection and the draft report will be with us by the end of this week and the final report later in the New Year. Our students were incredible and worked so hard and the staff team were amazing and the inspectors could see that staff put the students at the centre of all we do.

I would like to thank all the students, staff, parents and governors for all their support during the inspection process and I will let you know as soon as the report is published. Particular thanks if you were one of the people who spoke to the inspectors or completed a feedback form as all the feedback was very positive.

Finally we want to wish our students, parents and staff a very happy Christmas and a great year ahead in 2017.

***Jean and the St Martin's students and staff***





The **Harvest Celebration** this year was such a joyful and wonderful event all about FOOD!

Nursery were the inspiration for the whole affair as they thought up starting a collection of food for Stroud Food Bank and the Teachers thought this would be a great thing for the whole of St Rose's to do. So the collection began. Will came to a Monday morning Assembly and told us all about what happens at the Food Bank and why it is important for them to collect the food and make it available for people in our community who don't have enough food to eat. On the day of the Celebration there were amazing performances from all of the students with SRC performing a fantastic food poem and supplying the audience with some delicious tasters; SRA telling us the story of 'Oliver' the boy who wanted more food; SR3 getting everyone going with their 'St Rose's Band'; SRB telling us all about what happens in Argentina when they celebrate Harvest and St Martin's finished off with another fantastic poem and showing off some of their hard work about Harvest and food. There were some lovely prayers and beautiful songs and music all shared with the Trustees, Governors, parents, staff and talented students of St Roses' that were able to come and join us for the afternoon. We also supported CAFOD by sending home envelopes on the Harvest Family Fast Day. We raised nearly £75 and families were very generous. Thank you.

There was so much food donated for Harvest that the story of 'Feeding the Five Thousand' sprung to mind. Thomas Carroll and Dylan took the food in one of the vans to the Food bank in Stroud once we returned from half term. They had a lovely afternoon meeting the people at the food bank and looking around the building finding out about what they do and what happens to all of the food. Many thanks for all of the food donated it will make a real difference to those in our community that are in need.

Our next whole school Celebration is the Christmas Service on December 15<sup>th</sup> at 2pm in the school hall. We will be enjoying readings and carols led by the students and there will be drinks and mince pies after. 'Come and join the Celebration...' Oh and bring any family and friends.

Warmest wishes! **Cheri Baxter-Steele**



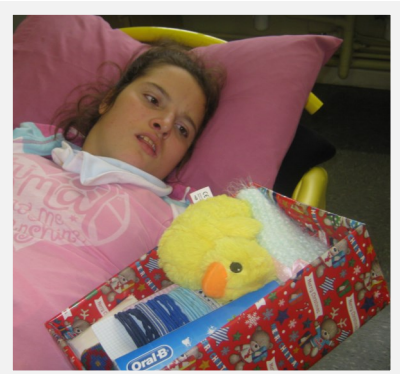




St. Rose's has taken part in Operation Christmas Child. We have collected the required items, wrapped shoe boxes and delivered them to the drop off point (Shoe Zone in Stroud). parents, staff and friends of St. Rose's have all donated items. We have had a fantastic response and have completed 48 boxes.

Thank you to everyone involved.

Elaine Shipway





## Exciting times ahead for new orchestra.

This September we teamed up with **Open Up Music** who are supporting us in developing our own school Orchestra. We have 6 students involved from Post 16 and Post 19. We have past Pupil, Charlotte White, who works for Open UP coming in to support me with the leading of the orchestra and also staff and I have been on some training with the new accessible software that all the students are now enjoying using. The software has been created by Barry Farrimond and Paul Masri from Open UP. It is called Clarion and is accessible on either iPad or computer. Four of our students are using Eye gaze to access it and two using iPads.

We have begun to work on our own rendition of a piece called Pur ti Miro by Monteverdi. Doug Bott of Open UP has very cleverly created a number of different “presets” within Clarion which the students are using which are based on the notes of this piece of music. The presets can be adapted to suit the students tastes and needs. Our own version of this ancient piece encourages pupils to explore and improvise their own sounds which all blend beautifully together.



I am so proud of all of our Orchestra musicians and look forward to sharing their music with you at a school event soon. We shall definitely be performing at this year's Music Prom but are making such great progress I think we'll have to find another opportunity before then!

**Rachel Moody, Music Coordinator**





On 11th November we were joined by 18 members of Ecclesiastical Insurance Services as part of their Charity Day. They worked extremely hard painting a classroom, a bedroom as well as jet cleaning, sweeping and trimming the trees,

bushes and plants in our sensory garden.

We are delighted with their efforts and would like to thank them very much. Here are our students enjoying their newly painted classroom.

**Sheila Talwar,  
Principal**



## **ECCLESIASTICAL CHARITY DAY AT ST. ROSE'S 11TH NOVEMBER 2016**



The sensory garden looking so clean, neat and tidy





# Christmas Coffee Morning



WE RAISED £1,039—A BIG THANK YOU TO PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, FRIENDS AND ALL WHO CAME ALONG TO SUPPORT THIS EVENT. MANY THANKS TO THE STAFF AND FRIENDS OF ST. ROSE'S COMMITTEE FOR THEIR HELP.







We are delighted to announce that we came second in the TESCO Bags of Help scheme and will receive £10,000. We would like to thank everyone who voted for us. This will now enable us to develop our outside classroom.

We will keep you informed of progress and will be so pleased to share photographs with you when it is complete.



Outside space 'before' photograph



We raised £99.01 for Children in Need this year. We had a lovely afternoon. We all dressed up in our best P.J.'s. We also decorated fairy cakes with spotty sweets.

Thank you for your support. **Lea Anne Ewing**



April 23, 2017  
**Virgin London Marathon**  
London, England

Mr Ian Timbrell is running in the London Marathon 2017 and is raising sponsorship for St. Rose's. His JustGiving page is now set up if you feel that you would like to support him. We wish him well with the training in the months ahead.



### The Carers Gloucestershire Caravan

The caravan is situated on The Retreat Caravan Park, Burnham-on-Sea. It is set in beautiful secluded private grounds with access to miles of golden sandy beach half a mile from Burnham-on-Sea town centre. A spacious caravan with three bedrooms (1 double and 2 twin). It is available for Carers registered with Carers Gloucestershire to enjoy a holiday at exclusive rates. Breaks can be 3, 4 or 7 nights. Carers can choose to take a much-needed break from caring or enjoy a holiday together with the person they look after. Costs e.g. 7 nights low season £125, mid season £175 and high season £250. Call 01452 386283 or [mail@carersgloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:mail@carersgloucestershire.gov.uk)  
n.b. Unfortunately doesn't have a hoist.

### FUNDRAISING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

7 May 2017 11am—4pm	"Wheelnuts" Classic Car Show
17 June 2017 1.30pm—4pm	Summer Garden Fete
1 July 7pm—midnight	Rainbow Ball



# Information for Parents and Carers

Please find below information and links to websites which you may find useful.

## **Affinity Hub** Emotional support for parents of children with special needs

This website aims to provide emotional support to parents and carers of children with special needs. Many parents of disabled children or children with special needs face additional associated challenges in practical, physical and emotional terms. Sometimes when life doesn't follow an expected, mainstream, non-disabled path it can make you feel isolated and like you're the only one going through certain emotions and experiences. The aim of these pages is to provide a virtual home for parents and carers to realise you are not alone. There are many other families also going through similar experiences and feeling similar complex [emotions](#). Some of the thoughts and experiences of other families are included under [words of wisdom](#). There is information under [professional support](#) listing organisations and counsellors, psychotherapists and psychologists who can provide further emotional support if necessary. [www.affinityhub.uk](http://www.affinityhub.uk)

## **Cerebra—Problem-Solving Toolkit**

This toolkit aims to support disabled people and carers, as well as their families and advisers, who are encountering difficulties with the statutory agencies in relation to the provision of health, social care and education support services. This toolkit aims to unpick these problems and to develop effective strategies for resolving them. [w3.cerebra.org.uk](http://w3.cerebra.org.uk)

## **Together for Short Lives— Support for Parents and Professionals**

Together for Short Lives is a leading UK charity that speaks out for all children and young people who are expected to have short lives. Together with everyone who provides care and support to these children and families, the charity is there to help them have as fulfilling lives as possible and the very best care at the end of life. [www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk](http://www.togetherforshortlives.org.uk)

## **IPSEA—Independent Parental Special Education Advice**

IPSEA is an independent charity covering the whole of England which offers an information service, advice line, tribunal helpline and tribunal support. The IPSEA website contains helpful model letters, FAQs, a jargon buster and much more. [www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

## **My Adult – Still My Child—A guide for parents/carers of adults (16+) who may not be able to make decisions**

This website is co-produced and inspired by those who have experienced decision making within health and welfare settings and felt unprepared or challenged without such guidance. The website is aimed at those new to making Best Interest Decisions and especially those caring for a young person in transition to adult services. <http://myadultstillmychild.co.uk>

**The Council for Disabled Children (CDC)** is the umbrella body for the disabled children's sector in England, with links to other UK nations. It is a national body that brings together the diverse range of organisations that work with and for disabled children to support the development and implementation of policy and practice. <https://councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk>

## **EHCP Journeys—Education Health and Care Plans for Children and Young People with SEN and Disabilities**

This website shows the EHC process from the perspective of families and aims to support areas to improve local services. <http://ehcpjourneys.com>

## **Family Information Service**

Gloucestershire Family Information Service (FIS) advisors give impartial information on childcare, finances, parenting and education. They support families, children and young people aged 0- 19 years of age (25 for young people with additional needs) and professionals working with these families. [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fis](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fis)

