



The Giving Machine

To help raise valuable funds needed to support school activities, school have joined TheGivingMachine, a fundraising website that will allow you to generate cash donations without it costing you a penny. By shopping online via TheGivingMachine at your favourite shops will generate a free cash donation with every single purchase. With stores like Amazon, EBay, M&S, NEXT, Tesco, Sainsbury and John Lewis taking part, you are bound to find what you want from your favourite shops at TheGivingMachine.

Please join our new giving community by visiting www.TheGivingMachine.co.uk and join to support Our Lady & St Chad Catholic Academy; it's quick and simple to sign up and start giving for free.

We are keen to use technology more to communicate with parents. Please could all parents who have not given the Academy their email address either send it in to school with your son/daughter or fill out the contact form on the school website - www.olsc.org.uk.

Resilience Day - Skills for the Future

In February Year 8 had a resilience day, the theme was perseverance. Earlier in January, Year 7 had a resilience day with the same theme. The days are designed to help pupils develop their skills and coping strategies when faced with a challenge. This bounce-back ability was shown throughout the days, when pupils took part in specifically designed workshops delivered by Kic FM, Wider Learning, Gazebo Theatre Company, Barclays Life Skills and Academy staff. With the use of a digital graffiti wall and anonymous questionnaires, pupils could discuss topics and challenges that they feel they face and using that, look for solutions and support one another. With the use of the SUMO and PENN resilience programmes, pupils gained some knowledge and experience on how to build their resilience, pupils took part in activities that challenged them and encouraged them to try something new. Over 90% of pupils understood what resilience was and felt that the day had had an impact on them. During the day house groups gained points for demonstrating resilience as well as Catholic Values, the winners were Romero in both Years 7 and 8.



Our School is on

The Giving Machine

Join and shop online and all these shops and many more will donate cash to us at no extra cost to you.

Find out more at www.thegivingmachine.co.uk

Or
Text MORE to 61211

Participating retailers include: Amazon, eBay, Argos, John Lewis, Sainsbury's, M&S, La Redoute, Rakuten, The Body Shop, Waitrose, Laura Ashley, iWoot.com, GAP, Matalan, Currys PC World, Toys R Us, WHSmith, RAC, Very, Sports Direct, thetrainline.com, JD, Mm, Angels, Groupon, New Look, Littlewoods.com, More than, Staples, Wilka.com, Thomas Cook, Haven, Expedia, Aviva.



OUR LADY AND ST CHAD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



MARCH 2016



Dear Parents,
Congratulations to all students in the Academy who have continued to make such good progress. Many young people have already achieved their end of year target and are working towards a higher grade. The Sixth Form are celebrating being in the top 10 schools and academies across England and Wales for their vocational results and in the top 6 across the city for academic A Levels. Students continue to shine in the Sports and Arts. A particular mention to the following students who have passed their grading's in music: Lauren Walker achieved Grade 2 on flute; James Hough achieved Grade 3 on both piano and clarinet with distinction; Lewis Smith achieved Grade 6 with merit on guitar and Michael Speirs achieved Grade 6 with merit on euphonium.

The Academy is trying to develop improved communications with parents through a system called 'School Cal'. This will enable regular updates, news and information to be shared instantly with families via an app. This has been successfully trialled at Year 7 and will now roll out across school during April. It is essential that the Academy has the most up to date email addresses for parents. A group of students are working with myself on a 'Talents Trail' during April and May. We hope this will update our knowledge of the gifts and talents that our students have and help us to gain a clearer picture of the 'Curriculum Extra' opportunities that students may like to explore.

Wishing you a Holy Easter

Kindest wishes
T Ellis

Dates for your diary

11/04/16	Staff training day	20/6/16 onwards	Years 7—10 Exam Weeks
12/04/16	Students return from Easter Break	23/06/16	Year 7 Parents' Evening
18/04/16	Year 10 Vaccinations	24/06/16	Years 9 & 10 Review Day
20/04/16	Year 9 Parental Engagement Evening	24/06/16	GCSE & GCE Exams end
02/05/16	BANK HOLIDAY	19 & 20/07/16	Reward Visits
05/05/16	Year 8 Parents' Evening (4.30—7.30 pm)	22/07/16	BREAK UP
16/05/16	Final GCSE Exams begin		
25/05/16	Summer Music Concert		
30/05/16 -	HALF TERM		
03/06/16			
09/06/16	Year 9 Parents' Evening		

Italy Ski & Snowboard Visit 2017

It is the aim of the school not only to encourage our students in their academic studies, but also to offer opportunities to experience environments outside of their daily experiences, which will in turn develop their social skills, physical fitness and broaden their horizons. We are therefore organising a school Snowsport visit to the Aosta Valley in Italy, using Interski, the UK's market leader. Following the successful Information Evening at the beginning of February, further details are as follows:

Date: 18/03/2017 – 26/03/2017

Resort: Pila, Aosta Valley, Italy

Company: Interski

Cost: £740 Ski (Snowboard is an additional £30)



The price includes:

- Return travel from school by coach including cross channel ferry crossing
- Half-board hotel accommodation in St Nicholas
- Hot snack lunch on arrival and on each ski day at a mountain restaurant
- Full area ski lift pass and ski instruction – four hours per day for 6 days with an hour for lunch
- 6 days hire of skis and boots
- Full après-ski programme
- Comprehensive winter sports insurance

Additional costs to consider:

- Drinks except with breakfast and with lunch voucher (water is placed on tables for the evening meal)
- Pocket money (Approx. £70)
- Specialist clothing and ski wear - Interski's rental division can provide high quality rental ski wear and helmets for as little as £35 for the week.



The £100 (Ski) / £130 (Snowboard) deposit deadline was due on Friday 26th February and places have filled up quickly. However, if you wish to attend the visit speak to Mr Bunn in CM6 as it may not be too late!

SAM Learning & e-Praise

At school we are always looking for ways to extend our students' learning. Part of our improvement programme involves the use of SAM Learning, a unique online service that offers personalised learning in multiple subjects and our reward system, ePraise.

Studies show that on average, students achieve two GCSE grades better than expected, with as little as ten hours or more use of SAM Learning. Students are able to access the service at anytime and anywhere, whether they are at school, home, in the library or community centre. All they need to do is visit the website and enter their unique log-in details.



What is ePraise?

ePraise has successfully been used throughout our Academy for some time. This rewards system is designed to motivate students by recognising the great things they do. Students are awarded praise points online, making things a lot quicker and easier than the traditional paper-based school reward systems. It's not just about saving time though - this system is jam-packed with features such as leaderboards, achievements, milestones, certificates, the shop, draws and charitable donations which help make motivating students easy.

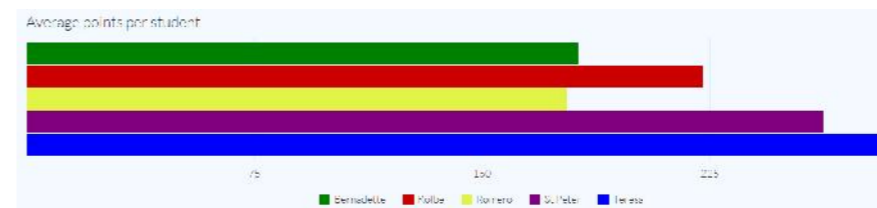
Students Login

Students can log-on using their usual school network PC username and password initially. Example **d.jones15** is the username and password for David Jones who started school (Year 7) in 2015. Learners are then encouraged to change this to something difficult to guess.

Parents/carers

To log-on to ePraise you can use your child's account with the same credentials and use the My Profile area of the site to see how they are doing. This can be using an internet browser, 'phone or tablet.

Prizes are awarded in the end of year awards assemblies to Tutor Groups and Houses which get the most points. Some staff may issue the points on screen during lessons, or staff may issue an ePraise 'merit' point sticker to add to the Student Planner. We encourage parents and carers to check and monitor their child's planner.





ePraise Vouchers

The Top 4 students of each year group have received a £10 high street voucher as a reward for working so well in school. The students are:

YEAR 7

Jack Bailey
Katie Barker
Jayani Shanmukhiah Prithvi
Abby White

YEAR 8

Amyas Coelho
Aiden Bartlett
Simranjit Kaur
Emma Minton

YEAR 9

Lewis Maiden
Rebecca McGowan
Nathan Milligan
Alex Huntbatch

YEAR 10

Daniel Douglas
Abbiegail Causer
Lauren Meredith
Polly Vaughan

YEAR 11

Lathusahn Thavakkumaran
Joseph Guy
Natasha Tonks
Amari Herrington

YEAR 12

Thomas Bradley
Jack Lawton
Kieran Basra
Brad Smart

YEAR 13

Joshua Roberts
Nikola Dembowska
Callum Uccellini
Niamh Francis

epraise.co.uk
The award winning school reward system



SAM Learning

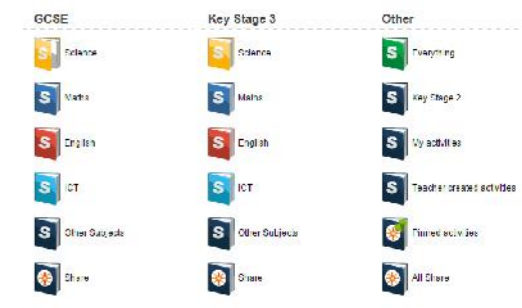
What is SAM Learning?

Students can log in and complete interactive tests, exam practice questions and exam papers, while staff can assign homework and monitor students' progress. SAM Learning offers a wealth of content to help us with improving our students' learning. If we want to focus on specific learning objectives we can assign homework tasks that include revision exercises, exam questions practice and past papers.

SAM Learning is an online education service for schools that supports personalised learning through a Self-Assessment Method (SAM) of interactive revision and examination practice. The service covers all National Curriculum subject areas for Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, Key Stage 3 and GCSE.

Why use SAM Learning?

- Improve GCSE Results
- Excellent way of setting and monitoring homework
- Easy to use revision resources
- Promotes Independence
- Competitive



Students can login to SAM Learning as follows:

Centre ID:	WV101 (please note, use the letter "o" not the number "zero")
User ID:	Date of birth followed by two initials: first name then last name. Example 010800DJ is the User ID for David Jones born 1 st Aug 2000.
Password:	This is initially the same as the User ID but learners are encouraged to change this to something which is difficult to guess.

Parents can login to their child's account with the same credentials and use the My Progress area of the site to see how they are doing.

We hope that your child is able to take full advantage of SAM Learning and ePraise, and we thank you in advance for supporting these initiatives.

SAM Learning Top 5

1. Sunny Singh
2. Blessing Sithole
3. Sunil Gadhu
4. Latisha Evans
5. Shaney Bond

Epraise Top 5

1. Jack Bailey
2. Katie Barker
3. Jayani Shanmukhiah
4. Abby White
5. Timothy Cash

SAM Learning
www.samlearning.com



Year 7 Girls' Football team

The Wolverhampton Girls' Cup was played at Aldersley Stadium. The team qualified top of their group, playing rivals Moreton in the semi-final which ended in a 1-1 draw resulting in a penalty shoot out. The girls held their nerve to secure a place in the final against Highfields which the Academy team won easily 4-0.

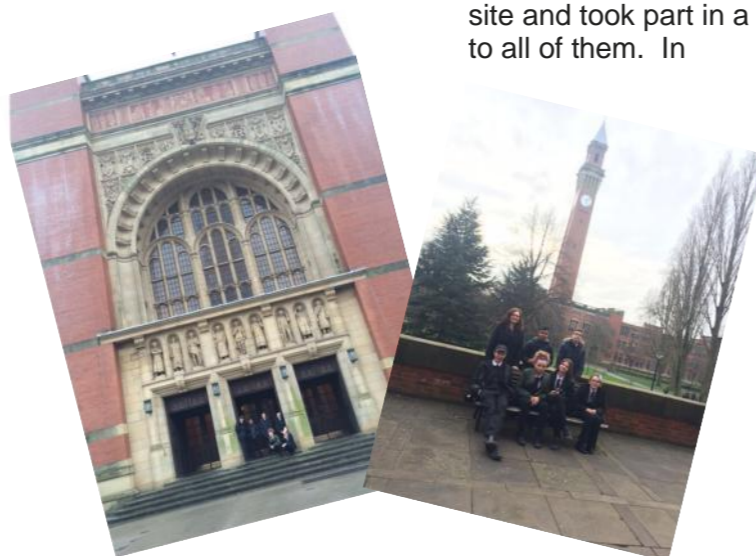
The team then went to Shrewsbury to represent Wolverhampton in the regional competition. Unfortunately two losses against Northampton (4-2) and Walsall (2-1) and a win against Burton Albion (5-2) meant we finished third in the group and missed out on qualification.

Our Lady and St Chad hosted weekly league matches and the home side successfully qualified for the semi-final, beating Heath Park to face a tough Girls' High team in the final. It was a closely fought match, a free kick resulting in the winning goal for Our Lady and St Chad Academy!



University Life

On Thursday 21 January, twelve Year 9 students participated in a visit to the University of Birmingham. The purpose of the day was two-fold; to give students a clearer idea of university life and to better prepare them for the world of work. The students were given a tour of the very impressive university German lecture - a new subject teams, they also interviewed more than 24 PGCE student teachers offering constructive feedback and advice. They conducted themselves in an incredibly mature, professional manner throughout the day and were a real credit to themselves, their parents and our school.



Students: Anna Richies, Amankwah Padmore, Yaa Bamfo, Rakesh Basudev, Jordan Fergusson, Thiannon Gradwell, Bala Jaksi, Molly Marsten-Galleary, Trinity-May Melville, Jamie Smith, Tyler Wood, Takudzwa Zhakata and Ben Zvirbulis

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@OurLadyStChad



Local MP Visit

Emma Reynolds, Labour MP for Wolverhampton North East, visited our Academy to congratulate students and staff for their excellent 'A' level results and for moving up the national school performance league table. Emma said: "I was delighted to visit Our Lady and St Chad Catholic Academy to congratulate students and staff for their recently announced place in the national performance league table."



"It is brilliant news that the Academy is ranked amongst the top schools in the city for academic success and amongst the top schools in the country for vocational results Post-16. I took the opportunity to congratulate students and staff on their achievements."

"I also had the chance to meet some Year 12 students to talk about my role as their MP

Black Country Games

The Academy had two teams of students represented in the Black Country Games for table tennis. Teams were entered in both under-16 and under-19 age ranges. They represented the school and themselves with pride and displayed excellent Catholic values. Both teams played very well and came away with a silver medal, second in the whole of the West Midlands. Caitlin O'Hara was undefeated! Well done to all who played.



Zoo Nation Dance Project

14 of our Gifted and Talented students in dance have been working on a project with The Grand Theatre and London based Hip Hop Dance Company Zoo Nation. Since September they have been training twice a week with professional choreographer and dancer Nathan Marsh on a dance based on a twisted version of Humpty Dumpty. They then performed this at The Grand Theatre in a professional show alongside 11 other schools in the Black Country. From this students were chosen from each school as stand out talent and trained with Zoo Nation over February half term on a new dance for a curtain raiser at the end of February when Zoo Nation toured their show 'Into the Hoods' to Wolverhampton. We also entered the Great Big Dance Off which is a national competition and came 1st in the Regional Heat for the West Midlands and are now in the finals in July competing against the rest of the qualifiers from the UK.



3G Synthetic Turf Football Pitch up and running!

The new 3G pitch has been a tremendously popular new facility. Students are allowed access during lunch times for organised games on the following days:

Monday and Thursday
Years 7&8
Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday
Years 9,10 & 11

Footwear Guidelines for 3G synthetic surface.

To protect and maintain the high quality playing Surface the only footwear permitted are:

- Round rubber/plastic moulded studs
- Astroturf trainers

Only approved footwear may be carried onto pitch.

