



Sacred Heart of Mary's School Magazine

2013 Issue

FAREWELL MRS WILLIAMS

On the Tuesday before she left, we interviewed Mrs Williams about her time at Sacred Heart of Mary. She will be missed very much and has been a very important person at our school. Here is what she had to say:

What has been your favourite memory of SHOM?

"My goodness that's a hard one, I really think it would be impossible to say a single one because there's been so many sort of separate things, where girls have done really well in their exams and got into the university they wanted or girls who came to us that were strugglers initially, with their work, and then did so well with their GCSEs and even A Levels, they're very special moments. Times at sports day when we've just had such fun down there, they've always been very good. House drama, house music, things like that, waiting and particularly walking back with the judge knowing the result when no one else does, that's quite exciting. And particularly when I know that that will be controversial when the judge hasn't perhaps gone for the favourite that everyone thinks it's definitely going to be this house or that house. So those sorts of moments I think. And also always hearing about when staff are waiting for their baby to be born and then we get the message through saying so and so had a baby boy or girl. But I think it would be impossible to say one thing."

If you could go back and change anything would you?

"Again they're really brilliant questions I have to say but that's quite tricky. Maybe introducing changes to the sixth form uniform earlier, including some form of jacket, not a blazer necessarily, so we brought the blouse

and the skirt in but they really need something else to distinguish them. I think maybe I should have been a bit more proactive in that regard and hopefully Mrs O'Neill will be."

If you could choose one house to be in, which one would it be?

"I would never commit myself to that, never, I would be absolutely mortified, no way. Obviously Mrs O'Neill and I have never been in a house, and when I came as deputy I very deliberately said I didn't want to be in a house because it wouldn't be fair. There are certain things that can characterise each house and I love that, also that I can be completely neutral and just wind them up. Like this week I've said to Mr Corless, "not looking good for sports day" And they're so competitive particularly him, I love all that definitely, definitely would never commit, sorry."

What's the best thing about being head teacher?

"I think because you're involved in everything, all aspects of school come your way. So whether it's to do with a leaky roof pipe or the school keepers, that comes your way. If it's to do with new buildings or plans, that comes to you. If it's to do with success of pupils that comes to you, sometimes it's very sad things and then you have to stay strong for everyone else in those circumstances. I think that's why it's a job you could never be bored in because so much happens all of the time. Circumstances can change very quickly so that you might start a day very quietly with not much happening and it will appear to be just a normal day then very quickly those sorts of things can change and it's all action doing this, that and the other thing. I think that overall involvement is what makes it a very special job."

If you could be in one school production which one would it be and why?

“What I would have really loved to do if I’m really honest and I would have really shown off in is something that involved a witch where I’d get to do my witch cackle because I really do fancy my witch cackle. But it’d be much more panto, but I’d love to come out with all the really horrible makeup and point to some poor little year 7 and say something like ‘I know where you live,’ done up in all the really horrible makeup in fact I have the long black wig . But the closest I ever got to it was playing Snow White where we had seven male members of staff as the dwarfs, I can’t believe I was a nervous wreck, I thought I’d have been a bit braver. Snow White was the panto we did but I was shocked at how nervous I was backstage I was like ‘oh my God’ before we came out. As soon as I was out there I was showing off but that would be something I would have really liked to have done.”

Did you always want to be a head teacher?

“Not necessarily a head teacher, no, but from a child I wanted to be a teacher, being a head teacher is something you don’t even give a thought to at that stage of your life. But from a child I never had any doubts at all that that’s what I wanted to do, a lot of people start on one thing and change their minds or move to a few different things but I was very sure. I think it was because I enjoyed my infant school very early on, again I was one of those that got to be Mary and all that, because I had a loud reading voice. I think because I was very involved, that made me happy and therefore it seemed to me like it would be something that I naturally progressed into. So I think from probably about the age of five I made my mind up very quickly, but you don’t think in terms of deputy head or head, none of that really crosses your mind”

How did you feel on your first day as head teacher?

“Really excited, really proud and there’s always an element of it being slightly unbelievable, that you were chosen, that you’ve gone through an interview process and they’ve actually chosen you as the one. Very proud, very excited and then that little bit of nervousness kicks in and you think ‘am I up to the job?’ But the positives first I have to say the positives come before the negatives.”

How does this school compare to other schools you’ve taught at?

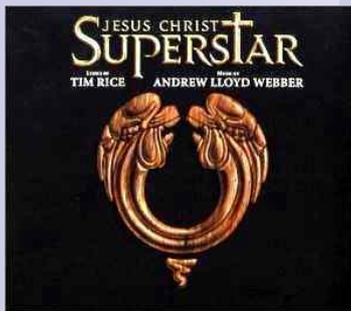
“I actually did mention that at my leaving do last week, that when I was leaving my last school I was very upset, I was very emotional and I thought ‘oh my God, what am I doing, how could I leave these youngsters in this school that I know so well and love and the staff and everything?’ and then I came here. And it’s just such a very special place, I can’t tell you some of the special girls that have gone through the school and lots of dedicated teachers and that’s what makes it such a pleasurable place to come to everyday. And that’s going to be the hardest thing as the week goes on, it was bad enough last week when I had my dos but trying to sort of stay strong. I mean some of the messages I’ve got have been just lovely and it’s times like that that you think ‘ah, oh my God, will I ever be able to part from it?’ And that will be very tricky.”

If you were to teach one subject what would it be, other than English?

“Um, I think most people would expect me to say Drama but it would probably be History. I did History for A level and did History and Classics as part of my degree but I’ve become more interested in it, funnily enough, when I haven’t been studying it. Ironically, people would think it would be Drama because I’m a bit dramatic. I think it’s different having that personality and being able to teach it, I’d never be able to be like Mr Baron and stay calm and be like three, two, one , I’d be going “AHH”, so I think probably History.”

By Emma Kearney, Ciara Collins and Grace Beckwith





Jesus Christ Superstar!

In May 2013, choir rehearsals began for the school's latest production; Jesus Christ Superstar.

For people who are unfamiliar with the play, here is an overview: Jesus Christ Superstar is a rock-opera about the final days of Jesus' life. The play begins a few days before Palm Sunday (where Jesus is welcomed into Jerusalem) and concludes with Jesus' crucifixion.

In early May 2013, the head of music, Mrs. McCoy, began rehearsals for the choir on Mondays and Tuesdays lunchtimes. During these rehearsals, Mrs. McCoy introduced the main songs of the show to the ensemble and handed out song words to be practised at home.

When the ensemble had learnt the words to most of the songs, some of the main actors came to rehearsals to sing their parts in the songs and put the ensemble's parts into perspective.

After the summer half term, the ensemble started to practise actions such as waving and shaking hands with the main characters on the stage. Mrs. Waller also taught them a simple dance routine for one of the main songs.

As the weeks progressed, the stage and lighting were put up, the microphones were connected to the speakers, the backdrop was being painted and costumes

were sorted out. The costume for ensemble members was to wear a "hoodie" of any colour and shorts/trousers. Full sound, lighting and dress rehearsals were taking place during lunchtimes, lessons and even Sunday afternoons.

With a small but very effective group of musicians, including Mr. Hitchman (on the keyboard) and Mrs. McCoy (playing the piano) coming to the Sunday rehearsals, the production was really coming together. Alice Gill, a member of the ensemble, gave her opinion and said, "the rehearsals were very long and hard work, it was so hot as well; too hot to stay in a hoodie for ages! But the hardship paid off because the end result was brilliant."

After months of preparation, it was finally the day of the first showing of the production. Overall, everything went according to plan. There were a few microphone problems but the actors handled them very well and the sound crew had them sorted out, ready for the next performance.

With all the problems fixed, the second performance went even better than the first! An audience member thought that there were well choreographed crowd scenes that built up the atmosphere of the songs and another person commented on power of the songs. All in all, the production was a huge success! All that can be said now, is a big thank you to all the

Whitby's Victory! Best House in the School

Thursday 18th July was Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' school 2013 Sports day in which 'Whitby' won.

The day started off with each house parading around the track displaying the posters and banners that they had made about their house and, in my opinion, Whitby were definitely the loudest and had the most colourful and creative banners out of all the houses. Each member of the houses had face paints and ribbons to show what houses they were in but I do agree when people said that some people went a bit 'crazy' with the face paints and actually painted their PE tops and shorts their house colours!

Soon, the racing had begun with the 100m hurdles which Whitby did brilliantly in, definitely having a strong start to the competition, with some people winning by a landslide. Many other events also happened after that including 200m, 100m, 800m, Shotput, Javelin and lots more in which Whitby all did AMAZINGLY and were definitely setting a high standard. There was a quick lunch break and soon it was the 400m Power walk in which Whitby came second. Then was the 200m and 100m final in which Denise Orapa from 7W came third and Hannah Allen came first in.

Also, I must mention that the older girls in Whitby House also did AMAZINGLY, raising the bar.

Soon, the last event was on, it was the teacher vs. pupils relay in which the teachers were very fast, I must admit, but not fast enough because Whitby still beat them and came first place. Well Done Girls!

The banner contest was up now and as always Whitby also won that thanks to the hard effort of a young girl in 7W named Bonnie-Lee Brooks, who made a remarkable banner!

Now was the time that we were all waiting for results.....

Thanet came 4th.....

Lindisfarne came 3rd.....

Rievaulx came 2nd.....

And Whitby came 1st! But, really, what else would you expect?

By Eri-Eliana Paul

RIEVAULX FINISH IN 2ND PLACE

The atmosphere on Sports Day was remarkable. It definitely was a day to remember. The loud cheers from partakers and their class mates made the day all the more enjoyable. A massive thank you to all Rievaulx members who took part on the day, whether they were competing in track or field events, sorting out equipment or even cheering in the stadium; the support given to those who took part is what allowed Rievaulx to achieve the position they did.

In addition, a special congratulation to all Rievaulx members who came in the top 3 in any track or field events particularly the Year 12 Relay team (Nancy Dear, Laura Oni, Lydia Anastasi and Shivonne Sookoo) who came 1st in the relay against the other houses. Fingers crossed, Rievaulx are able to keep up and push for the 1st place trophy next year.

By Mercy Phillips



Nancy Dear, Rievaulx's head of house, was stunned and proud when she was rewarded 2nd place on behalf of her house. Mr Bright was also in awe and a little overwhelmed that Rievaulx had ended the day in the top 3 after only achieving it once previously in '22years'. To steal 2nd place from

Lindisfarne, who fought strongly throughout the day, was an exceptional win.



LINDISFARNE GET THIRD PLACE IN SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

After a long day of hard competing against the other houses, Lindisfarne managed to come third in the overall standings; narrowly missing out on second place.

The day began with a few wins for Lindisfarne but they gradually increased as the day went on. Apart from wins, lots of competitors from Lindisfarne managed to achieve second or third place which increased the points as well.

By lunch it seemed very optimistic for Lindisfarne, some pupils even suspecting that we were in first place, and everyone was eager to carry on into the second half of the day.

After lunch, more wins came for Lindisfarne, again lifting the spirits of the competitors and spectators of the house, as well as some disqualifications for other houses which moved competitors into third and second place in events.

There were, on the other hand, some disqualifications for Lindisfarne competitors also. In some events, for example the relay, when Lindisfarne were in a very good position, an accidental or sudden error in play meant Lindisfarne lost their vital points in the event.



Lindisfarne were seated near the finish line in the stadium

Eventually, by the end of the day, a surprise third place was awarded to Lindisfarne, with Whitby coming first, Rievaulx second and Thanet fourth. Everyone was glad with the result but with all the success Lindisfarne achieved, some felt Lindisfarne deserved more.



By Niamh Marshall

There was still a friendly vibe between all the houses throughout the day



SPORTS day

Thursday 18th July 2013 was sports day for Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School. Thanet had weeks of training at athletics club in order for this day to be a success. Thanet also had regular lunchtimes together to paint and draw our house banner. We all put our very best into it in order to have a good outcome in the end.

On the morning of sports day, every member of Thanet house was given a bit of blue ribbon that they could put in their hair. Also if you wanted it you could have had blue face paint on to represent that you are a Thanet member.

There were two people in Thanet dressed as our mascot, a smurfette. One of the mascots was in 7^T and the other was in 6th form. They

encouraged everyone in their event and helped them to reach the finish line.

Thanet had some people who were badly injured and, therefore, could not come to sports day. But Thanet was lucky because we had outstanding sports captain who sorted it out straight away.

Unluckily, Thanet came last in sports day. It is sad news as Thanet was in the lead for house of the year and have lost their title. Thanet had a lot of competitors that all tried their best to perform to their highest standards.

By Davina Kwateng 8T

Year 9 get washed away at Clacton, Essex

On Friday 11th October 2013, 9T and 9W went on their Geography trip to Clacton, in Essex, to discover why Clacton is attractive to tourists and the effects of tourism.

The girls started their 1hr 13minute coach journey to Clacton. As they got closer, the weather changed for the worse, so by the time they reached Clacton, it showed no signs of improvement. But they hadn't travelled all that way to be beaten by a drop of rain so they carried on with their objectives.

The group of about sixty girls and a few teachers then split into their classes to complete their tasks, while trying not to get too soaked.

The girls' first task was to walk down Pier Avenue to rate six buildings and the surrounding area on their appearance and condition. At each of the six buildings, they also had to count the pieces of litter around and the number of pedestrians in the street. However, there were not that many people out on that particular day because of the weather so there were only a few people to count.

They walked all the way up and down the street, back to where they started. Then they stopped to have a break from the rain and eat lunch in McDonalds, while drying off.

After lunch, the girls walked to the sea front, getting soaking wet on the way, to evaluate how attractive the beach is to tourists and what specific parts make it attractive.



The Beach at Clacton (on a sunny day)

As it was nearing 2pm, the girls and teachers were drenched. One girl complained that she had to pour water out of her shoes! They re-grouped in a sheltered area near the beach. As the weather was so terrible and didn't look like it was improving, the teachers decided that they should not stay in Clacton longer than they had to, so they called the coach driver to pick them up early. Therefore, ahead of schedule, the girls, accompanied by their teachers, left Clacton and were on their way back to school.

As a result of their early arrival, the girls had to complete worksheets about their visit until school finished. This was because their original booklets were hard to read due to the effects of the rain. Apart from being completely soaked, most of the girls and teachers enjoyed their trip and learnt a bit more about tourism in Clacton.

Written by Lucy Pritchard

My Form Party (Caitlin Houseago 8W)

On Thursday 19th December all of my class had a form party, before we broke up for the Christmas Holidays on Friday the 20th. We all had so much fun in CI with dancing, singing, eating pizza and chatting to our friends. Also, it was really good because we got to choose our own songs that we enjoyed, including lots of Christmas songs. Our prefects were really nice to us as they bought us all the dominos pizza with their own money which we were all really grateful for. I guess it was a like a Christmas present, we were all really lucky. It was really nice to see everyone having a good time at the party and it was especially nice just to have a few hours where everyone was friends with each other. We forgot all of the problems we had outside the classroom.

"...We never stopped believing and now I'm feeling good"

Rievaulx House has done it again. After successfully winning House Drama in 2012 with *Mama Mia*, they were awarded 1st place for House Music in 2013.

Judge, Mrs Kinsella, congratulated the house, stating how *"it was a live, sparkling performance with excellent harmonies and clear dictions"*.

Expectations from the opposing houses were high. After **Whitby** and **Lindisfarne's** exceptional performances, there was no doubt **Rievaulx** felt the pressure to exceed them. However, they did not fail to meet our expectations. **Rievaulx** received a standing ovation.

House captain, **Nancy Dear**, said *"so, although at times I've thought, how am I gonna be an optimist about this, we've never stopped believing and now I'm feeling good"*

The atmosphere on the day was an unforgettable one. With the majority of students commenting afterwards that this year's house music was undoubtedly the best.

Although **Rievaulx's** Pompeii was outstanding, **Lindisfarne's** version of Whitney Houston's *'I wanna dance with somebody'* was also amazing. It was one I'll never forget. The jazz hands and the occasional loud whispers of *"dance"* were a brilliant combination.

The energy and hard work put in by all the sixth form pupils paid off. From **Amy Williams'** superb conducting to **Hannah Gilligan's** crazy drumming, the year 13s were the true stars of the day and, without these girls, we would not have had such an amazing time.

The winning house just goes to show that you do not need a music captain to win but if you work together, the outcome is sure to be a great success.

Mercy Phillips