



STONYHURST  
ANYWHERE

FRIDAY 02 OCTOBER

# From the Headmaster

My personal view is that Stonyhurst looks its absolute best as summer transitions into autumn. John Keats talks of 'Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness' and that certainly reflects Stonyhurst at the moment and reminds us of the Jesuit adage 'God in all things'. The sight of trees turning from green to red, gold and amber helps us reflect on the wonders of creation. This theme is reflected in our newsletter this week.

Half term is just appearing on the horizon and I should like to express particular gratitude to the whole staff body at Stonyhurst whose concerted efforts have ensured the breadth and depth of a Stonyhurst education can continue despite the restrictions of the present time. In fact, across the campus, the two schools feel, and sound remarkably normal. A number of parents have been kind enough to comment that this continuity has a central role in their children's lives at present. Like the swan (or geese on the Canals) this effortless glide belies the vast amount of work under the surface to ensure that we continue to fulfil aspirations for our young people in a continually changing external landscape.

I regard the global nature of the Stonyhurst Family as part of the magic of Stonyhurst. It has been wonderful to welcome more pupils back to the College this week as they have finally been able to travel. They have been with us virtually since the start of term through Stonyhurst Anywhere and are now able to join their peers onsite. This week I was able to interview potential pupils for September 2021 via Zoom from as far afield as Argentina and Panama as well as being able to welcome families able to visit us in person.

I am greatly looking forward to hosting a series of virtual receptions worldwide during this academic year. We begin with a virtual Weld Society Lunch (members having received a bottle of Stonyhurst wine in advance for the toast!) and a virtual reception in Hong Kong where I look forward to seeing many familiar faces as well as welcoming those who have not previously been able to attend.

*John Browne*





# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## A Magical Afternoon in the Mission Gardens

Spending time in the Mission Garden is one of the most popular after school activities here at St Mary's Hall. There are always many jobs to do from weeding and composting to planting and pruning, but last Friday the pupils were given the luxury of cooking some of our home-grown produce over the campfire.

A very exciting lesson filled with discovery and adventure!



The pupils enjoyed tasty soda bread (prepared in the outdoor 'kitchen') dipped into some homemade plum jam, together with some succulent 'corn on the cob' from the garden. They then picked some of our very own apples to finish. A strange combination maybe, but what better way to spend a sunny afternoon?!

Thanks to Mrs Strain Mrs Murphy for leading the activities!



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Career-Related Programme (IBCP) Success

We are delighted to share some of our latest IBCP results. One of last year's talented Rhetoricians, Fernando, achieved a Double Distinction on his Cambridge Technical in Business, a 6 in Higher Level English, a 5 in Standard Level Economics and a B in his Reflective Project.

In total, Fernando has achieved 170 UCAS points, which equates to 3 A\*s at A Level. A fantastic achievement which he will carry with him throughout his adult life.

Fernando has now gone home to study Business Management at ESIC University in Madrid and we wish him all the best of luck for the future.

*"Doing the IBCP was the best decision of my life so far. I soon came to realise that this way of learning was for me and the teaching was great from Mrs. Ashe, Mr. Hughes, and Mrs. Kirkby".*

*"Don't be scared of taking the IBCP because your friends are doing something different or because you think it won't help you to achieve what you want in the future, as it definitely will. I am proof!"*



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Olivia: Neurocamp Report

Munich NeuroCamp is a public summer school for senior high school pupils from around the world. For two weeks, pupils explore the various fields of Neuroscience research conducted at the Munich Center for Neurosciences - Brain & Mind (MCN). The main aim is to create excitement about the fascinating field of Neuroscience and promote the interest in science in general.

Read Olivia's Neurocamp experience below:

'Despite having to carry out the research project on Microsoft Teams, when it was initially planned to take place in Munich across several university campuses, it was still a thoroughly enjoyable 10 days packed with many educational opportunities.

The first week consisted of lectures and group practical activities. Receiving lectures from current neuroscientists and PhD students was an amazing experience, it was really intriguing to learn about the field of neuroscientific research from professionals who are the pioneers leading the projects at the cutting edge of science. A highlight from the series of lectures we received was a presentation delivered about neuroplasticity: it was fascinating to learn about the ability of neural networks in the brain to change through growth and reorganisation in response to changes in neural behaviour. Another highlight I remember fondly was a practical exercise delivered by a team of PhD students from the University of Munich: we were sent the materials to analyse our own brain activity using an electroencephalogram (EEG); doing this enabled me and the other pupils to learn about the different brain waves transmitted through different types of cognitive tasks.

In the second week of the project, we split down into small groups of five to research an individual area of neuroscience. With the assistance of a PhD student, our group learned about the uses of induced pluripotent stem cells in the neuro-vascular unit. We used microscopes to look at endothelial cells that were in the process of developing into pluripotent stem cells and then looked at how these induced pluripotent stem cells could be used to help regenerate damaged spinal cord tissue in mice.

On top of the scientific knowledge I gained at neurocamp, a key part of the experience I believe will stay with me for a long time are the soft skills I learned. Developing skills in data representation and lab skills will definitely prove to be useful in the future. A really interesting lab skill I learned about was Magnetic Activated Cell Sorting (MACS), this is a method used to separate cells with specific protein markers attached to cell surfaces. Overall neurocamp is an experience and an opportunity I will always remember for the skills I developed and the like-minded, incredible people I collaborated with.'



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Fundraising Innovations

Social Enterprise is up and running again with a new cohort of Poetry (Year 12) pupils. Our innovative Poets have devised several fundraising ideas for Stonyhurst Children's Holiday Week, these include Advent Calendars, the making of face masks and not forgetting the Stonyhurst Christmas cards.

We are working with our curator team, albeit remotely, to identify new imagery for the Christmas cards. This week, the pupils have arranged a sale of old stock to staff and pupils to clear the way for the new images.



# ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE



## Teacher VS Tech: The Use of Class Notebook

Teachers versus technology is an age-old battle fought initially with over-head projectors, VHS and TVs on wheels to the most recent battles on interactive whiteboards and, of course, the online classroom. At times, these tools can be flawed, frustrating and impossible - even for a self-confessed tech geek like myself. However, this time I feel we may have found a ceasefire with Microsoft's Class Notebook.

Class Notebook is the final jigsaw piece in the Microsoft Teams puzzle and uses the Microsoft OneNote application to provide pupils and teachers with an alternative way of working. During the most recent training of pupils and staff, I asked them to imagine the OneNote app as their new backpack. Just as you would have a ring binder for each subject, with dedicated tabs, this is now there in electronic format. Teachers create pages and, instead of physically giving out the paper copy, they distribute them electronically. The pages then appear in the pupil's own file ready to work on.

The benefits of such a programme in the time of COVID are clear. Most obviously, no paper being passed between pupils and teachers. The teacher has full access to view the pupils' work at all times, in fact, in real time. This practically replaces the teacher circling a classroom to check work. The teacher can remain stationary and ensure pupils are on the right track. It will also enable a smooth transition to remote learning. Pupils carry all of their work on their device and so can work at home or at school: no more vital notes abandoned in lockers while a pupil is isolating. In the same way, a teacher can see pupils' work, as they write, from the other side of the globe. The collaboration space allows pupils to work collaboratively on a project whilst physically being in different parts of the school and beyond.

However, the benefits do not stop there. In a post-COVID classroom, Class Notebook can provide huge gains for teaching and learning. A reduced use of paper means each pupil's work is safe from being lost or falling victim to a water bottle leak, as well as being better organised and kinder to the environment. In terms of teacher work load, no more filling our cars with carry bags of paper or files to take home to mark. All of our classes' work is with us at all times. We can easily use the program to choose the piece of work we wish to mark which the app intuitively selects and collates for us. It also provides a range of marking tools: my favourite being audio feedback which provides pupils with detailed, focussed and bespoke feedback in place of laborious written comments. Integrated, seamless differentiated resources can also be sent to pupils, including amended pages with more scaffolding or more challenge. Of course, the war between teachers and tech will continue to be fought, but hopefully OneNote can provide a calm armistice in a time of COVID and beyond.

**Sarah Joseph - English Teacher**



# PERSPECTIVES AND HORIZONS

# TATLER SCHOOLS

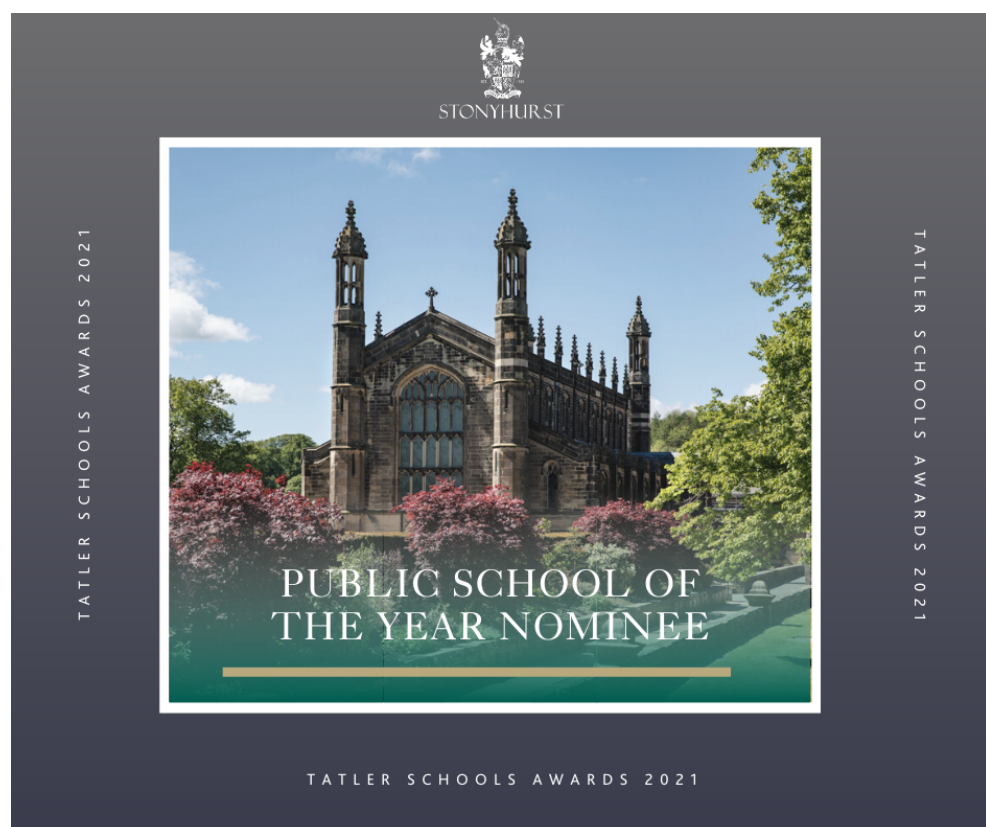
## Tatler Schools Nomination

Last month, we were nominated for the Public School of the Year Award by Tatler Schools. We were absolutely delighted to have been selected alongside a handful of other highly regarded Independent Schools and we are proud to be recognised as a leading force within the Northern Public School sector.

Tatler nominees are derived by a number of factors: Tatler Editors' opinion, Tatler researchers' opinion based on visits, public votes and votes conducted by other nominated schools.

The 'virtual' awards ceremony will be held on the 6th October at 6pm via Tatler School's Instagram TV channel where you'll be able to join us for the evening.

We are honoured to have come this far and we will see you on the 6th of October for the awards ceremony!



Visit  
Tatler's  
Instagram

# PERSPECTIVES AND HORIZONS

## Miles for refugees



## Danny Walks Miles for Refugees

Danny Layzell, OS 2009, is one of a group of Red Cross volunteers who have successfully completed the Miles for Refugees event.

The British Red Cross represents humanity and they truly believe that people who seek protection and safety in the UK should be treated fairly and humanely. That's why Red Cross teams support refugees at every stage of their journey: from helping reunite families torn apart by war, to providing vital food and hygiene packs for families left vulnerable in the UK asylum system.

Last year, the Red Cross supported over 39,000 refugees, people seeking asylum and migrants trying to settle into a new life in the UK.

The team of 6 was created to raise vital funds and awareness for the Miles for Refugees 2020 charity. They ran, swam, cycled and walked 555 miles during September. 555 miles is the equivalent of a typical refugee journey from Izmir to Dubrovnik.

The team raised over £1200 and managed to successfully complete 555 miles together!

Donations are open until the end of October so please support Danny in any way you can:

<https://miles-for-refugees-2020.everydayhero.com/uk/danny-5>





# PERSPECTIVES AND HORIZONS



## Join Us For the 'Virtual' Hong Kong Reception

This year our annual Hong Kong Reception will be hosted online by the Headmaster, John Browne.

This event is open to all our OS living in Hong Kong, together with those based in Singapore, Japan, Malaysia and China.

Last year, over fifty five OS, parents, past parents and prospective parents joined us to hear all about the news from Stonyhurst. We look forward to welcoming them all back this year.

Please join us on the evening of Thursday 15th October at 19:30 Hong Kong time, to catch up with all the news from Stonyhurst and in particular to learn how the school has adapted to become as Covid secure as possible and why we are at the forefront of virtual education in the UK independent sector.

If you would like to book a place for the event you will need to email: [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk)

We look forward to seeing you there!



STONYHURST



### Hong Kong 2020 Online Event

The Headmaster

Mr John Browne

&

The Director of the Stonyhurst Foundation

Mr Stephen Withnell

would like to invite you to a Stonyhurst online reception.

on Thursday 15th October at 7pm (HKT)

Please RSVP to [development@stonyhurst.ac.uk](mailto:development@stonyhurst.ac.uk) by the 10th October 2020.

Please include your postal address if you wish to receive a small gift from Stonyhurst.



# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## Blessing of Philip Evans' Classroom

With a number of room changes taking place in advance of the new term, an additional Religious Studies classroom was created on the Upper Gallery. The classroom has been named after Evans, former pupil of Stonyhurst at St Omers, ordained a Jesuit in Liège and tragically martyred for the Faith in Britain in 1679.

Religious Studies Teacher, Simon Whittle, gathered his Lower Grammar class on Wednesday afternoon to mark the blessing of the room. The pupils began their service in the College Chapel, led by Fr Tim Curtis, SJ, with pupil, Mark, cantoring the Litany of the Saints.

Fr Tim explored the question of what changes when something is blessed and offered this thought to our pupils:

“When we bless something, it changes us and our attitude to what is blessed. When a classroom is blessed, you will become aware that your studies are dedicated to God and that God is your friend, helping you to absorb information and form your character to make good and sound judgements.”

The blessing ended with a procession to the classroom where holy water was sprinkled on the desks and the pupils present.



# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## Season of Creation at St Mary's Hall

Despite the pandemic, staff and pupils at St Mary's Hall are finding creative ways of celebrating the Season of Creation. On Thursday 24 September, the school Mass was led by Mr Mann's tutor group. The group led prayer and reflection which focused on the Jesuit Pupil Profile characteristics, those being 'curious' and 'active'. The children were asked to consider how they can engage with the world around us and care for our common home. Prayers were offered for poor and vulnerable communities around the world that are suffering from the effects of climate change and pollution.

Earlier in the week, Chaplain Clare McCullough led a session for pupils which took its inspiration from the Autumn equinox. This is when the hours of daylight and night are equal. Listening to the Gospel account of Jesus' visit to Martha and Mary the pupils were encouraged to compare the busyness of Martha with the stillness of Mary. The children then reflected on the following questions, "What is good about being active?" and "What are the benefits of stillness?"

Reflection was followed by creative action and the pupils collected a small twig each. As they looked at the twig they were encouraged to find the details. Was their twig rough or smooth? Straight or wiggly? What colours could be seen on the twig? Then each pupil was asked to try and balance the twig on their index finger. Everyone managed it! This represented the balance each of us strives for in the hope of achieving balance in our own lives between activities and 'doing' compared to the stillness of 'being'.

St Mary's Hall will conclude the Season of Creation next month with a Mass anticipating the Feast of St Francis of Assisi and with a harvest festival. This will feature produce from their Mission Garden, symbolising the riches of the earth.

**Dear Lord, I know that you walk with me.  
Help me to keep the balance in my life,  
between 'doing' and 'being'  
and feel your loving presence in all things.  
Amen**

# FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## Seasons of Creation: Prayer Service for Families

Each year, Christians around the world are asked to unite as one community to particularly reflect and pray on caring for our Common Home.

The Faithful around the world will use this period to renew their relationship with our Creator and all creation.

This year's Season of Creation is a time to consider the integral relationship between rest for the Earth and ecological, economic, social, and political ways of living.

To mark this season, Jesuit Missions is inviting all families of our UK Jesuit Schools to join in prayer at 7pm this coming Sunday, on the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi.

Our Faith in Action Bronze Award pupils in Lower Grammar have helped to make a 5 minute prayer video, that families can follow in their own home.

You can view the video here: <https://youtu.be/ehGQTKg57ks>

Our boarding communities will also be invited to gather to have a live version of this prayer service on Sunday evening.



# National Poetry Day

The British

Benjamin Zephaniah

This week National Poetry Day was held on the 1st of October and In honour of this special day and of course the start of Black History Month - we'd like to share a poem by Benjamin Zephaniah called The British.

We miss seeing our fabulous pupils in the More Library, especially on special days like this when we would have ordinarily held a large celebration.

## The British

BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH

Take some Picts, Celts and Silures  
And let them settle,  
Then overrun them with Roman conquerors.  
Remove the Romans after approximately 400 years  
Add lots of Norman French to some  
Angles, Saxons, Jutes and Vikings, then stir vigorously.

Mix some hot Chileans, cool Jamaicans, Dominicans,  
Trinidadians and Bajans with some Ethiopians, Chinese,  
Vietnamese and Sudanese.  
Then take a blend of Somalians, Sri Lankans, Nigerians  
And Pakistanis,  
Combine with some Guyanese  
And turn up the heat.

Sprinkle some fresh Indians, Malaysians, Bosnians,  
Iraqis and Bangladeshis together with some  
Afghans, Spanish, Turkish, Kurdish, Japanese  
And Palestinians  
Then add to the melting pot.  
Leave the ingredients to simmer.  
As they mix and blend allow their languages to flourish  
Binding them together with English.  
Allow time to be cool.  
Add some unity, understanding, and respect for the future,  
Serve with justice  
And enjoy.

Note: All the ingredients are equally important. Treating one ingredient better than another will leave a bitter unpleasant taste.

Warning: An unequal spread of justice will damage the people and cause pain. Give justice and equality to all.

*#NationalPoetryDay*

# Object of the Week

Historia Animalium

Reliquary c.1555

Property of the British Jesuit Province

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This woodcut of a slightly gloomy hedgehog comes from one of the most charming books in the historic libraries, the *Historia Animalium* published at Zurich in 1555. It is an encyclopaedic inventory of renaissance zoology by Conrad Gessner (1516-1565). Gessner was a medical doctor and professor at the Carolinum in Zürich, the precursor of the University of Zurich.

The *Historia* is the first modern zoological work that attempts to describe all the animals then known, and the first bibliography of natural history writings. The five volumes of natural history of animals cover more than 4500 pages with numerous coloured illustrations.

Gessner's monumental work attempts to build a connection between the ancient knowledge of the animal world (its title the same as Aristotle's work on animals) and what was known at his time, including startling discoveries from the New World, such as the Bird of Paradise. He included mythical and extinct creatures as well as those which had been scientifically observed.

There was extreme religious tension at the time the book was published. Under Pope Paul IV it was felt that the religious convictions of an author contaminated all his writings and as Gessner was a Protestant, it was added to the Catholic Church's list of prohibited books. Unsurprisingly, a copy was included in the Jesuits' library- as scientists and theologians they were able to apply for exemptions from this ban.





# Open Days

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St Mary's Hall Virtual Open Day

10th October 2020

9am -2pm

Stonyhurst College Virtual Open Day

7th November 2020

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](#).

