



STONYHURST  
ANYWHERE

THURSDAY 4 FEBRUARY

# From the Headmaster

This week we reflected on the Parable of the Talents from the New Testament. The Master of a house goes on a long journey. Whilst he is away he entrusts his property to his three servants. To his first servant he gives five talents. He gives two talents to his second servant. To the third servant he gives simply one talent. When the Master returns from his journey he demands to see what his servants have done with the talents he has given them.

The first two servants have invested wisely and have grown the original and multiplied the talents. The Master is pleased with them and calls them 'faithful servants'. However, the third servant has buried his talent and just returns the original to his angry Master.

The parable is not about investment strategy, but about stewardship. The word 'talent' has the dual meaning of either money or skills and attributes. This week I hosted receptions in Mexico and Spain (without leaving the Ribble Valley!) and explained our motto Quant Je Puis to the families present in terms of stewardship. The responsibility of each one of us to make the most of the gifts and talents given to us by God. Even to be a little adventurous and take a risk with them. Whatever they are.

There are some amazing talents within the College community: a British tennis champion who has just won a scholarship to the United States; a Welsh international hockey player; a Gibraltar international netball player; a number of pupils who are ranked nationally for show jumping and dressage; countless representatives of all the major Stonyhurst sports at County and Club level (with the addition of ice hockey); a musician with a record deal; a dancer who has worked with the English National Ballet; a member of the National Youth Choir; an actor who was in the film Lord of the Rings; a racing car driver who competes in National Championships; pupils who are learning to fly; a winner of a national engineering competition and numerous winners of national academic medals for Mathematics and science. This is just a selection.

Jesuit schools are all about excellence. Of course, we want our children and young people to reach for the stars and achieve their dreams and ambitions. The phrase of St Ignatius to 'set the world on fire' is well known at Stonyhurst.

But Jesuit schools are also about being big hearted. The Parable of the Talents can also refer to the the mercy of God or to that greatest gift of love.

Some have a gift for extending friendship, for kindness, for being good listeners, for compassion or for being generous.

This week we reflect on how we can develop our 'big hearted' gifts to each other - even when we cannot all be together.

Best wishes

*John Browne*



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Wellbeing Workouts

We believe that in these strange and challenging times we have an opportunity to try new things, challenge ourselves, support our community and your family whilst growing self-esteem, confidence and mindset.

The 'Wellbeing Workout' is a series of daily and weekly challenges that pupils can tackle, evidence and share when they are reunited at school. The 'Wellbeing Workout' suggests a range of activities for pupils to try during this half-term. There are suggested activities on the Wellbeing platform, and pupils can also invent their own.

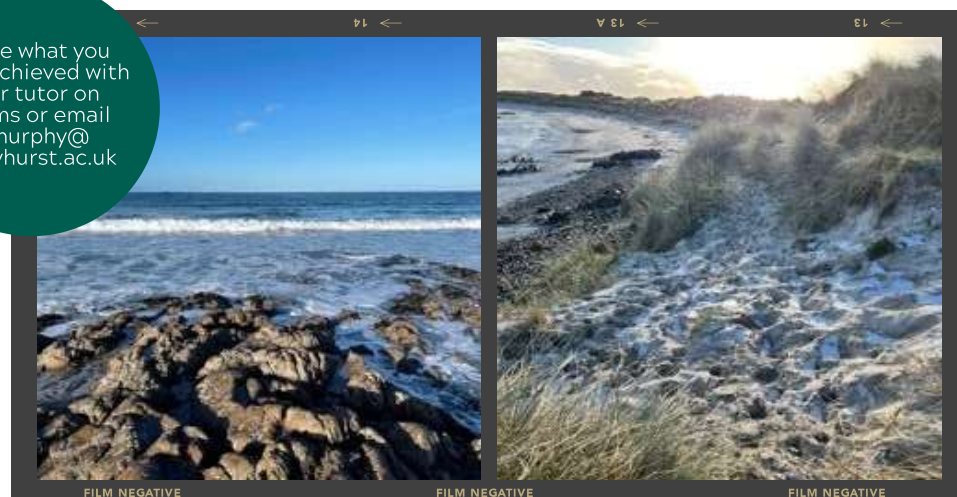
The workout is split into four main categories:

1. Getting creative
2. Learning something new
3. Contributing to your community/family life
4. Wellbeing and health

It is hugely important that we all take care of ourselves during this difficult time. This set of tasks is designed to get pupils away from their screens and having some fun. Pupils taking part can document their 'Wellbeing Workouts' by taking photographs, filming videos or writing blog posts, whichever they feel most comfortable with.

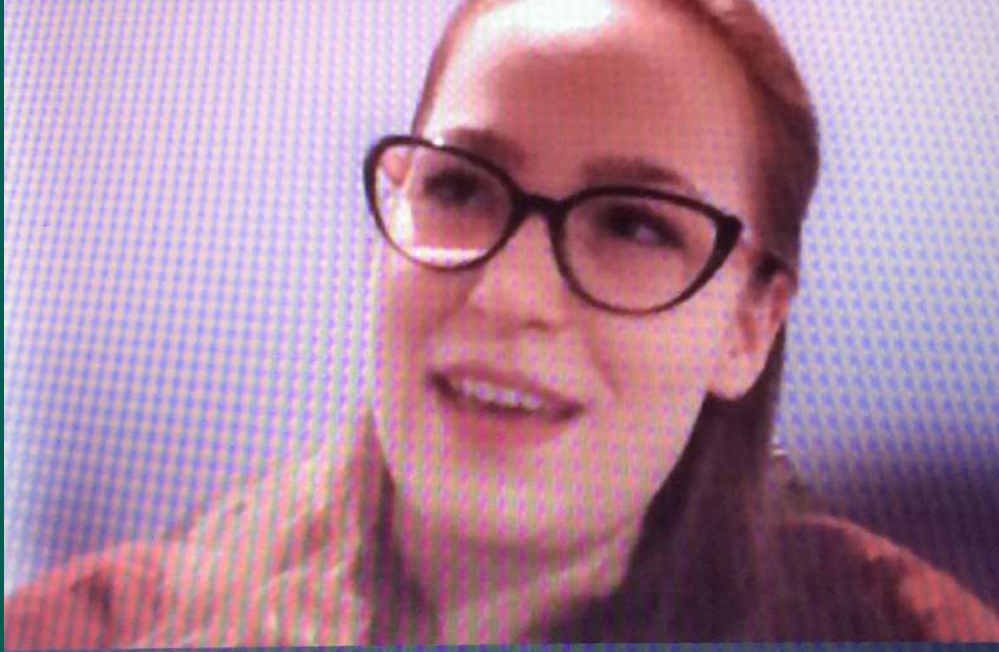
For every task that is completed, pupils must send evidence to their Tutor or to Mrs Murphy. Once submitted, they will be awarded points, and points mean prizes! Prizes will be awarded for those who achieve 100 points or more.

Share what you  
have achieved with  
your tutor on  
Teams or email  
t.murphy@  
stonyhurst.ac.uk



Thanks to Magnus, one of our Lower Grammarians, for submitting photographs of his daily walk. He has now completed four tasks and achieved a total of 25 points - well done Magnus!

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Zofia Witkowska OS16 Gives Talk about her Experience of Medical Studies at UCL

Zofia completed her IB at Stonyhurst and is currently a 5th year medical student at UCL.


Zofia joined the Waterton Society, meeting via Teams, to talk to pupils in Syntax and Higher Line about her experiences as a Medical student. Syntax and Higher Line pupils asked her questions relating to all aspects of the application process and how the course is taught at UCL. Zofia was able to provide valuable suggestions for preparing to take the BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) and University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT).

Zofia highlighted that the way in which Medicine is taught varies quite substantially across different universities, ranging from a very scientific, research-based approach, to a greater emphasis on clinical practical experience, encouraging students to research different approaches to inform their applications. Zofia has also taken the opportunity to complete an intercalated degree in Global Health. She was very honest about the challenges presented by the degree, in terms of the intense workload, but it was heartening to hear that she remains fully dedicated to becoming a Doctor and that she gains genuine fulfilment interacting with patients, particularly when she is able to have a positive impact on their lives.

In the last few weeks, continuing to embrace the Stonyhurst school motto, Zofia has been volunteering to support Nurses and Doctors treating Covid-19 patients during the current second wave of the pandemic, as numbers of patients requiring hospital treatment soared. Zofia was cautiously optimistic that the most recent data suggest the number of patients in hospitals is beginning to fall.

We would like to thank Zofia for taking time to talk to our pupils and we look forward to hearing from her again soon.

**Sarah Haworth**  
Head of Biology



Learn more about the  
IB programme at  
Stonyhurst [here](#).



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Charlie Peters OS

On Thursday 28th January, Mr Charlie Peters (OS) gave this term's Scholars' Lecture. He addressed Stonyhurst's scholars, and other interested pupils, live from LA: in a video meeting via the Scholars' Team. Charlie spoke to us on the subject of narrative and the power of story-telling. As an experienced and successful playwright, Hollywood screenwriter and short-story writer, he was able to draw on a wealth of experience, thought and anecdotes to inform and amuse the audience. His thought-provoking talk included reflections on the 'uniquely human' nature of story-telling, and the ways it has changed over time - and continues to change now. His tips for dramatic writing included an exhortation to remember that the characters must want the film they are in to end, as soon as possible; that actually you don't have to follow the hoary old instruction to 'write what you know,' because whatever you write will carry yourself and your emotions; and an exploration of how Shakespeare's sonnets are like atom bombs. At the end of his lecture, Charlie kindly took questions from the aspiring screenwriters in the audience. We are very grateful to him for giving us his time, and for Miss Wheeler for helping to arrange the event.

Mr Charlie Peters is one of eight Stonyhurst alumnus entries in the authoritative, if certainly not definitive, Internet Movie Database (IMDB). His interest in drama dates back at least as far as his days at the College: 'Morality!', the musical he co-wrote with the then Head of Drama, Melvyn Morrow, went to the Edinburgh Festival and was subsequently staged off-Broadway. Indeed, he was among a golden generation of thespians and dramatists at Stonyhurst, counting among his peers Hugh Woolridge, Edward Duke and Charles Sturridge.

On leaving Stonyhurst, Charlie returned to his native USA and studied theatre and anthropology at the University of Connecticut: he observes that these disciplines are more closely linked than one might at first glance imagine. He pursued playwriting academically and practically upon graduation, via a Shubert Fellowship at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, before returning to New York City, where he wrote plays which were snapped up for production in that city's famous theatres.

In 1978, Columbia Pictures flew Charlie to Los Angeles, where he remains happily under the Californian sun - whilst admitting to the occasional pang for the Ribbles Valley's verdant pastures. Productions of his work have been numerous and include 'Paternity', starring Burt Reynolds; 'Three Men and a Little Lady' - which used Stonyhurst as a location for filming scenes set in a girls' private school; 'Blame it on Rio', with Michael Caine; and 'My One and Only', for which Renee Zellweger won the Best Actress Award at the Berlin Festival. Charlie has directed his own films, including 'Passed Away', with Bob Hoskins, Maureen Stapleton and Francis McDormand; and 'Music from Another Room', with Jude Law and Brenda Blethyn. In addition to his own original works, he has adapted for film those of others, such as Jill Ciment's novella 'Heroic Measures', which was made into the 2015 film '5 Flights Up', with Morgan Freeman and Diane Keaton. He also holds a reputation as a guru of staff-writing teams, saving many a Disney motion picture in need of script rescue work.

Charlie has also written and had published several short stories, including 'Danny Kowalski', which was selected by Paul Auster for inclusion in a compilation called 'I Thought My Father Was God', read by Art Spiegelman on PBS, and, to his mild chagrin, edited by 'Readers Digest' before publication in their organ.

We hope to welcome him back to Stonyhurst for a visit when circumstances permit.

The image above shows Charlie in his schooldays at Stonyhurst as Jerry (on the left), in a pupil production of Zoo Story for the Academy Room stage, which was directed by Charles Sturridge.

# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Photographic Analysis - Art

### The past and the present of Blackpool

Here is an opinion-based extract in which I look, in depth, into one specific photograph which I attempted to interpret.

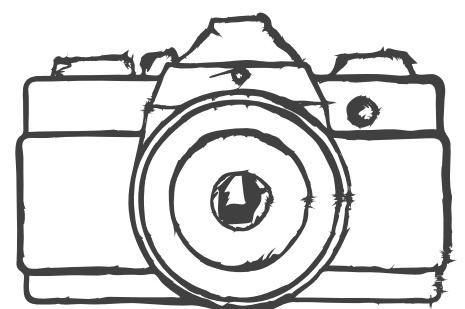
This photo is a contradiction of the youthful, tourism filled noise of 1950's Blackpool to the silence and tranquility of an elderly man observing all of this in silence. Immediately this image makes me think about reflection, something which the figure appears to be practicing along with being at peace with not only yourself but the busy and chaotic world around you. I imagine the figure in this photo to have found this peace. The fact this man is elderly shows knowledge and wisdom which could reflect the idea that at some points in our lives we must step away from our busy surroundings and observe, giving us the ability to understand our sense of place (in this case shown by the Blackpool Tower) and reflect.

With a calm, tranquil and peaceful mood in the foreground juxtaposed to the chaotic, loud and lively mood in the background this moment of time captured by the photographer is full of contradictions and simply opposites. To name some: young and old, placidity and chaos, noise and silence and in the simplest terms the past and the present.

The context behind this image could be endless but as a viewer we are able to understand some key elements. This image was taken in the 1950's and my estimate to how old the man was would be 60, therefore we can understand he has lived through both the first World War, ending in 1918, and the second World War concluding in 1945. As this figure has lived through two world wars this adds to the idea of wisdom and life experience, allowing the viewer to understand more about why he is reflecting on the beach in Blackpool alone and in silence. With the horrors of war embedded in the nameless man's mind it brings great happiness and joy to me personally to see this man in what appears to be a peaceful state.

Looking at this image on such an intimate and in depth scale has allowed me to appreciate this image not only as a photograph but as irreplaceable Art. I hope to see John Gay's work in a public art Gallery in the future so more people can not only view but attempt to understand his work.

Oliver - Rhetoric



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Supercharging our Teaching



Last term we introduced Century Tech, used to help support learning in maths, English and science. This platform goes from strength to strength. Last month alone our pupils completed 47,500 questions. The platform adapts to the child's learning and either moves them on to the next section or goes back to help correct mistakes. As well as being a fantastic tool to encourage pupils to develop into independent learners, it provides detailed information on pupil progress for teachers so that they can make the most of lesson time.



Watch Ella's monologue [here](#).

## Drama Monologues

As part the Drama Department's weekly co-curricular Monologue Challenge, please see the latest entry below, featuring one of our Lower Grammarians and Drama Scholars, Ella.

Ella has chosen an excerpt from 'Hard Times' by Charles Dickens. Ella is playing the part of Sissy Jupe, an adolescent whose father vanished one night. In this scene, Sissy is talking with Miss Louisa Gradgrind, part of her adopted family. Sissy is describing her past and the events that led up to her father's tragic disappearance.

Fantastic work Ella, we can't wait to see the next entry into the Monologue Challenge!



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



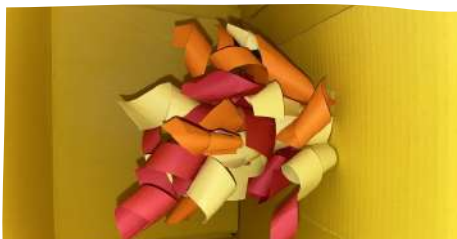
GEORGE

## Iconic Sculptures

This term, Rudiments pupils have studied iconic sculptures and looked at how paper can be used to make sculptural forms. You can see how they've also considered using light and mirrors to enhance their work!



KATRINA



SOPHIE



JOE



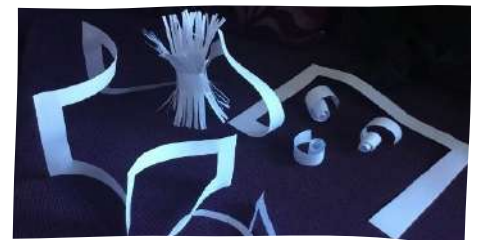
OLIVER



JAKE



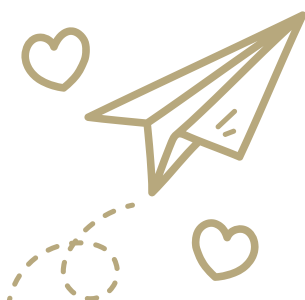
AMELIE



ALFIE



OLIVER

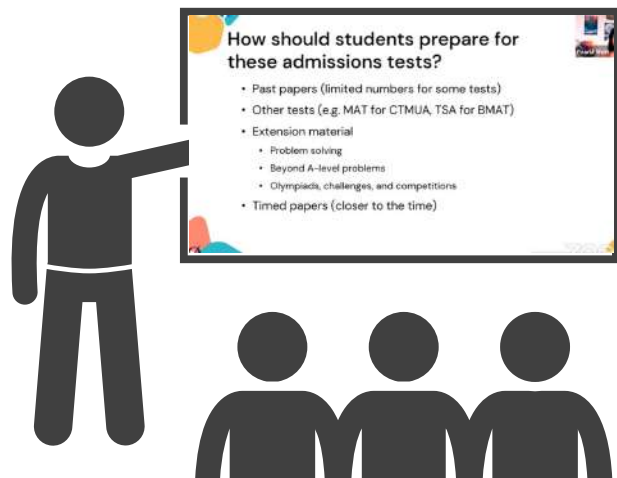


# PERSPECTIVES AND HORIZONS



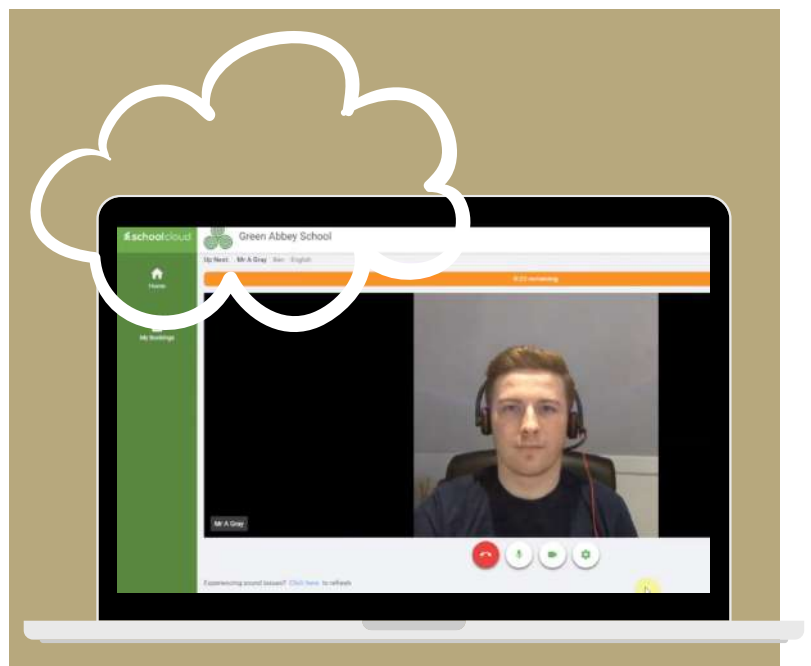
## Oxbridge Preparation Continues

This Friday sees us bring advice from our OS Oxbridge graduates and staff members to the future crop of applicants for Oxford, Cambridge and other highly competitive universities. Our in-house video of help and advice from a number of recent graduates will help set the scene for those who will make their applications next year. Mrs Allanson, our Oxbridge and Elite Universities tutor, also attended an online webinar this week to ensure our candidates have the most up to date information possible.



## School Cloud

In order to make sure that the key events of the school year continue as far as is possible, Mr Allanson has organised our Syntax Parents' Consultations this weekend with the use of video presentations and our new system to host one-to-one calls between staff and parents. We hope to continue to use this technology into the post-COVID world so that all parents can have the best feedback from staff on pupil progress.





# PERSPECTIVES AND HORIZONS



## Stonyhurst Enterprises is Delighted to Launch its New Website

Today, we are excited to share with you the launch of our newly designed website. Accessible to all audiences, the new website is faster, informative, easier to navigate and more user-friendly.

With more than 30 years' experience of hosting external events, we pride ourselves on delivering a high standard of service, ensuring every event runs smoothly, and that the magnificence of the Grade 1 listed building is matched by the level of service we provide. The new design, showcasing the magnificence of the Estate, reflects our aim to celebrate Stonyhurst as an outstanding venue, hosting a multitude of events, letting and facility hire throughout the year. It important to us to make information regarding the venue, services, and facilities easily accessible for our visitors and clients.

Amongst the new features and images, the site contains detailed information regarding all aspects of Enterprises activity, and the improved and integrated enquiry and booking functionality aims to improve communication with our visitors.

The new website gives better access to what we have to offer, who we are, and how we can make your visit to Stonyhurst one to remember. The website is a portrayal of us as a company and as a team, and we very much look forward to the future and welcoming visitors back to Stonyhurst.

We would also like to thank the dedicated team at Media Village who worked with us to develop the design and build the website.

Visit us [here](#).

Thank you!  
**Enterprises Team**



# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## Stonyhurst Holy Week Retreat

We are delighted to invite you to the 2021 Virtual Holy Week Retreat, from Thursday 1st April to Sunday 4th April.

As you will appreciate, Covid-19 restrictions mean that we sadly cannot welcome any Retreatants to join us on-site for the Retreat this year. We are therefore offering a fully online programme for the weekend. Though we are greatly disappointed not to be able to welcome you in person, the Retreat is a vital component of the College's annual calendar and we were determined to see it go ahead this year, despite the challenges.

We intend to deliver as similar a programme as possible to our normal, on-site offering. As usual, we will have Jesuit and lay speakers helping us to reflect on Easter themes and the Catholic mission in our world today; individual Spiritual Direction will be offered; young people and children will be able to access activity sessions and times of prayer, and our Triduum will be streamed live from St Peter's Church, with musical offerings from our pupil choir.

To find out more and register your interest, please [click here](#).



Please note, this photograph was taken pre-COVID.

FAITH THAT  
DOES  
JUSTICE

A BRIEF PRAYER SERVICE FOR

# CANDLEMAS

## Candlemas

On Tuesday we celebrated the Feast of Candlemas (also known as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.)

This is the day when the baby Jesus was presented in the Temple, according to Jewish custom, and announced as a light to the world.

On this day, it is customary to take candles to Church to be blessed. As we were unable to gather for this, pupils were invited to light a candle in their home and to join in this 5 minute reflective prayer service:

[Join here.](#)





# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## Syntax Charitable Endeavours Need Your Help

The Syntax Charitable Endeavours Group are working together to help children and families who may be struggling to access remote education during COVID-19.

With the announcement regarding school closures continuing until at least the 8th March, this means that for many families there may be difficulties in sharing a family device and as a consequence children may be missing vital remote learning opportunities.

We are working with a local charity based in Sabden called '[Tech 4 Kids](#)' and are hoping to assist them by providing laptops, computers and tablets. This is clearly a worthy and purposeful charity, and as a community we hope that we can support them during this crisis.

As a Stonyhurst community we can be men and women for others and ensure that others have equal opportunities to learn as we do.

Do you have devices that are no longer required and could be donated to help this worthwhile cause? We are happy to accept laptops, tablets and computers that are in reasonable condition. 'Tech 4 All Kids' campaign will securely wipe and repair them before offering them to local schools who have pupils struggling to work from home due to the lack of IT equipment.

Please leave any items at Stonyhurst reception. Any support would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for helping to support children during this COVID 19 crisis.

**Dilip Gosall**  
On behalf of 'Syntax Charitable Endeavours'



# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## James' 150k Pendle Hill Run

'I have decided to challenge myself to support others that aren't as lucky as me. I know lockdown is hard and being away from friends and family isn't nice but at least I have a lovely home and a comfy bed! Whilst I have been building snowmen, I keep thinking about people that have to sleep outside in the snow and freezing cold so I have decided to run 5k every day (Sunday is rest).

I started two weeks ago and will finish at 150k on Sunday 28th February. To achieve the 150K I will challenge myself to run up and down Pendle Hill until I reach my goal. If you don't know me, I am 11 years old, I miss all my rugby and school friends and I wanted to do something with all the spare time I have at the moment. I would be really grateful if you could support me by making any donation possible.'

### James - Figures

To support James and his fundraising for Nightsafe charity, please visit the JustGiving link [here](https://www.justgiving.com/night-safe).



**Nightsafe** "Running 150K during February will be an incredible achievement, especially when James is including Pendle Hill in his challenge! It always gives me an extra glow in my heart when I hear of young people fundraising for their peers, and James has really thought about those young people who are less fortunate than himself and how he can help them."

# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## St Mary's Hall Chaplaincy

**'Xavier Project - "Interline Bake-off and Afternoon Tea" fundraiser for the education of refugees in Uganda and Kenya, Saturday 6th Feb**

For a number of years Stonyhurst has supported this charity established by a former pupil of the College, Edmund Page. Since 2015 we have had weekly video chats with some of the children in Kampala, Uganda. From the first lockdown we have not been able to continue with the video calls but we have shared some of our chaplaincy resources that pupils and families helped to put together - our "voices from afar" collection of audio recorded examens and Family Sacred Space (themed reading, reflection and prayer).

We have continued to fundraise for the Xavier Project during the Summer Term, and in February each year, we hold an interline bake-off, cake sale and an outreach visit to the Hurst Green Coffee-Stop (senior citizens).

Lockdown means a change in format! Please see the below changes:

- On Saturday 6th February, pupils and families are invited to bake (a cake or biscuits) for an afternoon tea with their family/bubble.
- If you wish, use the colours of the Uganda or Kenya flags in your decorations.
- Photograph your cake/biscuits and email the picture to your tutor or class teacher. They will forward the best one to me.
- Photographs of afternoon teas should be sent to me at [c.mccullough@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:c.mccullough@stonyhurst.ac.uk).
- Make an online donation to the Xavier Project via the JustGiving page that will be set up - details to follow next week.
- From Monday 1st February, if you are a keyworker and dropping your child at SMH, you are invited to donate a shop-bought cake or biscuits for those in our local community of Hurst Green who may be alone, shielding or vulnerable. These will be collected and delivered to the above, at the end of the week. A collection tub will be left at the Lady statue for donations.
- There will be a prize for the best cake/biscuits in each playroom, Pre-Prep to Rudiments and points for your Line!

Get baking, enjoy an afternoon tea with family, reach out in friendship and help others learn!

**Clare Mccullough - SMH Chaplaincy**



# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## St Mary's Hall Chaplaincy

### Mass

Thank you to our boarders who led the Mass from our chapel this week and will continue to do so during lockdown. On Thursday we were able to name those who are preparing for the sacraments of reconciliation and holy communion later this year: Laura, George, Sophia, Kitty, George, Ava and Isaac.

It was one of the great consolations of the last lockdown that this sacred space was being used for weekly streamed Masses.

In the Summer Term we had just a handful of pupils on site but the situation is very different this time, with boarders present as well as more children of keyworkers and those in the nursery at St Mary's Hall.

Thank you to the many parents and families who join with their children from home for our Masses (8.30 am on the St Mary's Hall Mass 20/21 Teams site).

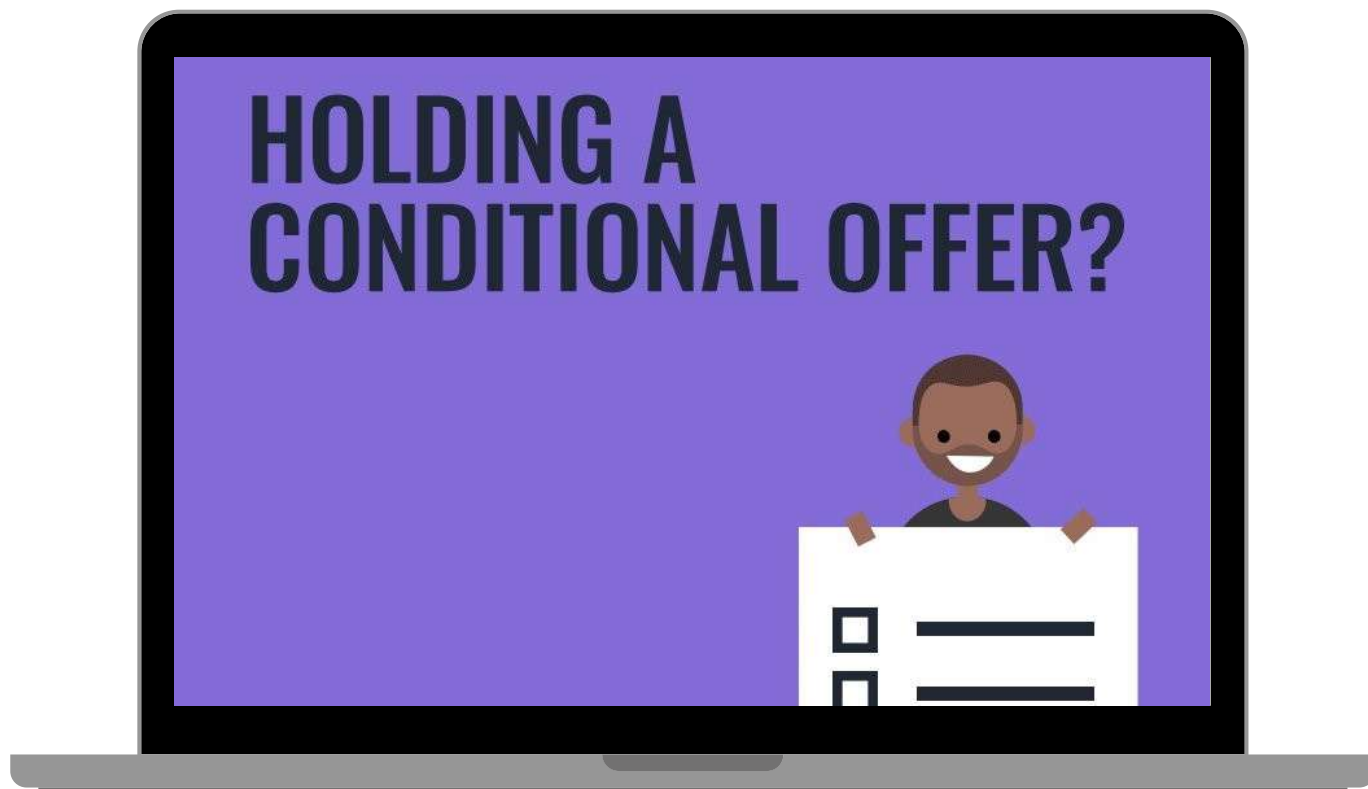
We are very sorry for the intermittent image/sound and we hope to have this resolved in time for next week. Thank you for your forbearance.



This week, our Rhetoricians attended a Careers Assembly where they were briefed about the next steps in relation to their UCAS application now that all applications have been submitted.

Rhetoricians were also informed about student finance options available to them next year. The pupils are now in the process of deciding on their firm and insurance choices and have been encouraged to attend virtual open days and undertake as much research as possible in terms of accommodation, living and travel costs before they make their final decision. They were also briefed on UCAS Extra, Clearing and Adjustment which are options open to them in the coming weeks and months.

Syntax Parents' Weekend is this weekend and parents are invited to meet with a member of the Careers Department to discuss the MyFutureChoice aptitude/interest test results and their implications for Higher Line. This Friday's Spark Session focused on studying in Australia and New Zealand and next week's session will provide details about studying in Europe.



Please follow the Careers Department on Twitter [@Stonyhurst\\_Uni](https://twitter.com/Stonyhurst_Uni) to keep up-to-date on the many careers-related virtual events that are happening over the coming months.

## Follow us on Social Media!

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Follow our social media accounts where you can catch up on the latest news and get behind-the-scenes insights into life at Stonyhurst.

Click the links below to visit our accounts.

*Follow us!*



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Have you joined your Playroom Facebook Group yet?

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Lower  
Grammar

Grammar

Poetry

Syntax

Rhetoric



# Object of the Week

Mary and Joseph bringing the Infant Jesus to the Temple, painted by Quentin Matsys, circa 1515

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This beautiful painting shows Mary and Joseph bringing the Infant Jesus to the Temple, forty days after his birth, in keeping with the Jewish tradition of Purification. In Christian tradition this feast is often known as Candlemas, which we celebrate this week.

The event is described in the Gospel of Luke, who writes that Joseph and Mary take the option provided for poor people (those who could not afford the usual sacrificial lamb), sacrificing instead a pair of turtle doves, seen here in the basket in Joseph's hand.

Upon bringing Jesus into the temple, they encountered Simeon. The Gospel records that Simeon had been promised that "he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah. On seeing Jesus, Simeon uttered the prayer, now known as the Nunc Dimittis:

*"Now thou dost dismiss thy servant O Lord, according to thy word in peace; Because my eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Simeon also prophesied to Mary: "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."*

The painting is by the Flemish Master, Quentin Matsys (1466 -1530) and dates from around 1515. It is painted on a thick wooden panel and may well have been cut down from a much larger painting; he painted several full-length versions of the Presentation. Matsys was one of the leading painters in Antwerp and Leuven in the early 16th century, and was famous for his sensitive portrayal of character, as well as satirical paintings pointing out the folly and greed of humanity. Little is known about his early life, although there is a tradition, probably apocryphal, that he trained as a blacksmith, but his fiancée urged him to take up painting as she didn't like the noise of hammering metal.

The Matsys panel was bequeathed to Stonyhurst in 2012 by William Raymakers OS. William had a great love of art and particularly of early Renaissance and Flemish paintings in keeping with his Dutch heritage. His generosity to the College, which he loved dearly, was demonstrated by an earlier donation of a 15th century panel of the Adoration of the Christ Child, on the occasion of his Presidency of the Association in 2004.



# Open Days

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St Mary's Hall Virtual Open Day

6th March 2021

9am -2pm

Stonyhurst College Virtual Open Day

13th March 2021

9am-2pm

St Mary's Hall Virtual Open Day

3rd May 2021

9am -2pm

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Attending one of our virtual open events is a great way to experience the full spectrum of our school and will provide the opportunity to meet many of our academic and pastoral staff.

Stonyhurst is the UK's leading co-educational Catholic boarding and day school. Stonyhurst College offers an unparalleled standard of day and boarding education for pupils aged 13 to 18 years. High teaching standards, small class sizes and independent study sessions help our pupils to achieve strong academic results. Our educational excellence is complemented by an extensive co-curricular programme that presents the opportunity to discover and grow talents outside of the classroom.

Please note, the structure of our Open Days are subject to change as we continue to work in line with the latest guidance on social distancing.

To find out more and to book a place, visit our [website](#).

