

A.M.D.G.



WINDHOVER

The Great Academies Edition 2020



Contents

Editorial	3
“If Only I Could Say Goodbye” by Amy	4
Cian interviews Fr Tim	5
Mrs Scott recommends...	6
Mr Henderson recommends...	7
Madelaine interviews Miss Bridges	7
Robert Persons Prize Essay: Hannah (senior winner)	9
“The Storm” by Ethan (Gerard Manley Hopkins Prize winner)	11
JG interviews Mr Turner	12
Amelia recommends...	14
Mrs Joseph recommends...	14
“Reasoning with a Bull” by Paddy	15
Olivia interviews Mr Hughes	16
Robert Persons Prize Essay: Nikolai (junior winner)	18
Mr Burgess recommends...	19
Amelia interviews Mrs Wood	20
“Poetry Competition” by Nikolai	24
Miss Livingstone recommends...	24
“The Eternal Flower” by Hiba	25
Ethan interviews Mr Callinicos	26
Olivia recommends...	29
Robert Persons Prize Essay: Dilip (intermediate winner)	30
Cian interviews Mrs Hargreaves	32
“My Question of Religion” by the Wager family	34
Mrs Wood recommends...	36
Robert Persons, S.J.	37

Editorial

Welcome to the final edition of *The Windhover* for this academic year. We have all spent the term away from Stonyhurst, but the editorial team and the various contributors have risen to the challenges of putting together the magazine via email and Teams. I hope this edition has a sense of Stonyhurst life to it.

It contains interviews with members of the community, conducted by some budding investigative journalists, who remain convinced that at least one member of the staff has a secret identity moonlighting for MI5. There are recommendations for new interests and inspirations to be enjoyed at home, discovered during lockdown and shared here by teachers and pupils. You'll find some of the best entries to this year's Gerard Manley Hopkins Prize for original poetry: we start with Amy's moving exploration of early departure from school in March. Also published here are the winning senior, intermediate and junior essays written for the Robert Persons Prize Essay Competition (sponsored by the Stonyhurst Association), in which Hannah, Dilip and Nikolai reflect thoughtfully on the lessons we can learn and solace we can draw in difficult times from history and science. We conclude with some information about Robert Persons, founder of a school which can cope with anything.

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine, and we send our best wishes for the summer. See you in September!

- Mr Leigh

Many thanks to the following, for their contributions to this issue:

Pupils: Ethan (Rhetoric); Hannah (Rhetoric); Amelia (Poetry); Amy (Poetry); Olivia (Poetry); Paddy (Poetry); JG (Syntax); Luke (Syntax); Madeleine (Syntax); Cian (Grammar); Dilip (Grammar); Hiba (Grammar); Nikolai (Lower Grammar); and the Wager Family.

Staff: Miss Bridges; Mr Burgess; Mr Callinicos; Father Tim Curtis; Mrs Hargreaves; Mr Henderson; Mr Hughes; Mrs Joseph; Miss Livingstone; Mr Turner; Mrs Scott; Mrs Wood.



Amy (Poetry):

If Only I Could Say Goodbye

If only I could say goodbye
This wish is what I fall asleep with.
The thought that I'll never again come by
provokes feelings in me I can't compete with.

If only I could say goodbye
I got in the car without even blinking.
My dad took my suitcase my emotions were dry.
Thought I would soon come back...This proves wrong thinking.

If only I could say goodbye
I left in the morning pretty early in the day.
My friends were still sleeping, dreams of a lullaby.
I didn't finish it off, I just stopped half the way.

If only I could say goodbye
I didn't appreciate the last time sleeping in my bed.
I took for granted my last movie cry
I can't remember the last words I said.

If only I could say goodbye
I had to leave...Corona came through...
But really I should've said goodbye.
Dear Stonyhurst, this one's for you.

Cian (Grammar) interviews Father Tim:

Are you a spy?

No, alas, I am not – nor have I ever worked as a spy!

Who is your hero?

Well, the answer to this question has to be St Ignatius of Loyola - the founder of the Jesuits. I think that what he has done for the good of the church is beyond measure. I am happy to be a Jesuit, following in his tradition and being in a position to help others on their journey to God.



When did you come to Stonyhurst?

I first came to Stonyhurst in 1977 - at the beginning of my training to be a Jesuit. It was very different then, with 17 Jesuits in the college filling all the important management positions. All I had to do was to teach some Maths and RE. It seemed that in those days, pupils absorbed a Jesuit spirit by osmosis: we did not have a Jesuit Pupil profile, yet Stonyhurst produced some pretty impressive people.

What have you learnt from your experiences here at Stonyhurst?

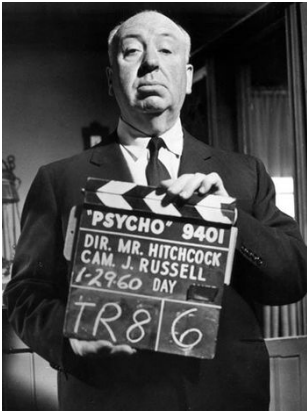
The important lesson is how to be part of a Jesuit family. We look out for each other.

How do you decide what your sermons will be about?

A good question. I always study the readings. Do some prayer. See how the Holy Spirit inspires me. At the back of my mind is, "How can this Gospel reading help our family grow closer to God?" It usually works!

When did you decide to become a priest?

I had decided to be not just a priest, but I was going to be Pope one day (I was 7 at the time)! However, I did not do too much about this until after University. By then, being a Jesuit seemed to be the best option.



What is your favourite movie?

I have to confess I like Superhero movies. I also like Hitchcock (he was Jesuit educated) and anything with a good story line.

If you could meet anyone from history, who would it be?

It would be nice to be a disciple of Jesus: not Peter or one of the important ones, but it must have been great to listen to him and follow his miracles.

Thank you very much, Father Tim.

Mrs Scott recommends...

Broaden your Cultural and Creative Horizons.



Develop your drawing skills with Rob Biddulph: award-winning book illustrator Rob Biddulph is sharing draw-along videos on Tuesdays and Thursdays on his Twitter feed - @RobBiddulph
Visit The British Museum: search more than 4 million object records online, take virtual tours and visit the school resources pages - <https://www.britishmuseum.org/>

Learn to play the guitar! Get free online guitar lessons, including a complete beginners' guitar course with audio, videos and text music resource - www.justinguitar.com

Create your own sound landscape using BBC Sound Effects: create your own soundscape with this free archive of 16,000 sound effects – everything from sea lions barking to a rowdy crowd at a boxing match - <http://bbcsfx.acropolis.org.uk/>

Travel! Who says you can't travel the world during lockdown? *Mapcrunch* transports you to a random location anywhere in the world using Google street view. It promises “spectacular scenery, magical moments and the utterly unexplainable” – <https://www.mapcrunch.com/>

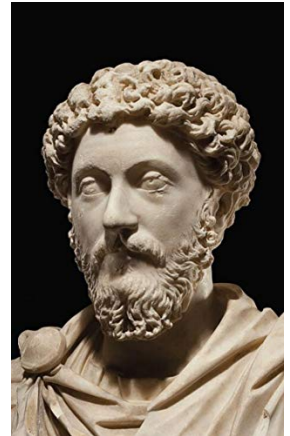
Stare at something mindfully... An infinitely zooming image that you could spend an awful lot of unproductive time looking at! Enjoy! - <https://zoomquilt.org/>

Mr Henderson recommends...

Work Hard? Play hard.

“All things are the same, familiar in experience, and ephemeral in time, and worthless in the matter.” Marcus Aurelius, *Meditations IX*.

Play. Play what? Play at anything. We all work hard. For many of us, we now have the time to do new things. Read two books on the same subject. Disagree with both of them, and forget which is which. Learn a language, just for a few weeks. [Duolingo](#) or [Babbel](#) will do; just familiarize yourself with the sounds and basic structure, then do something else. Learn a song off by heart, just to sing in the shower. Never perform it publicly: it's for you. Draw a picture, and then don't frame it. Just keep it around until it gets dog-eared and you throw it away. Take up a new form of exercise, but don't track it on an app. Admire a view, but don't take a picture on your phone to show others: the place and the moment are for you.



Madelaine (Syntax) interviews Miss Bridges (Head of Chemistry):

Are you a spy?

Sorry to disappoint, but no!

Who is the most interesting staff member to sit next to in the school ref?

What is it that makes them interesting? Mr Callinicos is always someone I enjoy sitting with at lunch time, I find him very wise and I always learn something new about Stonyhurst when I sit with him. [see the interview with Mr Callinicos elsewhere in *The Windhover*!]

Who is your favourite colleague at Stonyhurst?

I couldn't choose one! Mrs Murphy and I started our journey at Stonyhurst together so we have shared many experiences. Dr Goodwin gave me the opportunity to join him and some students in Cuba last year, so he would also make the top five!



What is your favourite joke?

Any good chemistry jokes give me a giggle.

If you could have any superpower, what would it be?

To click my fingers and be anywhere in the world would be amazing!

If you could teach any subject other than Chemistry, what would it be?

It would have to be Maths: I love numbers!

Before you came to Stonyhurst, you spent some time living in the Middle East. What were the best and the worst things about living there?

I loved so many things living out in the Middle East. Travel would be one. Qatar is such a travel hub, and I explored many other countries in the Middle East and Asia while I lived there! Another thing would be friends. Living away from home and having a to build a whole new life seemed daunting, but my friends were my family over there. It was very special to build such meaningful new friendships at that stage of my life. And I loved the work, too: moving to the Middle East gave me my first experiences of teaching students from all over the world, and I love learning about my students' cultures and homelands. We had 'International Day', where we celebrated the countries of all of our students – and I learnt so much about the world from them. The worst thing was missing out on events at home, as I was unable to fly back to attend friends' weddings and their children's Christenings.

What talent do you wish you possessed?

I wish I could sing – I love to sing... but no one enjoys listening to me!

What would be the title of a book about your life?

I think I'll have to live more of it and see what direction it goes in...

What genre would it be?

Travel/romance/comedy???

Do you think you would make a good spy? What attributes do you have that would make a good spy?

I might have to be a little quieter...

Thank you very much, Miss Bridges.

Robert Persons Prize Essay Competition Senior Winner: Hannah (Rhetoric)

What lessons can we draw from history at the moment?

Pandemics are not new; there are documented world-changing pandemic outbreaks dating back millennia. Their occurrences throughout history, and our varying responses to them, have given us plenty of information to study and dissect, in order to ensure we are prepared for the inevitable: the next pandemic. Now that we find ourselves in the centre of a global pandemic, what lessons can we learn from the past to help steer us onto the right path and guide us to safety?

As with previous pandemics, knowing how it was initially spread is vital to understanding how to contain it. Due to archaeological and scientific studies, we now know a lot about the spread of early diseases. The Black Death was initially transmitted by fleas on rats and other small rodents, so wherever the rodents could go, the disease followed. This meant the disease could cross seas on merchant ships and traverse trading routes across land borders. This should have meant that the spread would slow once the disease entered a new country. Unfortunately, the disease then mutated so it could be spread by fleas on humans¹. It was not understood until many centuries later that poor personal hygiene led to the spread of germs, so proper sanitation, hygiene and clean clothes were not priorities. As such, most people, but particularly the destitute, carried germ-spreading fleas. Those in poverty also tended to live in large settlements and in close quarters as it was all they could afford, thus, disease could spread unchecked in cities and larger towns. Although this made it easier for those in more isolated areas to escape the worst of pandemics, it certainly did not make them immune.

The village of Eyam in Derbyshire fell victim to bubonic plague in 1665 from fleas within a delivery of fabric from London to the local tailor. Within days of handling the material, the tailor's assistant, George Viccars had died². The town moved quickly to stop the spread further throughout the local community; the Church moved its services to a natural amphitheatre close by to allow the townsfolk to congregate without being too close to each other, and the villagers quarantined themselves from neighbouring villages. The actions of the townsfolk meant that the plague did not spread to the surrounding villages.

¹ National Geographic, 2020.

² Masson, 2019.

Quarantine was not possible as a response to the Spanish Flu of 1918. Most countries placed an embargo on reporting news of the new pandemic in the media as it coincided with the final stage of World War One. Thus, very few people were aware of the Spanish Flu until it was too late to act. There was so much loss and terror as a result of the fighting that individual countries wanted to spread joy, not more fear, but their actions only stood to make the losses ever heavier. This lack of knowledge, coupled with the mass international movement of millions of military troops meant the effects of Spanish Flu were extremely shocking. In the USA, parades and mass gatherings were encouraged to welcome troops home from the front lines in Europe, so the disease spread easily and silently through towns and cities. Conversely, where places planned for the arrival of the pandemic by banning gatherings and closing shops, the infection and mortality rates were far lower than in places the disease was ignored³.

Pandemics rip through society, tearing apart families, but if previous pandemics are anything to go by, one of the lessons we may draw is hope. The Black Death killed between 75-200 million people in Europe, Asia and North Africa. With such a drastic reduction in the population, there was more land and work to go around, while job opportunities and wages increased⁴. In addition, after the blight of two World Wars and Spanish Flu, there was a strong push for closer international ties and unity, and thus the World Health Organisation was established and helped to almost eradicate many diseases, support poorer countries and ensure access to health services was a human right. It has now been instrumental in managing a coordinated global response to Covid-19 in a time of growing protectionism and nationalism.

It is clear from past pandemics that their spread is enabled by travel and close contact, and by quarantining we can stop the transmission of disease. Furthermore, where details of pandemics are not suppressed in the media, this positively impacts individual and national responses. What is equally clear is that the worst will pass, and when it is safe to open up our borders and our homes, our community spirit will be stronger, and we will have a new-found appreciation for the freedoms we do have.



³ History.com (2010).

⁴ Britannica (2020).

Gerard Manley Hopkins Prize winner: Ethan (Rhetoric)

The Storm

Forced to refuge by black storms of flood
Underneath the ancient gnarled oaks
And great pine canopies like vast wheel spokes,
wandering where only the most daring could
And where once in legend great beasts would prowl.
Ripping through like a hound after hare, wind
Like God's fury against those who sinned,
Made me fear just as a furious scowl.
Yet though wind and rain battered me sore
And the heavens let loose their mighty wrath
I still found beauty in forlorn forest
And though I feared greatly, still more
Did I wish to journey along the path,
And stay in God's grandeur before I rest.

JG (Syntax) interviews Mr Turner (History):

Describe yourself in three words?

Middle-brow introvert.

What's your favourite film?

"Master and Commander"

What's your favourite food?

Dragon poo lasagne (spinach, but you get the idea).

Favourite sport?

Boxing

Favourite religious order?

Discalced Carmelites

Favourite painting?

"The Girl with the Tattered Glove" by William Nicholson

Do you have a favourite hobby?

Tinkering with broken things.

How often do you exercise?

Not much this Millennium yet.

How's your lockdown going?

I have stayed at home, protected the NHS, saved lives and kept alert. Now I would just like to take back control.

What are you reading?

Don't tell Mrs Wood, but I did some panic borrowing in the More Library at lockdown and am finding *The Better Angels of Our Nature* by Steven Pinker very funny. I think it's even meant to be at times.

What are you listening to?

"Filiae Maestae Jerusalem" sung by Philippe Jarrousky, "Shark Smile" by Big Thief and "A Coral Room" by Kate Bush: all played very loud and set on loop.



What are you watching?

“Gardeners’ World,” anything with Philomena Cunk in it and “Singer Songwriters at the BBC.”

In what ways do you think the Corona virus will change society – for the better? For worse?

For better: fewer planes. For worse: more social media, if that’s possible. With all due respect to those who have lost people and jobs.

Which time in history would you have liked to have lived in?

On the third day.

Do you have any regrets about your life?

I would have liked to have more children.

Which living person do you most admire?

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow.

Which person from the past do you most admire?

St. John Fisher

Where do you like to go on holiday?

Burgundy

Is there any place you have not visited but would like to?

Barnard Castle sounds nice.

If your house was on fire and you could only save one object what would it be?

My grandad’s glasses case containing his bus pass and a pin to prick him with to make sure that he was dead.

Tell me a secret.

Corona means Rosary.

What would your motto be?

Quand Je Puis.



Thank you very much, Mr Turner

Amelia recommends...



TV: *Parts Unknown*.

Recently I've been really invested in *Parts Unknown*, a travel and cooking TV show by the late, great Anthony Bourdain. Though his is a name that has become laden with tragedy, it would be doing him a great disservice to overlook what made him so successful in the first place: his relaxed humour, and unpretentious enthusiasm for the food which takes him

around the globe and into the family homes or quiet bars of the places he visits. Rarely would you find him in an upscale restaurant. Instead, he takes a beeline straight to the ghettos and rural towns, holding gritty discussions about politics and cultural identity over plates of regional cuisine and glasses of cheap local wine. That he lets the locals speak for themselves and never tries to romanticise the realities of poverty or strife is what made Bourdain one of the best celebrity chefs out there. You can find all twelve seasons on Netflix.

Mrs Joseph recommends...

Jigsaw Puzzles.

I have become a fan of jigsaws during the lockdown: borrowing lots from my Granny, and dragging my husband into them too. They are even better with a podcast or music on in the background as well as cup of tea and cake! My dog doesn't like the attention not being on him, though, and enjoys banging into the table to disrupt the progress. Double-tapping on a piece when you finally get one in gives a real sense of achievement!



Paddy (Poetry):

Reasoning with a Bull

It's ok.

We concede defeat,

So there's no need for you to stand there like that.

Your stance is strong,

And your patience not long.

You'll trample my chassis into the ground,

So it's ok,

We'll go 'round.

It's ok. We'll go around.

The gate was stiff,

But temptation leaps over the cattle grid.

We stride down the track,

And we scuttle all the way back.

Our God-given arrogance trounced,

So it's ok,

We'll go 'round.

It's ok. We'll go around.

Now disaster planning.

Preys instinct channelling.

Bucked our eyes to the side,

To run and hide.

We'll hand over the crowns.

So please, It's ok,

We'll go 'round.

It's ok. We concede defeat.

Olivia (Poetry) interviews Mr Hughes (Head of Playroom: Poetry)

How have you been spending your time during lockdown?

Both my wife and I teach, and our two sons have online lessons, so our days are very structured with timetables and routine. We make sure that we all have lunch together as a family each day and put all screens aside for an hour, and when we have all finished work for the day we try and go for a walk together or go and play football. We are lucky to live close to the College site in such a beautiful area, especially when the sun is out.



If you were to name one thing you miss the most about Stonyhurst at the moment, what would it be?

I miss seeing everyone in the Playroom: pupils and staff. We have gone from speaking with each other every single day in person and working together closely to now operating remotely. The College buildings are an amazing place to work, but a good school is all about the people in it.



What are you most looking forward to once the world goes back to normal?

It will be nice to be able to go and visit family again. My parents are in Lytham and my mother-in-law is in Lancaster and we haven't seen them in person for months now. And getting a bacon sandwich from Millie's in Hurst Green as well!

Imagine that the global pandemic comes to an end and that the world once again becomes a global village. Airlines get flying again and we are free to travel. What place would you first visit?

Ten years ago this summer, my wife and I went to the Amalfi Coast in Italy for our honeymoon. We had spoken about going back there for our 10-year anniversary – it is such a visually stunning place and like something out of an old Hollywood movie. We may have to wait for our 20-year anniversary now...

What book, TV show, film, or album would you recommend to other members of Stonyhurst community?

The Poets have been brilliant at sending me recommendations for books and films lately: I really enjoyed reading *The First Fifteen Lives of Harry August*, a great book about a man who is cursed to

be continually reborn as a baby after his death, but always retains the memories of his previous life experiences, which then shape each new life ahead. TV-wise, I have enjoyed *Race Across the World* on the BBC, and *The Durrells* on Netflix: it is set in sun-drenched Corfu and makes for some nice escapism at the moment.

Lockdown gave us an opportunity to slow down and to revisit memories. Could you describe an event from your career as a teacher which is particularly memorable to you?

Being effectively glued to a screen at the moment has made me reminisce about when I first started teaching in 2005. I don't remember receiving many emails at all, and most of my time was spent in the classroom, in the boarding house or on the sports pitches. I remember feeling over-worked at that time, but looking back it was quite a pure way of operating and such a contrast to what our days are like right now.

What annoyed you about school, as a pupil? Have you been trying to change it as a teacher?

I remember absolutely hating a lack of transparency when I was at school – I wasn't very good at accepting advice or instructions if I couldn't understand the rationale behind decisions. I have tried to be clear and fair with people since I became a teacher (but it's not always easy to achieve!).

If you had not become a teacher, what career would you have pursued? What was your "plan B"?

Both of my parents were teachers – I was originally adamant I would not follow them into the profession! I did not have great purpose as a young man and worked as a labourer on a building site and as a removals man after finishing university. The work was arduous at times, but two years of going to work at 6.30am and finishing the day physically exhausted allowed me to love and value a varied and stimulating career like teaching: it is a very special job to have.



Whom do you consider your biggest role model? Who had the greatest influence on you?

My dad was a big influence on me – he took me everywhere with him when I was little. I was the ball boy for the rugby team he played in and I used to be able to be around the school sports teams he coached, which I absolutely loved and learned so much from. When I was a teenager, we did not always get along perfectly, but as Mark Twain said, "When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years". Never truer words spoken!

Robert Persons Prize Essay Competition Junior Winner: Nikolai (Lower Grammar)

What can we learn from history at the moment?

There are various lessons that we can learn from history to enable us to grow morally and mentally.

My first example comes in the form of the Californian Gold Rush which began in 1848 and lasted till 1855. It began when some miners discovered gold nuggets, this immediately sparked a rush where over 300,000 people scrambled to get a piece of the gold. During this time people from the wide reaches of the USA and abroad settled in California. With the massive influx of people law and order was thin on the ground so locals took the law into their own hands: there were murders, robbing's and gun fights. As the settlers moved towards the Mississippi they were met by the natives who attempted to drive them off however the natives who had lived there for over 100 years were driven out by cattle drivers and gold searchers as far afield as Mexico. This teaches us that greed can sometimes override blatant sense. In the disregard of the Native Americans way of life, we need to be respectful of one another especially in different cultures. An overwhelming desire for more gold pushed the settler's regardless of the consequence to others lives.

My second example, is the French revolution during the 18th century. King Louis XVI and his queen Marie Antoinette were burning through the country's money, which the country could ill afford. This left the third estate that is the poorest of the country more vulnerable than they were already. The King held a meeting with all three states where nobody could agree on what was being proposed. This led to the storming of the Bastille prison on the 14th of July 1789 led by a group of the poorest workers, leading to the uprising of the French revolution. What this time in history teaches us that we must make the best effort to cater to all types of needs and care for others and not only thinking of ones needs and wants. To the extreme of wastefulness. When we gain that tunnel-vision of only fending for ourselves that leaves others in a volatile state. We must all work together in times of need and make the step in the right direction.

My final lesson from history comes from Physician John Snow. In 1832 there was a cholera outbreak in London. In one of the poorest areas of London where hygiene was at its worst this had a massive toll on the residents. John Snow decided to use his initiative and look into it. Many Scientists had come to the conclusion that it was down to poor hygiene however Snow wanted to make sure there were no other underlying reasons. On the street there was a pump where all residents obtained their water and Snow broke the handle off, to be inoperative and therefore no water could be had from it.

While offering residents an alternative stream of fresh clean water, thus resulting in no more people falling victim to cholera. This teaches us to use our initiative even when all hope is lost and to keep on trying new avenues to find a solution. Even when Snow was denied help from the government towards the people he kept trying with limited resources against all adversity caused by the government's disrespect and greed.

In conclusion it all boils down to greed. Where there is greed in the world there will always be that dark hold on somebody's heart and mind. These examples in history should really compel us to strive to have an attitude of compassion and inclusion and to not deem oneself higher than anybody else since there will always be a consequence.

Mr Burgess recommends...

Theatre online.

There has been so much Theatre offered, how do those below sound...?

- The free live streaming of Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals, [here](#).
- The National Theatre Home – a free offering of a different production every week, [here](#).
- Theatre Complicite are offering 'The Encounter' to watch for free online, [here](#). It's very good!
- World-renowned Dance company Rambert are offering free dance tuition/lessons online, [here](#).
- Mini-courses in a whole host of topics with new offerings each week at the moment from Future Learn, [here](#).
- Finally, 'Sight & Sound' magazine: a free sign-up to an international Film and Television magazine, which is pretty good, [here](#).



Amelia (Poetry) interviews Mrs Wood (More Librarian):

What's your favourite book published this year?

My hands-down favourite book this year has been *To Calais in Ordinary Time*, by James Meek. I was deeply moved and ultimately uplifted by it. I read it before we had any indication of the current pandemic, and James Meek wrote it long before that. So it's a major coincidence that the story, set in 1340s, is about a disparate group of folk travelling towards Calais as the Bubonic Plague forges a path through mainland Europe into England. I love the way Meek is able to plunge his readers into 14th century England, so much so that you can almost imagine you can smell it (not necessarily a good thing...).

If money and travel restrictions weren't an issue, where would you spend your summer holidays and what would you do?

I am not someone who enjoys lounging on a beach in blistering sun (emphasis on blistering!). I love food, people, culture and history, so I tend to prefer travelling to places where you can immerse yourself in the reality of people's lives and understand something about the place that way. At the same time, I am also a bit of a recluse and am passionate about wild isolated spaces, wildlife and nature. For about seven years, my sister worked for the British Antarctic Survey, managing various Research Stations in Antarctica. From her, I saw images of penguins, albatrosses, leopard and elephant seals, humpback whales and orca, as well as the fantastically beautiful landscape. So I guess I would really love the opportunity to see something of the South Polar Region.



What are the best and worst book-to-film adaptations you've ever watched?

I think *The Lord of The Rings* films, directed by Peter Jackson, have to be amongst the most notably successful adaptations. Peter Jackson and his team were similarly genuine fans of all the books. They worked very hard at capturing the essence of Tolkien's vision, the different cultures, languages and worlds in the films.

The English Patient (novel by Michael Ondaatje) was gorgeous, sumptuous. I loved the book's characters: especially Kip, the Sikh Bomb disposal expert in the British Army.

Worst? *The Golden Compass* film, with Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig: a film adaptation of *The Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman. It was dire! Thankfully, the new BBC adaptation shows just how wonderfully Pullman's glorious worlds can be interpreted on film.

What bit of positive news has made you smile recently?



There is a community vegetable swap on Wednesday. We don't get too many fresh veggies on the island. During the pandemic, where no one can get over to mainland... well, scurvy is no laughing matter! I'm counting days until we can swap some of our home-grown lettuce for some broad beans, hopefully.

Which teacher do you think would write the most interesting autobiography?

Mr and Mrs Callinicos. Just writing that brought a tear to my eye. Super lovely, always interesting people with grounded sense of humour and lots of amazing experiences and stories. I would read a series of autobiographical volumes of theirs all day long. I forgot how much I am missing my Stonyhurst friends...

Which fictional character do you see yourself the most in?

When I was younger I was looking to try and understand myself more and so I was quick to try to identify with characters I read. It's so important to have lots of different voices in literature (in storytelling generally, whatever the medium). Things are getting better with writers from a broad range of backgrounds and identities telling their stories and giving readers a rich range of characters and dialogues to engage with.

Perhaps someone like Helen Schlegel from *Howard's End*. She is an idealist, socialist, bohemian, flawed but independent. I also really engaged with Marian Halcombe from Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White*. She is similarly free-spirited; a bit of a prototype feminist; fiercely loyal. Of course Wilkie Collins made sure to describe her as ugly (even moustached, can you believe?). I discovered contemporary female writers as I got older and found more subtlety in the range of women's arcs.

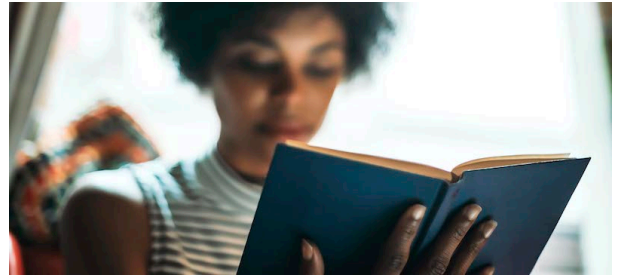
How can we encourage young people to read more?

Well, I tend to hold with the idea that if children are raised around people who read, where books are present and used, this will be a big help. Not everyone is, though, and so public and school libraries are massively important places to let children feel they can explore and express themselves.

Encouraging young people to read is as much about talking and creating as silence and reading. I really believe we need to stay alert to stories, to be enthusiastic about possibilities, to recognise aspects of ourselves in characters (good or bad or values we aspire to) to imagine what it would take to make us see or act differently.

Look at this current situation! Who could imagine that we would all need to leave school and go into isolation in the space of a week, for months on end? There will be so many stories happening right now.

When we are small, we play, create and imagine all the time. As we get older, some of that is jettisoned as we start living our own real stories – and so then reading becomes a joyful retreat. No matter where you are, or what is happening around you, you can escape into a different time and place, and find empathy with characters whose points of view or lifestyles you may never have before considered.



When you put down a good book and look back out at the reality around you – you should see things differently. It's like borrowing someone else's life experience, trying it out as a filter on your world view for a while.

What do you think about on long walks with your dog?

There's something about focussing on a distant horizon which helps you to stretch out bunched-up thoughts. Conversely, I also use photography on my walks to help me zoom in on specifics, like shapes and colours of rocks, trees, clouds, or on animals and birds and the minutiae of their lives. Most often, I get distracted because my daft dog is sitting in a muddy puddle waiting to have a stone thrown.

Describe a day in your life during quarantine.



I am usually woken up by cuckoos, which start calling just as sun comes up at about 5am. I read for a while. We are very lucky where we live on Isle of Mull (lack of veggies notwithstanding) because we have numerous walks: moors, beaches, lochs and rocky tors to explore. We have a good walk every day, and there is no one around so we don't see other people. I take lots and lots of photographs. The light constantly changes and this means taking a snap of the same view is always different and beautiful.

I have been playing around with writing a story and so generally mess about with that for a while in the afternoon. Our family has an Art Club each week, so a bit of drawing or painting happens. We play

lots of music, often favouring an evening trawling through records and reminiscing rather than watching television. We have been trying to grow some food (in sheer desperation for greens... people on some of these islands ate puffins and gannets in the dark days... I will let you know if we get to that stage!). We have been enjoying films: new and old favourites, and some tv series which we wouldn't normally have time for at school

What are the top three books of all time that you'd recommend to those in quarantine?

Well it is dreich outside today, so I am thinking great big rich stories drenched in character and atmosphere that you can go and live in for a while:

Our Mutual Friend – Charles Dickens

A Place of Greater Safety – Hilary Mantel

The Goldfinch – Donna Tart

The Lacuna – Barbara Kingsolver

Was that four? Sorry...!



Thank you very much, Mrs Wood.

Nikolai (Lower Grammar):

Poetry competition

Stonyhurst aims to make you the best version of yourself,
Through hard work, the JPP and a place on the shelf,
Through team games and group projects we grow with one another,
With after school activities galore, we bond together.

Aside from all the great things as I know there are many,
It all comes down to having people beside you worth more than a penny,
The playroom your teachers it all comes together,
To help you make a difference in the world and make it better.

Miss Livingstone recommends...

Small Great Things, by Jodi Picoult.

Jodi Picoult is one of my favourite authors. She takes challenging, current issues and writes exciting, plot-twisting fiction about them. *Small Great Things* is not a new novel, but it's one of my favourites and tackles the topic of white privilege and racism head on. An African American midwife is told she cannot treat the baby of a white supremacist by her supervisor – she's outraged. When the child dies on her shift, she's in serious trouble.... A great read for anyone in Syntax and above...



Hiba (Grammar):

The Eternal Flower

From our end comes their beginning,
Fragments of glory at Your feet.
A shooting star on the horizon,
As momentary and discreet.
Established together,
to be picked Alone.
Shedding muddied armour,
Heads tipped towards Your throne.
Pigments blended of evergreen,
Illuminated by Your humble crest.
Gifted from open heart to open palm,
Or left to beautify a dawn break dew.
A language for the eyes,
Translated to the heart.
A painting of Your Canvas,
The divine form of art.
An eclipse from eternity,
petals dance to the ground.
Soundlessly falling,
Succumbed to time's bound.

Ethan (Rhetoric) interviews Mr Callinicos (Classics):

Are you a spy?

I'd be a very bad spy because I'm very indiscreet, I always let people's secrets out.

Mrs. Callinicos has started hosting a cooking show; do you get involved in the cooking as well?



I used to cook a lot. I grew up around cooking. When I was young, my parents ran a hotel and my father was a very good cook, and he taught me stuff. I didn't really have much scope for doing it when I was young but then when I was a student, I got a lot of experience. Because in student houses I couldn't bear the kind of cooking everybody did, living on baked beans all the time, so I said, "Alright, the deal is you give me money, I'll buy

food, I'll cook meals but you guys have to do the washing up..." That didn't work at all because I did all the cooking and they never did the washing up, but I tried to vary the food and be quite creative and I also started exploring the different nationalities, French cooking, stuff like that. I did work as a cook for a while, I worked in hotels after university so I was around cooking and doing cooking quite a lot. I used to cook quite a lot until fairly recently; there are too many cooks in my family. All my daughters cook, my eldest son is an excellent cook, and my youngest son is learning... We're all very greedy, basically: we like nice food, so we all learned to cook properly. I'm basically superfluous in the cooking... but I give my opinions.

So, you've retired from cooking and become a critic?

It's possible that when my wife and I move to Tashkent I'll have to take it up again: I won't be breadwinner anymore unless I find a job there, so I might be at home preparing food.

Was that Tashkent did you say? Isn't that in Uzbekistan?

It is. You're very up to date with your '-stans'. Yes, there is an English school there. It's exciting! We like the idea of travelling around: neither of us are from Lancashire, or England for that matter, and we have no dependents anymore, so we thought let's go abroad, see a little bit of the world. I never would have thought I would end up in central Asia in one



of the old Soviet satellite states. It should be really interesting: it's interesting from an historical point of view, because central Asia and the Caucasus is where the Indo-Europeans came from.

And for you – as a Classics teacher of course – Alexander's conquests.

In the footsteps of Alexander, exactly.

It will be an adventure.

It will be a great adventure... It might be dreadful, but it's an experience. We haven't been able to do things like that for many years.

You have been at Stonyhurst for a long time, haven't you?

Well, not as long as some. I came in 2002, so that's 17 years, nearly 18. I've enjoyed working here. I love the College. I had a fairly strong connection with the school anyway because the school I went to in Zimbabwe, or Rhodesia as it was then, was one of the Stonyhurst spawns. You know, they went all over the empire from Stonyhurst and founded schools like Riverview and St. Aloysius in Sydney; they also founded St. George's in Salisbury as it was then – so I went to Jesuit school. Stonyhurst was a common name among us. I was brought up by Jesuit priests, just like Stonyhurst boys were – and some of them were the same priests, because they moved around. I've known Jesuits forever and it made sense to come here. I got involved with the Collections and learned about the history of the school and the things we have, the history of English Catholics. My family were English Catholics, so it was very much part of my story, and it all made sense in some weird narrative way. There were lots of connections with Zimbabwe as well: when we first came here, when Zimbabwe collapsed, my two eldest came into Poetry and in that year were 12 other Zimbabweans. I got to know them quite well – so there were those common links which made it natural to be here.

Is there a tradition Stonyhurst doesn't do anymore which you would like to be brought back?

I think what was quite nice was the Wanderers weekend at the beginning of the summer term, which was when O.S. came for a weekend to play various sports against the school. Obviously, they couldn't play rugby but they would have their own little 7s tournament amongst themselves. There would be a cricket match, a golf match, a tennis match, a hockey match or a netball match, and that appears to have gone now but I think that's a bit of a shame, I liked that.

What is your favourite event at Stonyhurst?

The event I really enjoyed, because I was involved in it for so long, I suppose, was the Poetry Banquet: I liked the preparation for it. It's a real watershed in the year for Poetry somehow, you're

all getting to know each other and with the banquet everybody gelled. It would bring out people's potential. You'd get people you didn't really know being the head waiter or having a little band and that meant they could contribute to it in a way nobody knew they were capable of doing. It was a really nice event. You saw people coming out of their shells and being proud that they had achieved something – and at the same time, it produces money for the children's week. Obviously, I enjoyed the Essay Society as well but that was regular and not really an event.

You're well-travelled – do you have a favourite place to visit?

It would be Zimbabwe if I could still go there. I'm very fond of Greece and go there every summer for a month. I have a little house on Ithaka (the island I come from). We've been going there ever since we've been in England; my children think of it as home. We really love it there. We look forward to going there every year. We'd go for the whole of the summer if we could. I love Italy as well: Rome and Florence particularly. I don't travel enough in Italy, really: if I had more time, I would.

Finally, any book or film recommendations?

Ok, cultural pursuits, I would always recommend *The Lord of the Rings* if you haven't read it; and some of the great novels of Dickens. Dickens is a great writer and very enjoyable. C.S. Lewis wrote a cosmic trilogy which not many people know about, but it is fantastic. Films... I'm a great fan of very old films. In my childhood, I spent a lot of time going to cinemas and watching old movies. The greatest movie ever made is *The Searchers*, a John Wayne western made in the 50s, just the most stunning movie ever. There's a very good film made in the 1940s just after the war, called *The Best Years of our Lives*, which is about three American servicemen coming home after the war and



finding the difficulty of settling back into life. *One flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* is a wonderful movie. So is *The Deer Hunter*, also made in the 70s.

Thank you very much, Mr Callinicos.

Olivia recommends...



Polish culture.

Lockdown deprived us of the opportunity to travel, but common access to culture allows us to visit the most faraway places without leaving our house. I can imagine that many of you dream of going to picturesque Indonesia or the sunny Bahamas now,

but has anyone ever thought of visiting Poland? I can assure you that the culture of this seemingly dull country is worthy of your attention.

If you enjoy reading, the work of Olga Tokarczuk, a Polish writer, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 is definitely worth recommending. In case you are in need of a good movie, watch “Cold War”, the Oscar-nominated historical drama, a truly exceptional love story in a communist climate, considered a pure masterpiece by many. For those who enjoy trying foods from around the globe, Poland has plenty to offer, literally. Try making *pierogi ruskie* (ruthenian pierogi), Polish potato-cheese dumplings which Russians have never even heard of, *barszcz ukraiński* (Ukrainian style borscht), traditional Polish beet soup or *ryba po grecku* (Greek-style fish), which bears no resemblance to any Greek recipe, but tastes great, not only at Christmas time (which it is originally intended for).

I highly encourage you all to go on an online trip to the country of amber and Wawel Dragon. *Szerokiej drogi!*

Robert Persons Prize Essay Competition Intermediate Winner: Dilip (Grammar)

What lessons can we draw from science at the moment?

Science has given us R.

Stress, pressure and anxiety radiating from research centres. A deafening silence in hospitals. Lonely patients dying. But why has it come to this? Why we were not prepared for this killer? The answers to these questions are simply unacceptable, especially when considering the scale of unfortunate fatalities we are witnessing.

We have seen numerous horrendous pandemics in history including the infamous Black Death when nearly two hundred million deaths happened. The twentieth and twenty-first century has seen its share of pandemics of which the 1918 influenza pandemic led to over fifty million deaths across the world. AIDS, swine flu, SARS, MERS, Ebola, Zika. The list goes on. The coronavirus was discovered in animals in the 1930's and human strains were discovered in 1964. This raises questions as to what the science were doing with regards to a future cure of this invisible killer. Scientists reported that SARS and MERS are from the same family of coronavirus as COVID-19; this should have rang alarm bells for them. It should not have been ignored.

As a country, we are prepared for so many potential threats that may or may not appear: extreme weather, terrorist attacks, strikes, cyber-attacks. Sadly, we were not prepared for COVID-19 and people have been left with suffering and pain and panic. We heard how our Prime Minister was fighting for his life; he proved that the virus does not discriminate. We are all the same and he was one of the lucky ones whereas so many people were not so lucky.

However, the irony is in the daily briefings we hear where Government officials state that they are being "guided by the science". The science has given us R but has the science itself been let down? The pressure on scientists globally is unbearable because now, it is a race against time to produce the miracle cure. A magnifying lens stares down at Oxford University as it collects data from its phase one clinical trial. Only after this will they be able to continue to test the vaccine on 'at risk' patients. Hundreds of clinical trials are now ongoing across the globe using HIV drugs, malaria tablets and anti-cancer drugs. We need a treatment and we need it fast. This is a race against time. COVID-19 has caused global havoc and we have no treatment.

Were we simply too complacent?

On March 11th 2020, the World Health Organisation officially declared COVID-19 a pandemic. We hear 'stay at home' a million times a day. We watch and listen feeling the fear emitted from our screens.

NHS staff are working innumerable hours, sleeping in cars, self-isolating from their families and most importantly, risking their lives without sufficient personal protective equipment. People having Zoom parties versus those risking their lives on the frontline. People fighting for toilet roll versus people fighting for their lives. Sick patients across the world all lifeless, helpless and hopeless. 32692 UK deaths on the twelfth of May 2020. Think over this colossal number again and again.

The lessons we can draw from the science today are that science needs to be prioritised. We are heavily relying on research and the skills of the scientists to help us. Laboratories and hospitals are sighing as the days turn into weeks and the weeks turn into months. It is too late now to embrace 2010's national security strategy of considering the "possible impacts of a future pandemic" because it is here and it arrived like a thunderbolt.

Whilst we wait for a vaccine we must thank the science for giving us R and guiding us how to reduce the rate of infection by following the message: "stay alert, control the virus, save lives". Science needs our support, just as much as we need the science.

References:

Number of deaths of COVID-19: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-daily-deaths/>

Black death, HIV, swine flu and influenza pandemic information:

<https://www.livescience.com/worst-epidemics-and-pandemics-in-history.html>

Oxford University Trials: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2020-04-23-oxford-covid-19-vaccine-begins-human-trial-stage>

Cian interviews Mrs Hargreaves (School Office):

Are you a spy?

One couldn't possibly divulge that information.... [Aha! – Editor]

Who is your hero?

My parents: although I'm a parent myself, I still go to them for help and advice on a regular basis and I have the utmost respect for them!

When did you come to the school?

I came to Stonyhurst 4 years ago. I started in June, when the College was winding down for the summer and most of Syntax and Rhetoric had already left, so I didn't get the full Stonyhurst experience until September when all year groups returned, and then it was full on!

What have you learnt from Stonyhurst?

Before coming to Stonyhurst, I knew very little about the boarding side of school life. During my time here, I have learnt the benefits and valuable life skills that boarders gain from being part of this community. It's lovely to see lifetime friendships started here, and it is truly a bond like no other, which stays with them long after leaving school. It's something I think I would have loved as a young girl.

When you were a child, what did you want to become?

From as long as I can remember I wanted to be an actress, and I did achieve this after spending 3 years training at Rose Bruford College of Speech & Drama: for years afterwards I was a working actress. I even had a few cameo roles on TV, including *Emmerdale* and a program called *Children's Ward*, which most of you won't remember as you're far too young!

What is your role at Stonyhurst?

Predominantly, I am responsible for all the travel requirements for all boarders to and from Stonyhurst. I also assist Mr Sharples with administration tasks, cover registration, reception and do lots of other day to day things which come under the title of school office! It's always busy! I have been a boarding assistant in three different girls houses, which has allowed me to get to know pupils better. I love hearing their stories from home, and, in the absence of their family, I hope I can offer some comfort to them if needed.

Out of the countries the students have come from, where would you choose to visit, and why?

Hmm, probably Italy. I've never been and would love to go as I've heard so much about it – and the flight is not too long either!

What do you like to do in your free time?

I try to spend as much of my free time as I can with my daughter Poppy, who is 14, as she is growing up fast! I enjoy the simple things like catching up with family and friends; and you can't beat a good book! Last year, I ran two marathons in three weeks, so I guess you can include running, but I still find it very hard so I wouldn't say I'm a dedicated runner!

If you had one wish, what would it be?

Ooh, I'd like to go back in time and be part of the silver screen in Hollywood! I would have loved to work alongside Judy Garland, Greta Garbo, Bette Davis and Doris Day! I adore watching an old movie and can switch off from the modern world for a short time.

What is your favourite movie?

That is so hard because of different genres, and I love so many movies – but if I had to choose just one, it would probably be *The Wizard of Oz*. It holds so much nostalgia for me from when I was a child. I remember it used to come on each year at Christmas and as we only had one TV in our house and five inhabitants, I used to circle it in the paper so everyone knew I was watching it. By the time I was older, I knew every word and song.



How have you dealt with the lockdown?

I've tried to have a routine where possible. I run or walk most days to and from my parents' home as they are "shielding," so I run errands for them where needed. On the sunnier days we sit in the garden and chat (at a safe distance of course), otherwise it's a conversation through the window! Like most parents I have also become a temporary teacher assisting my daughter with her home-schooling. I've found some subjects challenging but very much enjoyed English – and she tells me I'd be a good teacher!!

Thank you very much, Mrs Hargreaves.

The Wager family:

My Question of Religion

Planted and raised from the soil of palm against palm
psalms of ever defended devotion, promoted reverence and praise
sprung heavy-weighted on the brow of budding creation.

Down in the Beqaa Valley stands Janus in pursuit of a hostage.
Set between the holy land and the heathen, he drowns you
in the oceanic illusion; where black-ink quills drip water-colour fusions amongst gold clouds.

The growing stem, now beaten and bruised, clings to the sanity of a distant nightingale hum.
Deceitful, she lives in a new reality; with new distorted senses
of youthful understanding, she floats, alien to all she thought she identified with.

An angel devil sewn together, a united nation of dystopia or utopia
where logic frames the mind?
Blooming to adolescence of liberated choice yet smothered in a haze of reality
...what can be trusted?

To look the devil in the eye, yet to lose the faith?
Logic crumbles into twisted dreams or truth?
The mirrored figurine unrecognisable yet familiar as red horns puncture the soul through the iris.

Using you for puppetry he plays the game of trickery with ivy vines that blind your certainty.
Yet blame remains on her as she cries out
and longs to be washed of the sin on her pierced, scarred canvas.

A dream of unreachable blue lit smiling frauds. Empty the plate.
With the hovering haunt of self-comparison, I drink down the ocean of mermaids.
And drown.

Through the tunnelled pupils of religion and humanity, I lie exposed in the skin of an avatar.
A belief undermining all naïve morals, of self-realisation and revealed intuition.
The diversity ripped to shreds in taunted discrimination.

Dazed as gazing through her retina a waterfall of rainbow drips
down each cheek. The division of emotion, the futility of building the wall of defence.
She lies motionless as conflict battles her every nerve and atom.

Taught agape yet imposed a guideline of man's narrow-minded understanding.
Told the agony of the left glance in the race forces self-destruction in momentary distraction.
Stay in lane.

A glance into the stop-motion poison of glass-cased scrolls.
Where each thumb press splits into open wounds.
The magicians of standards wave their hypnosis, to transfix sockets on hallucinations that become
believed.

Sucked into a riptide of the craving for wonderland.
Lust for pixy dust images. Go under the knife.
All for the appreciation of the fixation of man's creation.

Mrs Wood recommends...

Speech and drama.

Some recommendations for those interested in:
spoken word, acting, drama, play-writing, creative
writing, theatre, language, literature, ethics, history,
speeches, public speaking.



- Theatre and film greats deliver some harrowing, thought-provoking pieces to camera: a fantabulous resource of great discussion pieces, research and essay inspiration at The Almeida Theatre, [here](#).
- Over 100 professional actors give speeches from a range of plays (historical and modern) at [The Monobox](#).
- The Ancient Mariner Big Read with a host of actors, singers, authors, etc reading a few stanzas each, [here](#).
- The Jermyn Street Theatre Sonnet Project... All of Shakespeare's sonnets, read by thespians great and small, [here](#).
- Partnership of Equals Conference, Mulberry Schools Trust – directors, actors and school pupils discussing gender in Shakespeare and particularly *Macbeth*, [here](#).



Who was Robert Persons?

During his lifetime, the Jesuit priest Robert Persons (1546-1610) was arguably the leading figure fighting for the re-establishment of Catholicism in England. Whilst his colleague Edmund Campion may now be better known, it was Persons' tireless efforts which kept the Jesuit mission alive during the difficult days of Elizabeth's reign.

Robert Persons was born on 24 June 1546 at Nether Stowey, Somerset. He studied at St. Mary's Hall, Oxford, until 1574. He entered the Society at St. Paul's, Rome, on 3 July 1575 and was ordained priest in 1578. Persons joined the 1580 mission to England, arriving disguised as a cholera-ridden soldier. Reunited with Edmund Campion at Uxbridge, the pair set up a clandestine printing press refuting the teachings of the Anglican church and denouncing the Protestant faith. Campion was arrested in 1581 and Persons smuggled out of England to Rome where he continued his writing.

The rope that tied Edmund Campion to the wicker hurdle on which he was dragged from the Tower of London to Tyburn and his execution on 1 December 1581 was rescued by an unknown Catholic and smuggled out of England to Rome, where it was presented to Robert Persons. The rope, which is now part of the Stonyhurst Collections, clearly meant a great deal to him: he wore it around his waist until he died in 1610. From that point it has been associated with St Omers College and thereafter with Stonyhurst. It has played an important symbolic part in Campion Day Masses at the College for many years.

After Campion's death, Persons founded a school for English boys at Eu in north-east France, supported by Henry I, Duke of Guise. He continued the work of Cardinal Allen in establishing educational institutions on the continent to aid the survival of English Catholicism. Persons was professed in Rome on 7 May 1587 and then sent to Spain, where he gained Phillip II's favour, enabling him to open seminaries in Valladolid, Seville and Madrid. St Omers College was established in 1594 with boys transferred from Eu. Persons became Rector of the English College, Rome, in 1597, and served there until his death on 15 April 1610.





The 2010 anniversary portrait of Persons, paid for by Rhetoric of that year, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of his death. Persons is shown with Campion's rope twisted around his wrist, and with the medieval Henry VII vestments in the background. (Artist: Lynn Kroll) @Stonyhurst Collections by permission of the Governors of Stonyhurst College.

L.D.S.