



St Rose's Summer Newsletter 2017

Welcome to the first edition of our new look St Rose's newsletter giving a brief overview of what has been happening here at St Rose's over the last few weeks.

Features:

London Marathon
SR3 Trips
Wheelnuts
Café & Bazaar
St Martins visit to Calvert Trust
Rotary Kids Day Out
Sports Day
Rainbow Ball
Music Prom
Nursery News
School News
St Martin's News

As we come to the end of another busy year, it is a pleasure to share our latest news with you. There have been many trips out and events taking place in school and college, some of which you will see in the newsletter.

This year we were proud to launch our school orchestra. The staff and students have worked hard and rehearsed every week, leading up to their first public performance at the Music Prom in July. Our thanks go to Open Up music and especially Charlotte White, ex St Rose's student, who has supported Rachel Moody to establish the orchestra.

We are looking forward to our Annual Awards Evening at the end of term when we will celebrate the many achievements of our students. In total they have achieved 97 AQA unit awards and 75 ASDAN unit awards across all areas of the curriculum.

I would like to thank all of the staff for all their hard work over the year. There have been many high points and several low points and throughout them all the staff ensured that the young people are always supported to do their best.

Unfortunately at this time of year we have to say goodbye to members of the St Rose's community. This year we say goodbye to Charlie Preece(SLT), Jodie Vowles and Stacey Partlett. We wish them good luck in their new ventures and hope they will keep in touch.

We also say goodbye to our leavers, Kai and Nicky from St Martin's and Ella Leon and Nicolia from Nursery.

Continued.....

In September we will be joined by Michael Steed who is a Registered Manager and will be joining the care team. We are looking forward to welcoming Lochlan and Isadora who will be joining us in school and also Ellie who will be joining St Martin's.

The Friends of St Rose's have been very busy and we thank them for their continued support to raise funds for much needed equipment and resources. With their fantastic efforts we are hoping that we will be able to refurbish the HE Room this year so that it becomes a Living Skills base where the students will be able to further develop their independence skills.

Help from our community partners is invaluable and we really appreciate their support. Staff from Lloyds Banking group have volunteered again this year and helped run the busy barbeque stall at our fund-raising events.

Our thanks go to the staff of Ecclesiastical Insurance who have visited us on numerous occasions this year to complete various painting and gardening projects. They have painted all of Jean Paul House and are now tackling St Martin's – we have a long list for them!

I know the summer will fly by but I hope you all have an enjoyable summer break and I look forward to seeing you September.

Sheila Talwar, Principal



We are coming to the end of another year with its share of good times but also with some very sad times. This year has been hard for students and staff with the loss of four of our students during the Spring Term. Our students, as always, have been amazing in the way they have coped with the deaths of some of their friends and the whole community has come together to celebrate the lives of Daniel, Ryan, Sam and Timmy. They are never far from our thoughts and we will continue to remember them and their families.



The London Marathon

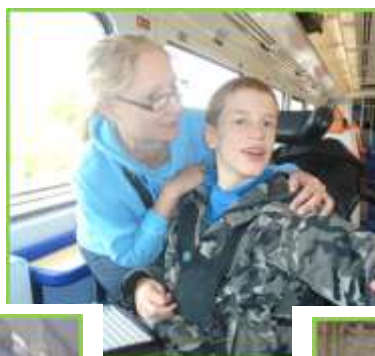
Ian Timbrell, who is 57 and has lived and worked in the local area all his life, completed the Virgin London Marathon with a time of 4hr 05mins and finished in the top 36%. He raised £2,300 for St. Rose's School in Stroud. The staff and students enjoyed his visit to school on 25th April when he came in to tell us all about his personal experience of the event. He ran over 600 miles to train for this event. Ian (and two of his friends) also ran in the 3rd London Marathon in 1983 and raised money for St. Rose's.



The money that Ian has raised will be put towards the refurbishment of our living skills room. We have big plans to transform a rather dated room into an area with adjustable worktops and sinks, incorporating a washing machine, dishwasher etc. to create a modern living skills area for our students to enjoy.

SR3 enjoyed two trips on Thursday 4th May

Freddie, Jordan and Joe travelled on the train to Gloucester. They went to the Cathedral for an explore around the grounds and cloisters. Everyone had a fabulous day using public transport and they finished the experience with a stop off at the Curio lounge before returning to school.



Tom, Tomas and James went to Pittville Park in Cheltenham. Tom and James loved the giant sand pit and Tomas Green had a run around the grounds. All the staff had a go on the zip wire, which was a bit scary! After a lovely sunny lunch on the lawn we all headed off round the lake to look at the beautiful scenery.

Last stop was an ice cream by the boating lake before heading home. Everyone slept well that night. Thank you to all the TA's for making these trips possible.

Lea Anne Ewing
Class Tutor



Wheelnuts 2017

Wheel Nuts 2017 was once again an outstanding success for the organisers, *The Friends of St Rose's*, with numbers of entries exceeding all expectation. Held on Sunday 7th May, in the grounds of the school, over 450 entrants in all makes and models of classic cars arrived on site first thing in the morning to take their places in the line-up.



Principal, Sheila Talwar thanked everyone who attended and praised the generosity of visitors in helping St Rose's with their latest fund-raising project. Over the years the "Wheel Nuts" event has raised a considerable amount for projects which improve facilities for pupils and students. This year they were raising money to improve the Home Economics Department to convert it into a living skills department. Large numbers of people visited the show to give their support to St Rose's, they spent the day enjoying the fabulous sunshine and looking at the spectacular cars on show. Some exhibitors have supported the show every year since its inception some thirteen years ago, whilst there were many new-comers to the event.

St Rose's staff, parents, governors and local friends and supporters give up their time to help with the event and carry out a range of duties from car-parking, commentary, manning stalls and helping serve food to visitors. This year's event raised just over £7,500 a huge contribution towards the conversion of the Home Economics Department. Catering staff cooked an amazing 125 kilos of chips, 480 hot dogs, 600 burgers and produced a large amount of bacon rolls, tea, coffee and cakes to keep the visitors fed.

Visitors both young and old enjoyed looking at some of the amazing VW Camper Vans on show, all lovingly restored by their owners and showing how a past and even present generation of enthusiasts can customise a vehicle to provide comfortable accommodation.



Best in Show
Charles Betts 1938 Triumph Vitesse

For American car enthusiasts there were some outstanding examples of Classic American Marques, from Chevrolet, Mustang and Dodge.

One of this year's attractions was the Wildchild Dragster kindly bought along by Andrew Williams, who is the three times National Champion of the Super Comp Class.



We were also very grateful to receive a cheque for £450 from the *Cotswold Classic Car Club*.

This year St Rose's was helped considerably by the sponsorship of *Hookway Chartered Surveyors*, we'd like to say thank you to them for their valued support, along with all the other volunteers and supporters who made the day possible; also to everyone for attending - there would be no show without you!



Parents, friends and students from St Martin's college and the Nursery were invited along to enjoy the range of exciting food, drink and items for sale. The students really got into the spirit of the occasion, and dressed up accordingly to man their stalls, selling a dizzying array of goods including plants, teacup candles and beautiful tie dyed drinks covers. The food available included pizza, authentic homemade chorizo and onions, a range of Indian snacks, hotdogs, American homemade cookies and the scarily named freakshakes!

The sun was shining and lots of parents and friends came along, making it a really vibrant and enjoyable afternoon. People were able to enjoy the new outside classroom as they snacked and browsed the stalls. Thanks to the generosity of everyone who came along all the stalls made a profit on their investment of £15, which will be reinvested into the school, and all the students felt that their efforts had been amply rewarded after a hard day's work setting up the event.

Café & Bazaar

This term students at St Rose's School participated in a £15 Enterprise Challenge to learn about running a small business, costs, investments and profit. Each class chose a country as a theme, and worked throughout the term to produce items and food that they could sell. The countries represented were Spain, India, America, Italy and the continent of Africa. The Enterprise Challenge activity culminated in an *Ethnic Café and Bazaar* held on Thursday 25th May in the afternoon.



St Martin's visit to the

A group from St Martin's went to the Calvert Trust from 22nd-26th May 2017.

The Calvert Trust, Exmoor enables people with physical, learning, behavioural and sensory disabilities to experience exciting, challenging and enjoyable outdoor activities.

It was Stephanie, Frazer and Robert's first time and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience; they overcame fears and tried many outdoor activities for the first time. Leah and Aiden having been before pushed themselves just that little bit further in activities they had previously done, but also tried different activities and experiences.

Staff were able to see the students in a different environment, trying out activities with them and everyone having a great time.



Cycling



Kayaking



Horse Riding



Carriage Riding



Zip Wire & Abseiling



Crate Stacking

Steph said *"I had to go on a few different activities. Each were fantastic times, I will not forget. Abseiling was my favourite."*

Frazer said *"I went to Calvert. I had fun. My best activity was the boat."*

Jackie Vowles
Teaching Assistant



Rotary Kids Day Out – Cattle Country – 14th June 2017



Every June the National Rotary Club fund a big day out for children across the whole of the UK and take over 25000 pupils for a Kids Day out. This year St Rose's pupils were invited to have a day out at Cattle Country. The sun was shining and the seven students who were able to go were excited about the day. We made camp under a big tree on a lawn, and then explored the site from there. Some students went straight to the beach area where they were able to play in the sand. Others spent all morning in the enormous soft play area. Some students took the opportunity to have a tractor ride around the site to save their legs, while others chose to drive or walk around. At lunchtime everyone gathered together again under the tree for a rest and some refreshments, before going off again to investigate the bouncy pillows, wooden castle and animals, the students who wanted to were able to go and play in the paddling pool. They thoroughly enjoyed this and one or two were reluctant to leave!

Finally, we all found another soft play area which also contained a ball pool, a wavy slide and a death slide. Some students were brave enough to go on the slides. Our students wrung the last bit of fun from the day, before returning back to school, happy and tired. Roll on next years' Kids Day Out!



Louise Goode
Curriculum & Assessment

Sports Day



We were blessed with perfect weather for St Rose's sports day this year.

The day started at 11am with a sensory walk based around the theme of *The Bear Hunt*. Students enjoyed walking through the swishy swashy grass, through the garden sprinkler river, and into the cave where a scary bear was hiding. After a picnic lunch in the gardens with family and friends, the sports day events started in earnest at 1:45pm. The five teams were introduced under the rainbow parachute, having named themselves after sporting heroes; Usain Bolt, Rafael Nadal, Jenson Button, Mo Farah and Ellie Simmonds.

The first event was the dressing up relay, which *Team Ellie Simmonds* won easily as other teams struggled to put on their wigs and dresses. The throwing challenge saw *Team Usain Bolt's* Luke being pressed by Wilfrid from *Team Rafael Nadal*, to steal a late lead. The electric chair slalom ramped up the competition, as Gemma and Dylan, both from *Team Rafael Nadal* were close leaders in the race. A sloppy unforced error by Gemma missing a late turn around the last cone left the field wide open for Dylan to take first place. Joe Michael had to be coaxed over the line by placing a certain young lady at the finish as motivation to drive in the right direction! Next came the water bomb catch and pass event, which was a thinly veiled excuse for staff to cheat shamelessly before pelting each other with the water bombs that had not already drenched the students. After several penalty points being removed from cheating teams and one team being falsely accused of cheating (sorry Lara) the final result was a dubious win to *Team Rafael Nadal*, second to *Team Mo Farah* and third to *Team Usain Bolt*. The obstacle course was a brutal test of mental strength and determination, where competitors had to dodge The Principal wielding a ninja rainbow parachute, the Vice Principal tooled up with a dizzying array of water armoury and a fiendishly difficult egg and spoon sprint to the finish. Points were close between the teams as the quietest event known to any sports day started, the Wallace and Gromit Wrong Trousers jigsaw hunt. Again poor sportsmanship was rumoured as TA's were heard telling their team members to hide any jigsaw pieces that belonged to other teams. You know who you are, Sharon!

Everyone was treated to a fantastic competition in the form of the Bike Race, with all competitors really showing off their skills and determination on their race runners. Luke, Gemma, Wilfrid, Freddie and a late entrant, James, sped around the path and across the lawn to a photo finish while the crowds went wild. A parent/staff three legged race finished off the afternoon, which resulted in a tie for first place between *Team Usain Bolt*, and *Team Rafael Nadal* with 12 points each. However, a last minute rule shocker was suddenly raised by one of the judges, whereby a bonus point was given to the team who had the visitor who had travelled the furthest, saw *Team Rafael Nadal* home and dry with 13 points, all because Emily Phillips had grandparents attending who had travelled from France. With such a close finish competition is likely to be as fierce as ever in 2018!



Rainbow Ball

Thank you to everyone who has supported all our fundraising events during the past school year.

Our last event of this school year was the Rainbow Ball, in memory of Gavin, held on Saturday 1st July. Everyone seemed to enjoy the evening very much, raising a further £2,500 towards the refurbishing and modernising of the living skills room.

The marquee was decorated in a rainbow theme as with previous balls. The evening began with a scrumptious meal followed by the raffle and then a live band, giving everyone the opportunity to dance off any over-indulgence!

We are in the early stages of planning our Christmas fund raising events and the fundraising planned for 2018.

Elaine Shipway
HLTA



Fundraising

We Raised £34.40 for Wrong Trouser Day sent to the Grand Appeal Bristol Children's Hospital. Thank you for your support.

Music Prom - Thursday 6TH July



We had a wonderful occasion on the 6th July with our biennial Music Prom. Our theme was Journeys and Places and we were joined by three visiting schools; Uplands from Swindon, and our local Catholic Primaries; St Dominic's and The Rosary. The Marquee was packed with friends and family. Thank you to all who attended. The audience were delighted by singing, drumming, Pianists and our School Orchestra.

The Scouts gave a rousing rendition of Show me the way to Amarillo and SR3 and SR1 both performed music from different places...SR3's reggae number, Three Little Birds and SR1's African themed Story Tumpa,Tumpa. Uplands' school Concert Choir has a few of us near tears with their performance of Coldplay's Fix You. The two primary schools also sang beautifully with songs from The Rosary's upcoming Production, Shakespeare Rocks and St Dominic's giving us a lovely version of John Denver's Country Roads as well as their talent pianists' performances.

It takes much courage to get up and perform for anyone, especially when you haven't been playing your instrument long. And that was the case for our six brave Orchestra members who played magnificently for the first time in public despite having only begun playing their instruments in September. They used the Clarion Instrument, specially designed by Open UP Music, who have been supporting us all year. The beautiful *Pur Ti Miro* by Monteverdi was well received as was our *Beethoven Beats* inspired by the Composer's 7th Symphony. It was a wonderful celebration of Music Making at St Rose's and I am very proud of what we have achieved in this last year. Thank you to all who have supported our students' Music making so well! I can't wait for 2019!



"Please could you forward my huge congratulations to Rachel and the team for a wonderful Prom. Everyone performed so well and she is justified in being proud of the orchestra - they were amazing! Well done everyone. With best wishes, Maggie"

Maggie Smith - Governor

Rachel Moody
Music Lead

"Fantastic! Wonderful effort, very enjoyable"
John Kyffin – Chair of Governors

NURSERY NEWS

Wow what a fun and busy term we have had in nursery! The children have had visits from the police, the fire service and took part in Beep Beep! Day where we learnt all about how to be safe when we are walking and playing outside! We made some traffic light biscuits too – they were yummy! We have had lots of fun out and about exploring and had a great time on our nursery trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park. We saw rhino's, lions, zebra and wolf cubs and thought the train ride was brilliant! We had our lunch by the giraffe house - they were very tall! Sadly this term we also say goodbye to Ella, Nico and Leon who are off to start a new adventure at 'big' school. We had a party and a picnic lunch to celebrate and wish them the very best of luck in their new schools.

Beep Beep Day



Cotswold Wildlife Park



Police Visit



Fire Engine Visit



SCHOOL NEWS

Slimbridge

This year Jordan, James and Tom B went to Slimbridge for their class trip. The weather was great and we avoided the hottest day of the year thank goodness. We started in welly boot land enjoying the water sounds and children playing. James got his toes out and Jordan went down the slides. We then had a lovely walk to look at the otters and flamingos and made friends with some geese. Jordan had a play in the sand and went down the big slide in the park. We ate lunch outside and had an ice cream all very relaxed in lovely surroundings.



Thank you to all the staff for making it an enjoyable class trip.

Bristol Aquarium

Joe, Freddie and Jordan were supposed to be going to Weston but the great British weather did not play the game so we went to Bristol aquarium instead. It was an exciting journey into Bristol and Lea Anne was very relieved to eventually navigate all the road works and find a parking place. We had a drink in the café before entering the amazing world under the sea. Jordan listened to all the unusual sounds and touched all the tanks with his hands and feet. He loved jumping up at the raised tanks and felt the water in the turtle tank. Joe was interested in all the really ugly fish and the huge tank at the end. Freddie loved listening to the water and got inside the dome where the sea horses live. We had a walk around the docks looking at all the eating places and canal boats. Thanks to everyone for a great day out.



Lea Anne Ewing
Class Teacher

ST MARTIN'S NEWS

Willow Boat Trip

Students from St. Martin's went for a trip on the Willow boat along the canal. They all took it in turns to drive the boat and had a lovely day. It was lovely to have the opportunity to be all together and chill out after working hard all year!



Rachel Gale
FE Tutor



Summer 2017



Last February Bradley left us as a place became available at Cream in Taunton and he needed to take it up straight away. We had a Leaver's assembly for him remembering all his achievements and although it was sad to see him go we were pleased to see his very positive attitude to moving on to the next stage of his life. Some students popped in to see him on their way to Calvert Trust in May and we are still keeping up to date with his musical exploits and went to hear him perform in Bath recently. It was great to see him and know that he is continuing with his music which he is so passionate about. He has settled in well and we are planning to visit him again soon.

This July we have two students who are leaving us and although we will be sad to see them go we know that they have learnt new skills and gained friendships and enjoyed their experiences in St Martin's. Kai Holmes who has been with us in St Martin's since 2012 and before that was in our St Rose's Post 16 since 2009, has been gradually transitioning back to Swindon and getting to know PAs who are supporting him in his local area. We hope he will continue to visit us and meet up with his friends. Nicky has been attending three days a week so that she can work towards completing her accreditation. We will really miss them both and wish them all the very best for the next stage in their lives.



This year our students have participated in many different experiences. Some of them have been part of the St Rose's Orchestra and performed at Ryan's celebration and at the Music prom.

We have continued our link with SGS (South Gloucestershire and Stroud) College and our students have participated in a Hair and Beauty course and Graphic Design course and Kai continued to link with their PSD, Life Skills and Cookery courses. We are planning to continue this link and are waiting for the timetable to be confirmed. We have also continued to be involved with OVTL (Our Voice To Live) and some of our students participated in a film during their annual conference.



All our students have continued to work towards their accreditations including Personal Progress Diplomas and Entry level 3 English.

This is only part of their achievement during the year and we have also seen a group visit Bristol University to talk to a group of students completing their Masters about disability and to demonstrate the different ways they communicate.

The students and staff at Bristol were very appreciative and are keen to invite us back.



There is a separate article about Calvert Trust but our students have also been on the Willow Boat this term. Unfortunately we had to cancel the first trip as it was the hottest day since 1976! However, we managed to squeeze a few extra students on to the next trip the following week and it was a very enjoyable time.

We wish our students and their families a very happy summer holiday and look forward to seeing them in September when we will be welcoming four students from St Rose's Post 16 Hannah, James, Cerys and William and a new student Ellie from Uplands.



Jean Bankhead
Vice Principal