

AMDG



STONYHURST
ANYWHERE

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE 2020

Stonyhurst Anywhere Newsletter





From the Headmaster

Welcome back to everyone after a much needed and deserved rest and screen break. The weather here at Stonyhurst was at its best and only lacked the knock of ball on bat at the Pavillion. Our pupils and staff have quickly got back into the swing of Stonyhurst Anywhere and in this week's newsletter we showcase a sample of the wonderful work that is going on.

The external context continues to fluctuate daily and having prepared to welcome some of our SMH pupils this week we deferred this to next Monday the 8th June, based on the guidance of the Lancashire Director of Public Health. As always, the safety and well-being of both your children and our staff is central to our decision making.

With that in mind we are all really looking forward to seeing children back in St Mary's Hall on Monday. A huge vote of thanks to all the staff both teaching and in terms of health and safety who have been working hard this week to ensure that we have as welcoming and child-friendly an environment as we can within the current restrictions.

This brings me to the plans for the rest of this term and looking ahead to September.

The parent survey indicated a strong preference for online teacher consultations before the end of term. In order to accommodate this, we have decided to continue the current Stonyhurst Anywhere timetable for two more weeks after this until Friday 19th June and then to dedicate the week commencing Monday 22nd June to parent consultations.

It remains my intention that our leavers have the appropriate celebrations when circumstances allow. We shall stay in touch with our Rhetoricians to ensure that we plan this with them as movement becomes more flexible.

We do, however, need to mark the end of what has been an extra-ordinary academic year for us at Stonyhurst and all of you in our wider community. We shall mark this with two very special online events.

On Saturday 27th June St Mary's Hall will hold its Prize Giving event online and on Tuesday 30th June we shall host our first online Great Academies. You are all warmly welcomed to join in these important celebrations and acts of faith and joy as we conclude this year. More details of the practicalities will follow but I wanted you all to have these dates in the diary.

Finally looking ahead to next academic year. Our plan is that Stonyhurst will be fully open for the start of term in September and staff are busy working through any adaptations which may need to be made. There will be a Summer School for boarders available from 15th August for those for whom this will be helpful.

On a personal note, whilst I have had the company of deer in the front garden I am very much looking forward to the bustle and energy of young people and Stonyhurst back to its vibrant community.

Toby Browne

Academic Excellence



Photo Credit: Dr Jan Graffius

'Poetry: The Best Words, in the Best Order' ~ Samuel Taylor Coleridge

We are excited to announce that the Gerard Manley Hopkins Prize is back, in honour and celebration of Stonyhurst's association with the life and work of Gerard Manley Hopkins, the highly distinguished Jesuit priest and poet. Each year pupils are encouraged to enter a poem, this year there is a slight twist, as pupils can enter a poem they have created individually or one they have written in collaboration with their household.

Now for the all important rules and guidelines!

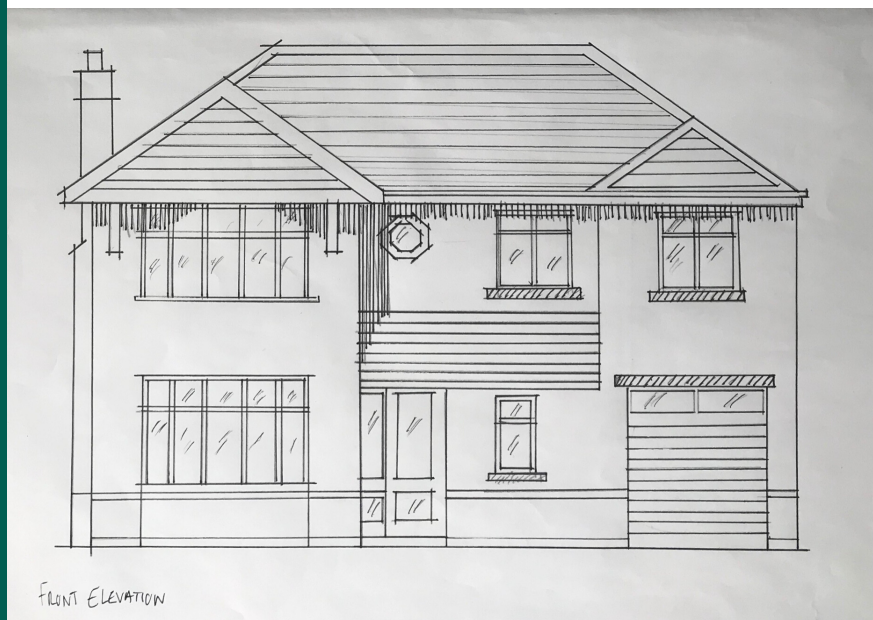
Rules:

- The deadline is 6 pm on Friday 12th June.
- Poems should be submitted as a .docx or .pdf file, sent by email to our Head of English at DJ.Leigh@stonyhurst.ac.uk, with the name(s) of the entrant or household on the document.
- The subject matter of the poem ought to touch on at least one of the following (to be interpreted as our pupils choose): the natural world; spirituality; Stonyhurst.
- The poems ought not to have been written or published previously.
- Any and all members of a household may contribute to the final poem, or it may be the work of one member of the household.
- There are no minimum or maximum length stipulations.
- The winning poem may be published in The Windhover or other Stonyhurst publications.

Guidelines:

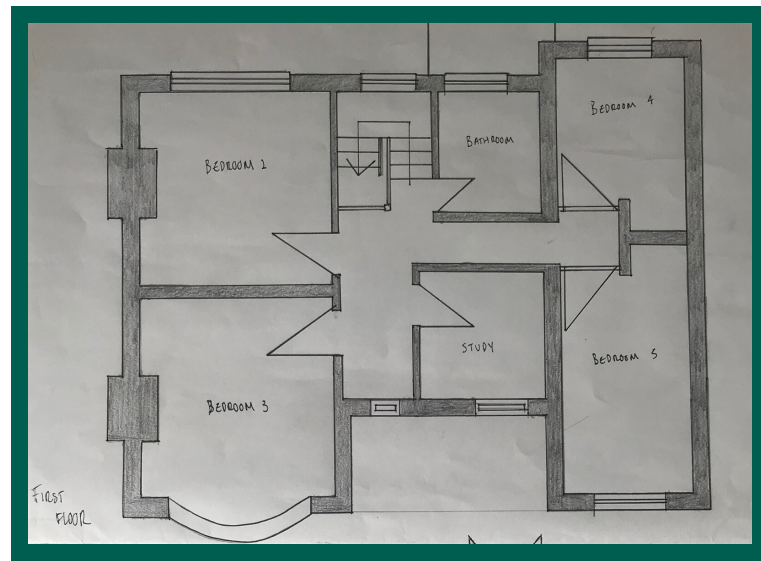
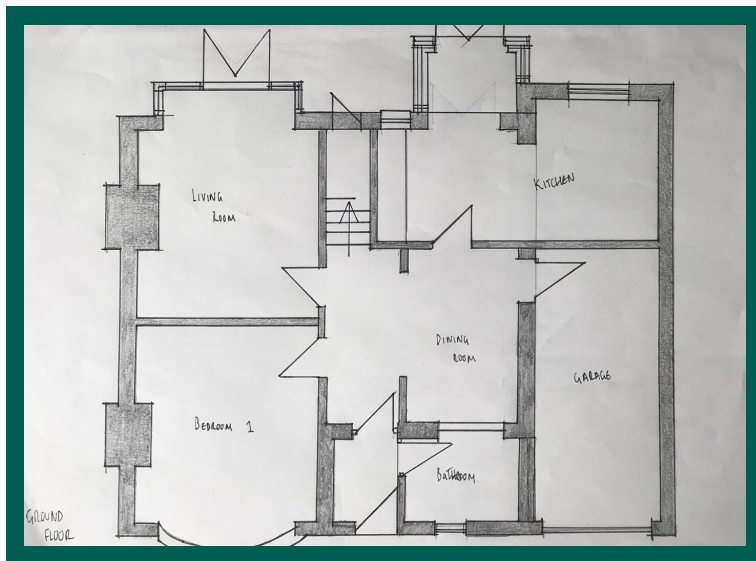
- Poems in free verse (without a regular patterning of rhyme, rhythm or structure) are fine.
- Often, effective poems identify an idea or a concern/tension, and then explore it, turning it around and considering it in different ways through the course of the poem, before reaching a resolution in the ending.

Academic Excellence



Pupil Shows Architectural Genius in University Prep Course

Rhetoric pupil Grace is a budding architecture pupil in our University Prep Architecture Course. Pupils in the class have been looking at how to create plans and elevations and were tasked with creating designs of their own homes. Grace made four designs, brilliant work. An architect in the making?



Academic Excellence



Dig In to Mary's International Primary Curriculum Dinosaur

The International Primary Curriculum at SMH includes the exciting topic of dinosaurs. After learning about the adaptation of dinosaurs during the Mesozoic era, our pupils had to design their own dinosaur showing how it had adapted to live in the period of their choice: Jurassic, Triassic or Cretaceous.

Mary imaginatively decided to raid her kitchen to create her dinosaur, with a sharp beak for meat (chocolate), armour (Hula Hoops) and a curly tail to help it to fly (marshmallows), Mary's dinosaur looks amazing, and we must say...rather delicious! Well done Mary!



Co-Curricular Activities - To Be...or Not to Be? To be!

Our pupils continue to be offered a variety of activities, both physical and cultural, encouraging them to partake in different experiences whilst in lockdown.

This week we are highlighting cultural opportunities for our pupils and their families to enjoy from the comfort of their homes.

Virtual Tour of the Vatican

Would you like to tour the Vatican Museum? Well, now you can virtually work your way around the museum in their 360 degree virtual tour, [here](#).

Tour of the Natural History Museum

Are you interested in Natural History, then why not visit the Natural History Museum website where you can virtually visit the museum? They have brought features of their museum online, offering '13 Ways to Explore from Home'. Click [here](#) to dive into history.

Shakespeare's Sonnets

Shakespeare wrote 154 Sonnets and Patrick Stewart is making his way through them all, reading one sonnet a day. Why not tune in each day and listen [here](#)?



Faith That Does Justice

Laudato si



A Rainy Day
Walk

Photos by Calum (Rhetoric)



Photos by Calum

Educate Magis: “A Day in my Life During Covid-19”

Educate Magis is an online community that connects Jesuit schools across the globe together.

Over the past few months, they have been running a campaign to share pupil accounts, from many different countries, of what it has been like to live through the pandemic.

Some of our Faith In Action pupils took part in this campaign last half term, sharing their moving and inspiring experiences of being in lockdown.

Educate Magis has published these accounts on their website. We invite you to take a moment to read them [here](#).

Laudato Si Competition - And the Winners Are...

In the final week of last half term, the Stonyhurst community took part in the global celebrations for the fifth anniversary of Laudato Si.

As part of this, pupils were invited to submit a piece of nature photography or piece of artwork based on Laudato Si.

We had a fantastic number of entries, representing all Playrooms, and the talent level was truly impressive. You can view the range of entries [here](#).

We are delighted to announce that the winner was Calum in Rhetoric, with runners up, Isaac in Grammar and Elena in Syntax.

All entrants will receive a token of thanks for their entry when we return to College.

Faith That Does Justice



Photo: Calum (Rhetoric)

Recitals of Nature

Laudato Si calls for us all to 'care for our common home' and as part of the celebratory week, members of the Stonyhurst community expressed the beauty of nature through Poetry, reminding us why we all need to protect the world around us. To listen to the reciting of these poems, click [here](#).

SMH Pupils 'Sleep In' to Raise Money for Charity

St Mary's Hall pupil, BeBe (Upper Elements) is a Youth Ambassador for the charity NightSafe, which aims to alleviate the tragic cases of homelessness amongst young people in Blackburn and Darwen.

Last term, SMH pupils took part in the 'Sleep Out' challenge to raise funds, this time staff and pupils were encouraged to 'Sleep In'; one catch they were not allowed to sleep in their beds. Creativity took over and for BeBe the garden Wigwam became her room for the night! Interviewed on BBC Lancashire, BeBe and her mother spoke about the important work NightSafe do and their 'Sleep In' experience, reminding all listeners that there will be two further fundraising events, on the 30th June and the 30th July. Visit the NightSafe webpage [here](#), to find out more.

Well done to all who took part, including Benjamin and Samuel who camped out for the night and to BeBe for her dedication to the cause. Our pupils are true examples of 'Men and Women for Others'.



Perspectives & Horizons



Our 425th Year Lives On

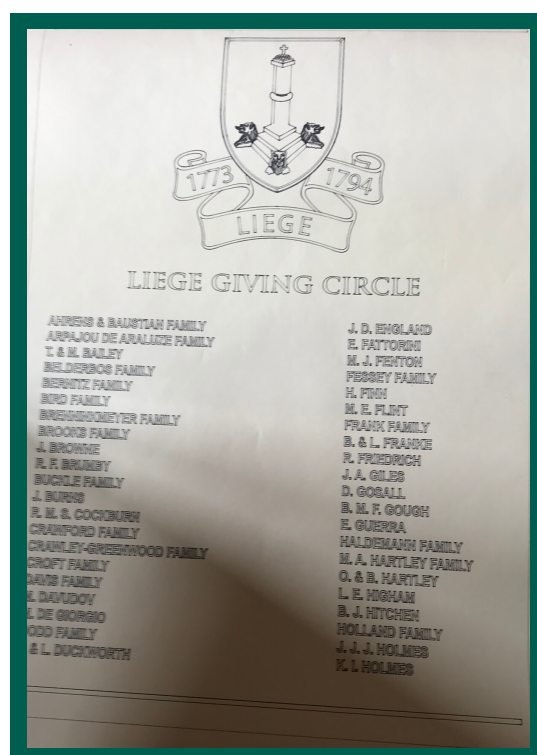
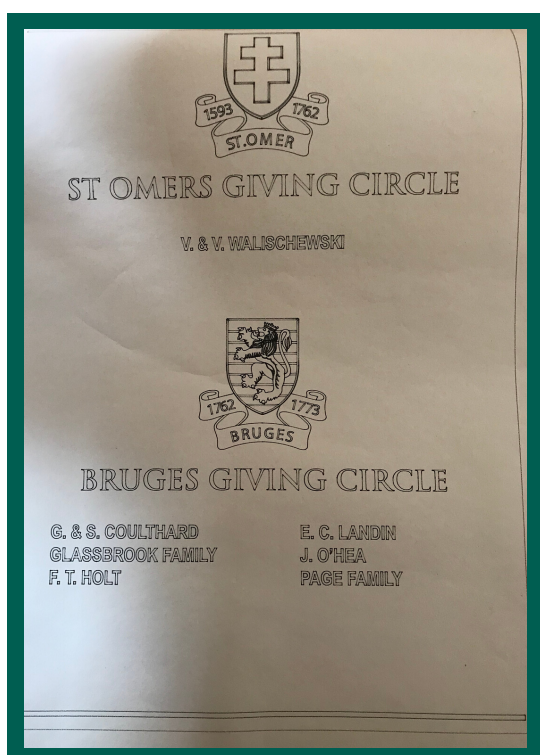
Last year, as part of our 425th anniversary we launched the 425 Bursary, a Restricted Fund that will permanently endow a 425 Bursary for a pupil from their first day at St Mary's Hall until their Rhetoric Leavers' Mass at the College.

The appeal aimed to raise the equivalent of 425 donations of £425 and thanks to the generosity of OS, parents and past parents this appeal was successfully completed in just four months!

As a thank you, donors to the appeal will have their names recorded on a dedicated '425 Monument', which will be situated outside the Centenaries Theatre at St Mary's Hall. The monument will feature a St Omers Cross, inspired by the one located at the college.

Work on this memorial had been halted by Covid-19 but we were thrilled to learn that our stonemasons, the Ribble Valley Stonemasons, resumed work this week and are determined that the cross will be in position for September this year. The attached pictures show the designs for two of the four slate tablets which will record the names of all the donors.

We are extremely grateful to all those that supported this appeal.



World Environment Day

Today is World environment Day, a day reminding and encouraging us to protect our planet.

Many Stonyhurst pupils have seen the importance of the natural world and the need for us to help protect it. One such pupil was Charles Waterton (OS 1801), famous naturalist and explorer. Waterton spent most of his life studying wildlife and encouraging others to acknowledge its beauty,. His estate at Walton, near Wakefield, was arguably the first dedicated nature reserve in the world.

Waterton has inspired many other naturalists over time, including David Attenborough, who in a letter to our Curator, clearly states that Waterton was one of the first people to acknowledge that humans had a duty to protect the environment, something we can all continue to do.

Amongst the many other former pupils, was traveller and ethnographer Alexander Hill Gray, who left a magnificent collection of 6000 early photographs to the College as well as numerous ethnographic artefacts- in later life he was President of the Rose Growers Association. There is a lovely yellow/cream rose named after him and can be found on most flower sites. Why not add one of these beautiful roses to your garden?



Armadillos, Waterton Collection, Stonyhurst College Collections

From a Distance...

The easing of lockdown rules in Germany allowed a few of our pupils to meet up for a mini, socially distanced, reunion. Organised by our Head of Line, Clint, it was a lovely opportunity for our pupils to see each other and catch up, whilst enjoying the beautiful, sunny weather.



'IT'S THE FINAL COUNTDOWN!'

As we head into the last few week's of this year's Interline Competition, every Line is still in reach of the coveted trophy!

The results for the FIFA competition and Squat Challenge are pending, who will streak ahead?

CURRENT STANDINGS

SHIREBURN	CAMPION	ST OMERS	WELD
1310	1300	1430	1570

Will the DJ Competition Turn the Tables?

This week is the DJ Challenge. Four disc jockeys, four live events, one night. Tune into Instagram Live this Saturday to support your Line and get those viewing figures up. The DJ with the most ravers wins! Follow the Stonyhurst Interline Instagram [here](#).



Object of the Week

Stonyhurst College Twelfth Night Playbill, 1907

This week’s Object is a playbill from a Twelfth Night performance at Stonyhurst in January 1907. The College’s long and illustrious dramatic heritage stretches from its first recorded performance in 1599 up to the present day. Jesuit drama was hugely influential in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, and St Omers boasts a lengthy heritage of home-written pieces, including ballet, fine orchestral musical interludes and state-of-the-art special effects: the Jesuits invented the stage trap-door to allow angels and demons to appear and disappear within clouds of smoke and thunderous sound effects.

For nearly three hundred years the College produced and adapted plays for in-house and public performance. The skills taught by drama were highly prized by the Jesuits, namely, proficiency in Latin and music, training of the memory, bolstering of self-confidence, and confidence in public-speaking. In line with Jesuit rules which banned female impersonation on stage, there were no female roles allowed. This caused some difficulties with productions of Shakespeare whose work was popular at the College even during Shakespeare’s lifetime. St Omers was almost certainly the first school to perform a Shakespeare play on stage; the Drama Library contained a quarto edition of Pericles in 1609, and a First Folio arrived at St Omers around 1624.

By the mid 19th century, such strictures were beginning to be relaxed, although performances of Macbeth in which Lady Macbeth was recast as ‘Uncle Donald’ persisted into the 1860s. The Lay Philosophers were a driving force in this relaxation. The creation of an undergraduate facility, known as Philosophy, affiliated to the University of London in 1840, allowed the College to teach and issue degrees to its Catholic students, who were still banned at Oxford and Cambridge at this time. The Gentlemen Philosophers, as the undergraduates were known, were a heady mix of English, Irish, European, North and South American families, whose privileges and exploits were breathlessly followed by envious pupils in Higher Line. The Phils were allowed to own guns, cars, bicycles, horses and hunting dogs. Their privileges included the right to stage the sort of comedies and farces which would not have been seen as appropriate for the pupils. By the end of the 19th century the Philosophers’ Twelfth Night plays were a celebration much anticipated by the entire College. The pieces included comedies and farces, and the highly popular interlude allowed rum punch and ‘official’ smokes for Higher Line.

The playbill in the photograph dates from the eve of Twelfth Night, January 1907. ‘The Miseries of Human Life’ was a popular farce, written by the actor/manager Benjamin Webster, and first performed at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket in 1845. The plot revolves around the miserable Ally Croaker, who suffers from ‘tight boots, small coats and a talkative waiting-maid’ and his cheerfully optimistic friend, Mr Mildmay. Croaker was played by Maurice Dease, who was to be awarded the first VC of the Great War in August 1914.

The second piece, ‘Box and Cox’, was also a one-act farce, which involves an unscrupulous landlady who lets a single room to two men, unbeknownst to either. Box was a printer working nights on a newspaper, and Cox was a journeyman hatter. In the College version, the landlady is transformed into a landlord, played by Joseph Mary Plunkett - quite why this transformation was made is not recorded, as by this time it was quite usual for female roles to be played by both pupils and Philosophers. Perhaps Mr Plunkett objected. The farce was very popular and had been the subject of a Royal Command Performance in front of Queen Victoria in 1849. We will not reveal the plot twists, but recommend that the curious reader checks out the Project Gutenberg playscript, [here](#).

A final point of interest may be found in the fact that two of the Stonyhurst Philosophers who performed in the two plays, Mr Dease and Mr Plunkett, were both well known to each other, and both Irish. Dease, as we have seen, was awarded the first VC of the First World War. Plunkett became a founding father of Irish independence; he signed the 1916 Declaration of Independence and played a pivotal role in the Easter Rising of that year. He was shot by the British Army a few weeks after Easter 1916.

