



CASS NEWS

SIR JOHN CASS RED COAT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WINTER TERM 2014

Message from the Head



Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will know this term has been one of the most challenging in the history of the school. It certainly has been the most challenging time in my twenty years of headship.

It may well have been a very difficult term but it has also been one of the most uplifting that I have experienced in my career. The warmth and support my colleagues and I have received from parents and carers over the past weeks has touched everyone at the school. The eloquence and

strength of feeling with which parents and carers spoke on behalf of the school at the feedback to parents evening on Friday 21st November was truly remarkable if not inspirational. Thank you for your support.

This Christmas term has been absorbing and engaging and we can all begin to look forward to the holiday and beyond. In this context I look to the New Year when I will have the opportunity to speak to you again. Personally I can't wait to bring you the good news that both you and my colleagues richly deserve.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas break and a successful and uplifting New Year.

Season's Greetings Everyone!

Yours sincerely,
Haydn Evans,
Head Teacher
SJCR School

School Eucharist

On Monday 20th October Sir John Cass held the first school Eucharist service of the school year. Many students attended, and Father Chris Morgan led the service in his green chasuble. We came down to the Great Hall during registration and the service lasted for about forty minutes. It was great to see so many of the students taking Holy Communion. Father Chris preached about using our gifts and talents well and not wasting the abilities that God has given to us. It was great to start the school week thinking about spiritual

things and I felt privileged to have had an opportunity to take time to think about the meaning of life, as well as praying for all those with problems in the world.

By Joseph Bream, 10A



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Comenius trip to Czech Republic

As a part of the International Comenius project La Piazza, students from Year 9 travelled to Prerov, in the Czech Republic. Whilst there they met students from six European countries, France, Spain, Italy, Poland, Czech Republic and Turkey who also take part in the Comenius project. On the first day of the visit the host school gave us a really warm welcome with a traditional Czech breakfast accompanied by a chorus with the choir dressed in the national costume. In the afternoon the students visited the Comenius museum in the city of Prerov, where they could see how John Amos Comenius used to teach in the 15th century. John Amos was an innovator and educator whose name is linked to the European educational projects that are named after him. Before ending the day, students had the opportunity to see the main monuments of Prerov and to buy souvenirs.

The second day began with students sharing classes and activities with students from other countries. After a traditional Czech lunch, the whole group went to visit the main regional city Olomouc, just 30 minutes away from Prerov. When arriving at Olomouc, the students had a guided tour visiting the

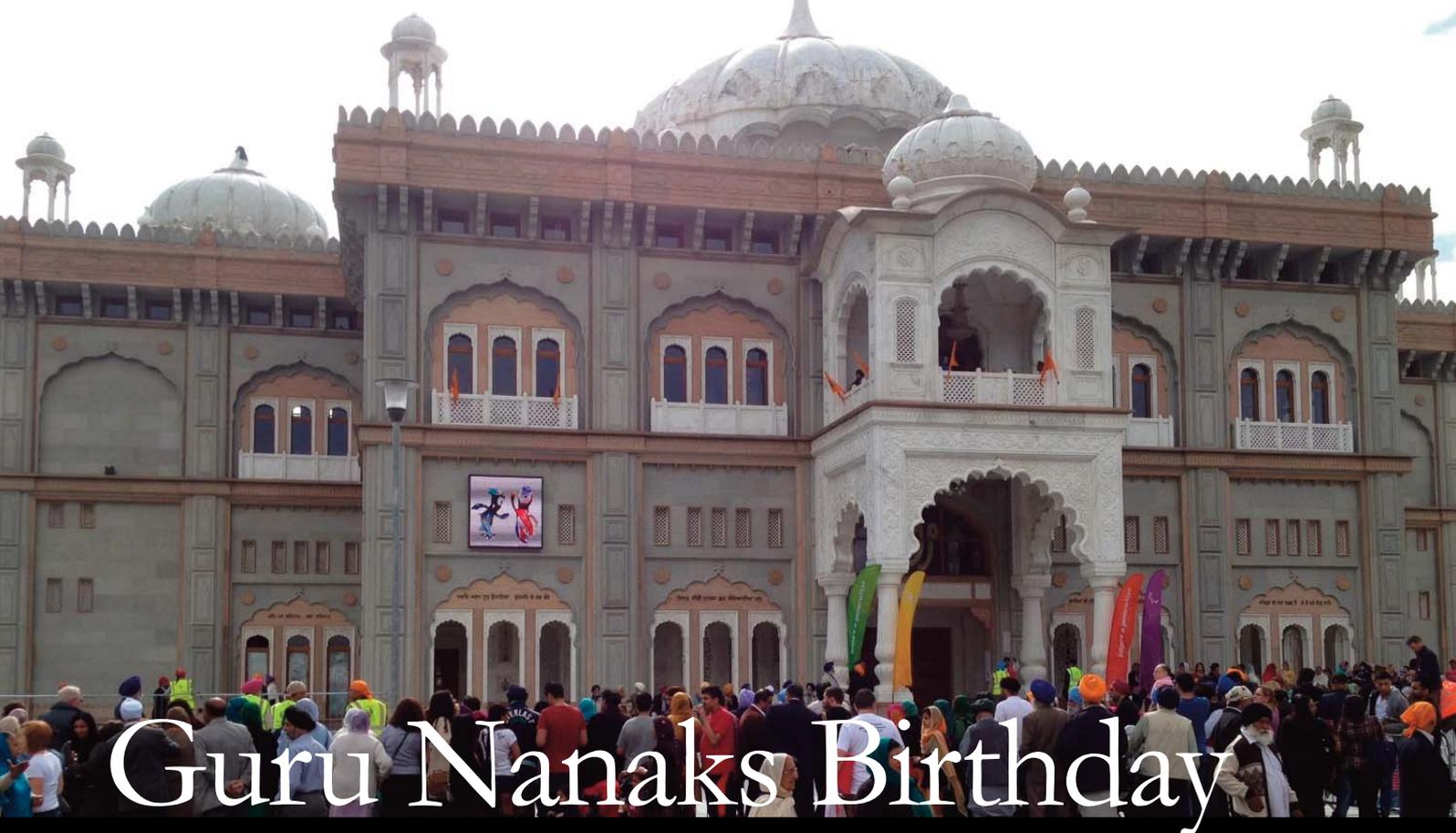
most important places and learning about the characteristic of this astonishing city. It was a really beautiful city with a huge history.

The next day students attended lessons that were especially prepared for them at the Czech school. At midday they went to a Jazz concert in the Town Hall. It was an amazing performance in a really nice hall. After lunch they visited an ornithology station, followed by free time before having a traditional Czech dinner. It was really hard to say goodbye to the teachers and students the last day.

This trip to Czech Republic was an exceptional experience for the students. As part of the Comenius project students were able to visit another European country and participate in the traditions of the local people. They were also able to make new friends from other countries, improve languages they have been learning at school (Spanish or French), and take part in many educational activities programmed inside of the Comenius project. The Comenius project La Piazza is definitely a huge privilege for students from Sir John Cass School to be a part of.

By **Mr Aguilera**





Guru Nanak's Birthday

As a multi-faith Church School, Sir John Cass has a Worship theme calendar produced by Mr Casey. As the School Chaplain, Mr Casey has allocated a Spiritual theme for each week of the term. For example, in mid-November, the school reflected on the teachings of Guru Nanak on his birth date. Morning prayers and school assemblies looked at Nanak's teachings on equality

and tolerance.

Gurdwaras (Sikh Temples) celebrate this occasion with a religious service and a meal known as Langar is provided by volunteers. Homeless people are also invited to partake in this free hot meal. The charitable idea of 'Langar' was first started by the Guru over 500 years ago. Gravesend, in Kent (see photo)

houses Europe's largest Gurdwara. Its lecture theatre often hosts speakers who give talks on the life of the Gurus (Sikh Prophets). The temple is also open for school visits. As the early Sikhs were mainly Hindus and Sufis, Sikh architecture has been influenced by both Muslim (Moghul) and Hindu (Rajput) architecture. British Gurdwaras have also been

influenced by Cathedrals, hence some have stained glass windows. A majority of Sikhs also visit Suffolk, where a memorial has been erected on the burial site of Maharaja Dalip Singh, the last ruler of the Sikh Empire. Queen Victoria, Empress of India at the time, adopted him as a member of her Royal family.

By Mr Bhadare

Cross Country Success

Ethan Cathrow represented Sir John Cass in style when he powered home to win the Tower Hamlets Cross Country Championships, and was selected to represent the Tower Hamlets team for the London Youth Games Cross Country Competition. He was captain for the boys' squad and led his team from the front of the race until the finish line.

Shaquille Smith Sports Award

It has been a busy month for Ethan as he also received the Shaquille Smith Sports Award at the recent prize giving ceremony at Sir John Cass in recognition of his achievements in the last academic year. His dedication to his training has been an example to the rest of the squad this Winter. He deserves all the success he gets, and the school should be very proud of him. Well done Ethan – we can't wait to see what Summer brings!

Laura Stewart also made the Tower Hamlets cross-country team as a result of her fantastic finish in the Tower Hamlets Schools race. As the girls' captain she led by example and nearly beat the two year 10 boys narrowly ahead of her.

Congratulations on another success Laura.

The Year 10 girls won the team competition. Well done to Laura, Sindi, Davionne and Sally. We wish you well in the forthcoming season.

A big well done also goes to Aicha Helem who won the year 9 girls competition and was also selected for the London Youth Games team.

Congratulations must also go to the year 8



Boys who won the team competition. Well done to Cayman, Khalad, Jonas and Kamran.

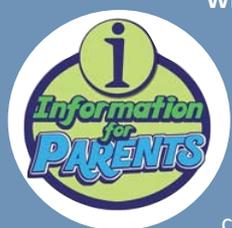
It was fantastic to see so many of our students trying their best and to see everyone cheering for each other. Our students were a real credit to the school.

By Mr Rayney



KEEPING YOUNG CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE

E-safety guidance for parents



What can you do as a parent or carer to keep your child safe online?

The internet is an amazing resource which enables children and young people to connect, communicate and be creative in a number of different ways, on a range of devices. However, the internet is always changing and being able to keep up to date with your children's use of technology can be a challenge. You may sometimes feel that your children have better technical skills than you do, however young people still need advice and protection when it comes to managing their lives online and using the internet positively and safely.

Parents and carers play a key role in supporting children to learn about how to stay safe online, and they are one of the first people children turn to if things go wrong. We know it can be difficult to stay on top of the wide range of sites and devices that young people use, but here are some tips on how to ensure that your children are safe when online:

- **Be involved in your child's online life.** For many of today's young people there is no line between the online and offline worlds. Young people use the internet to socialise and grow and, just as you guide and support them offline, you should be there for them online too. Talk to them about what they are doing, if they know you understand they are more likely to approach you if they need support. You can find ideas on how to discuss such matters with your child on the Sir John Cass website.
- **Watch Thinkuknow films to learn more.** The Thinkuknow programme has a wide range of materials providing advice. Your child may have seen these at school, but they can also be a good tool for you to find out more about what young people do online and some of the potential risks. These films can be

found on the following link:

www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Secondary/Conversation-Starters/Go-to-the-movies/

- **Keep up-to-date with your child's development online.** Be inquisitive and interested in the new gadgets and sites that your child is using. It is important that as your child learns more, so do you.

- **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.** Think about what they might see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online. It is important to continue to discuss boundaries so that they evolve as your child's use of technology does.

- **Know what connects to the internet and how.** Nowadays even the TV connects to the internet. Your child will use all sorts of devices and gadgets; make sure you are aware of which ones can connect to the internet, such as their phone or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – is it your connection or a neighbour's Wifi? This will affect whether your safety settings are being applied.

- **Consider the use of parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start and are not as difficult to install as you might think. Service providers are working hard to make them simple, effective and user friendly. You can find a guide to setting parental controls on the Sir John Cass website in the e-safety section.

- **Emphasise that not everyone is who they say they are.** Make sure your child knows never to meet up with someone they only know online. People might not always be who they say they are.

- **Know what to do if something goes wrong.** Just as in the offline world, you want to help your child when they need it. Therefore, it is important to know when and how to report any problem. You can find details on what to do in such circumstances on the Sir John Cass website in the e-safety section.

In addition to the Sir John Cass website section on e-safety more information can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents

Sir John Cass NQT & Trainee Teacher Team Building Trip



This November the Newly Qualified Teachers and Trainee Teachers were given the opportunity to visit the Cass Mountain Centre in the Brecon Beacons, Wales. We tested ourselves in various challenging outdoor activities going beyond our comfort zones and supporting one another through each accomplishment.

The weekend was filled with lots of learning as we took on new challenges, learnt new skills, learnt about nature, outdoor education, each other and ourselves.

Day one we were split into two teams. One team set off down the river Usk for an adventure canoeing down the rapids. The

other team tackled rock climbing in the morning and cave exploring in the afternoon, getting themselves in and out of some tight situations. We all shared a lovely dinner that evening made for us by the great team in the centre followed by a night walk up the hills to do some spectacular star gazing.

Sunday morning was an early start to get in a full gorge walk. This activity was a whole group activity encouraging us to work together and help each other along the rock and through the icy water safely. The activity came to an end with everyone scaling the side of a waterfall and propelling ourselves off a rock into the safe waters below. Overall, the weekend was made not only by the activities organised but by the amazing team that led them. Roger and his team encourage us to really go beyond our limits through completing all the challenges, always in a safe environment created by their expertise. It was a truly memorable trip that and we are extremely grateful we had the opportunity to experience it.

We also got amazingly lucky with the weather and enjoyed each and every minute of all the activities (despite getting flung out of a canoe). Roger and the team up in the centre are top notch and take such good care of all their visitors. I would recommend it for any year group as well as trainee teachers and NQTs in the future."

Ms Finnerty – Geography NQT

"The weekend in Wales was beyond words! I grew up in the city and was never offered a chance to experience activities such as caving and rock climbing. I wasn't sure whether I would be able to manage in the beginning, but I decided to put myself forward and took the challenge. I did everything and the feeling was amazing. I now appreciate team work more than ever. Thanks to my teammates, I got to come back to London in one piece!"

Ms Huang – Business Studies Trainee

By Ms Finnerty

TESTIMONIES

"The trip to Wales was brilliant. We had the opportunity to really get outside our comfort zones and challenge ourselves."

Boys Basketball Competition

After some outstanding performances at the Key Stage 4 Tower Hamlets Boys Basketball Competition from Liam, Jordan and Nathan who were runners-up in the final of the competition, it was the turn of the Key Stage 3 team to make a visit to the impressive Olympic Copperbox Arena.

It was a fantastic start to the tournament with Roland and Riaj linking up with some great fast break play, with Roland providing the crucial assists for Riaj to convert into baskets. The team played well and easily won their first match. The squad then had a chance to watch the

London Lions training, and were clearly inspired by the players as they went on to reach the semi-finals. It was a tense game all the way to the end against Bow, which Sir John Cass lost by 1 basket to the eventual winners of the tournament. It was a great day at this fantastic facility which was truly in keeping with the Olympic spirit. A massive well done to the students. It is great that so many of them are now training regularly after school each Monday with Ms Fellows.

By Mr Rayney





Prize giving 2014



Scholarship awarded to Nadia Begum and Emmaline Cen. These awards provide further motivation for the current year 13 students to achieve and surpass their aspirational grades.

A big thank you on behalf of the Sir John Cass Secondary School and Sixth form College is due to The Sir John Cass's Foundation; the Vintners' Company; the Scriveners Company; the Masons Company; and to Nicholas Crispin – Past Master of the Fan Makers Company for the continued financial support they have provided for the school and its prize giving. Also to Barclays Capital for its generous sponsorship and support throughout the year.

On Thursday 6th November 2014, Sir John Cass's Foundation & Redcoat Church of England Secondary School and Sixth Form College held their annual Prize Giving Night. It was an evening of celebration for successful students from each form class receiving awards based on attendance, attainment and improvement throughout the 2013/2014 school year.

Prizes were given to the top 12 students in each form class based on attendance and punctuality, while the top 10 pupils based on achievement and value added from Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 were awarded Foundation Prizes. Seven year 11 students were also awarded prizes for progress and improvement throughout the school year. Prize Giving Night special prizes included

the Year 7 Handwriting prize, donated on behalf of the late Mrs Doreen Perry; the Year 8 Reading Challenge Library Prize; the Michelle Sadler Prize for the Tutor Group with the best attendance throughout 2013-2014; the Shaquille Maitland-Smith Sports Award for Outstanding Achievement in Sports; the Doreen Perry Literature Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Literature; the Rose Walker Music Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Music; and the Art Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Art.

Four students from Year 13 were also awarded Scholarships for university study. These included the Sir John Cass's Foundation University Scholarships awarded to Muhammad Jamil and Tasmina Qaiyum and the Vintners' University

We would also like to thank our special guest who attended to award the prizes, Bonita Norris, the youngest British woman to climb Mount Everest. Bonita's speech captivated the audience and encouraged us to never give up and always have the courage to reach our goals. We would like to also thank Reverend Trevor Critchlow (Chair of Governors), Alderman Dr Ray Ellis (Chairman of Grants at Sir John Cass Foundation) and Mr Rupert Clevely, (Master Vintner of the Vintners Company Charitable Foundation) for their speeches and addresses.

By **Masud Awil** (Head Boy) and **Kalsuma Aktar** (Head Girl)



10 Common Themes in the Quran & the Bible concerning Jesus

My dear friends, I greet you all with the traditional Muslim greeting,

"As-salaamu'alaykum wa rahmatullaahi wa barakaatuh!"

"May the peace and blessings of God be with you."

My name is Saeed Deen, I have been a Maths teacher at the Sir John Cass School since 2001. The school is an amazing beacon which promotes tolerance and respect for all. In fact I have so much faith in the school that three of my children have gone through the school system.

I believe that we should all be treated with respect regardless of religion, race, colour and sexuality, and I also believe that our creator will judge us on how we treat people around us, and not just on what we

believe and how we pray. This is emulated in our school's mission statement, ensuring 'respect for all.'

I am here to serve and support the entire Sir John Cass School community – pupils, teaching staff, support staff and their families alike. My aim is to bring together students/non-students of all faiths in a supporting and inclusive environment. I hope to offer a personal approach to faith and belief, and I am available for one-to-one meetings throughout the week during my non-teaching time.

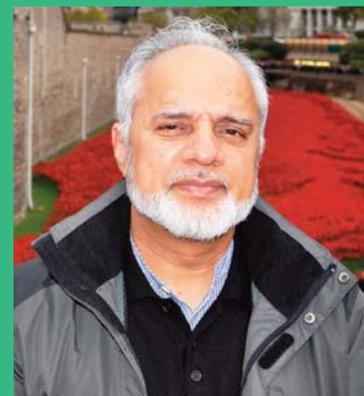
As a school we strive to promote the distinctiveness of all religions. However, at the start of the Christian season of Advent, and in a spirit of wishing to find what unites our school community in a season celebrated around the globe for its promotion of peace and harmony, I

thought I would share my own reflections from the Qur'an, on the common ground and shared ideals that unite the Christian and Muslim communities around Jesus (Isha in Arabic).

If one were to look solely at the conflicts of the world you might think that Islam, Christianity and Judaism were completely different religions worshipping different Gods; however this is far from the truth. These three great religions share very similar roots and values. All believe in one true God, and all can trace their roots to Abraham. The Bible, Quran and Torah have similar stories up to the time of Moses and you'll note that depictions of Mary, the mother of Jesus, shows her head to be covered in the same way as a Muslim woman wearing a hijab or a modern day nun. All three believe in the afterlife and life after death, and there is also the similarity of fasting; Muslims fasting in Ramadan, Christians fasting for Lent and Jewish fasting for Yom Kippur.

Here is a list of 10 similar verses in the Bible and the Quran;

"Jesus was a messenger of God"
(Surah 2:136 and John 8:42)



"Jesus is the Word of God"
(Surah 4:171 and John 1)

"Jesus had a miraculous birth, born to the Virgin Mary"
(Surah 19:20 and Matthew 1:18-23)

"Jesus promoted compassion and mercy"
(Surah 57:27 and Matthew 9:36)

"Jesus healed the sick and raised the dead"
(Surah 3:49 and Luke 7)

"Jesus performed miracles involving food."
(Surah 5:112-115 and Matthew 15:32-38)

"Jesus was without sin"
(Surah 19:19 and Peter 2:22)

"Mary is considered above all other women in the sight of God"
(Surah 3:42 and Luke 1:39-45)

"Jesus ascended to heaven and is living there today"
(Surah 3:55 and Acts 1)

"Jesus will return to earth"
(Surah 43:61 and Acts 1)

I hope this helps to promote a better understanding of the commonalities between our great faiths. However, this is not to ignore their distinctiveness.

Peace & blessings be upon all of you.

Saeed Deen,
Muslim Chaplain.

CASS CALENDAR

DECEMBER

Thurs 11th December – Early Closure for All Students, 1.25pm (INSET)

Wed 17th December – Year 10 Parents Evening, 4pm

Fri 19th December – End of Term, Christmas Holidays

JANUARY

Mon 5th January – Spring Term Commences

Tues 6th January – Early Closure for All Students, 1.25pm (INSET)

Thurs 8th, 13th, 20th, 27th January – 6th Form External Year 11 Interviews, 3.30pm

Wed 21st January – Year 12 Parents Evening, 4pm