

The Thomas Weld Society Termly Update

Easter Term 2022



Stonyhurst College and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall Update

The Easter Term was an exceptionally busy one for the College and St Mary's Hall and now that it has drawn to a close and Stonyhurst basks in the spring sunshine, we can reflect on some of the amazing highlights from the term.

During the Easter Term we enjoyed a number of great academic and sporting moments. After a couple of unsettled years, we saw the return of mock exams for our Syntaxians and Rhetoricians, in preparation for the public exams in the Summer Term, for many, this was their first experience of exams such as these and we were proud at not only how they handled their nerves but with the results they achieved, we have no doubt they will do well in their final exams.

Whilst many were revising, other academic visits and celebrations continued. In February, Dr Dorrzapf, Director of Scholarships and International Programmes from the University of Cambridge, visited the College to speak to our Oxbridge Poets. Dr Dorrzapf spoke about the personalised education style St John's College Cambridge offers students. Over the course of the talk, pupils learned how to compile a successful application to the University of Cambridge, an interesting and informative session for all.



On the 3rd March, our pupils celebrated World Book Day. The day kicked off with a parade of characters, from our favourite novels, depicted by pupils and staff from Hodder House through to Upper Elements.

During the day, our pupils were visited by author Matt Goodfellow, who gave two presentations and ran a series of workshops, whilst Mrs Mann staged two themed assemblies for the children and organised a visit to the Collections for her Figures English class, during which they saw Shakespeare's First Folio.

Lily, one of our Rhetoricians, directed a performance of Dennis Kelly's naturalistic play, 'DNA', for her EPQ project.

The play was a huge success and was performed in the Academy Room with pupils from Grammar, Syntax and Poetry taking part.





At the beginning of March, a number of Stonyhurst delegates attended the Magdalen College School, Oxford Model United Nations (MUN) Conference. This was the ninth annual conference to be held at Magdalen College School. 25 schools took part with over 200 delegates debating a huge variety of current global issues. In the current context of international tensions, it was inspiring to see young people engaging so positively with complex issues and working together to reach consensus.

We are delighted to announce that five of the nine pupils who took part received delegate awards.

We have seen a number of brilliant sporting fixtures and achievements this term and although we cannot possibly list them all, here are a few highlights.

Olivia, took part in the U10 In2Hockey Championships, England Hockey's adapted game format aimed at players 10-14 years old. Olivia made some fantastic saves throughout the day. Our tennis teams have been doing exceptionally well, reaching the LTA Regional Finals. Although our girls narrowly missed out on the top spot, our boys won and are the LTA Regional Champions. Our netball teams have also had great success throughout this season, most recently winning four out of four games for the 1st, 2nd, U15A and and U14A teams.

Rugby has been at the forefront of people's minds as we continue to celebrate our Centenary of Rugby here at Stonyhurst and our teams from SMH and the College have certainly been making this a year and anniversary to remember! Our SMH U14 First XIII won the Lancashire Cup at Preston Grasshoppers RUFC whilst one of our Syntaxians, Seb, made his debut for Lancashire U16 side, which defeated Cheshire at Liverpool St Helens RUFC. Two of our Poets, Priya and Connie were in action playing for Sale Sharks at the National Rugby Festival - hopefully drawing attention from the national coaches. The rugby season has seen the return of the 7's tournaments. Our U15 1st VII won the AKS Rugby 7's in Lytham. This paved the way for the much anticipated Stonyhurst Rugby 7's Tournament. On the day the school was buzzing with excitement preparing for one of the biggest rugby events of the year - and the day did not disappoint, everyone at Stonyhurst was delighted to see a number of our teams reach the final - with the cheering heard as far as the village! As the final whistle blew, it was with great joy that a number of Stonyhurst teams were announced the winners of their respective age group and Stonyhurst lifted the cup at the end of a tiring, but wonderful, day.

The cricket season will soon be upon us and the pitches are being prepared, but for one of our pupils, the cricket season never stopped. Liberty, a Rhetorician, attended a week long trip with Lancashire Thunder in Dubai, having been selected to play in their pre-season friendly tour versus the United Arab Emirates. Thunder won their first match versus the UAE, with Liberty bowling a tidy spell of 4 Overs with 0-19. In their second match, Liberty had a particularly good match as she took 2-21 in her 4 Overs, was involved in 2 run outs, and she scored 9 not out with the bat.



Leadership Changes- Update

In January 2022, Stephen Withnell indicated his wish to retire from the College and from his role as Director of The Stonyhurst Foundation. Stephen will retire at the end of this academic year. Stephen has served the school as a Governor, as Deputy Head External and as the founder and first Director of the Foundation over a combined period of five years.

The Foundation Trustees have set up a working group to recruit a successor, and the Trustees have engaged the services of Peridot Partners to lead the search. Peridot Partners are specialists in the recruitment of Directors for endowments. We aim to have the new Stonyhurst Foundation Director in post by September 2022.

The Stonyhurst Foundation Trustees wish to thank Stephen for establishing the Foundation and for his outstanding leadership. Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees, commented:

“In just 4 years Stephen has built an enterprise which, though not visible to all, means that hundreds of children are now able to attend Stonyhurst regardless of their family circumstances. It is an inspiring legacy for which the Stonyhurst family are enormously grateful.”

We are pleased to inform you whilst Ian Murphy will be stepping down as Head of St Mary's Hall in August, after eight years in post, he will remain at Stonyhurst as the new Director of Partnerships. Ian will be working to secure additional funding for The Stonyhurst Foundation as well as working closely with the Stonyhurst Admissions Team on the organisation and identification of recipients for Stonyhurst Foundation bursaries. Ian will help track and measure the progress of bursary recipients – bringing to life, for donors and potential UK boarding families, the transformational impact of a Stonyhurst education. As a member of the wider leadership team he will be engaged across Stonyhurst, helping to support and contribute to the articulation of Stonyhurst's mission and identity.

Michael Joseph, Chair of Trustees commented:

“We are delighted that Ian will be spending so much of his time working with the Foundation. He is uniquely placed to help us advance our mission and his links with staff, parents, and pupils are unique. He is critical to our continued fundraising success.”



Goodbye
&
Thank You



Redisplay of the Do Room

Our Curator, Jan Graffius, has worked tirelessly on the redisplay of the Do Room. The new exhibition titled, 'A Rich and Rare Memorial: the story of the Oldest Museum in the English-Speaking World' brings highlights from the College's extraordinary breadth of museum artefacts into the heart of the College. The talk of the school, without a doubt, has been the magnificent seven-foot Mexican Tarpon that dominates the room!



The next exhibition in the College Museum and Historic Libraries will focus on the role of recusant women in the 17th and 18th centuries.



Annual Fund 2021/2022 - One Last Push

The Annual Fund 2021/2022, launched in October, seeks support for co-curricular activities at Stonyhurst and Stonyhurst St Mary's Hall to extend the richness and variety of the programme.

The support for this appeal and the generosity of members of the Stonyhurst family so far has been exceptional and we are delighted to announce that the majority of the projects have been completed.

Over the Easter holidays the new cricket nets for SMH will be installed, we have taken delivery of four new Concept 2 rowing machines, the Canals have been restocked with Tench, work is underway on the St Omers Martyrs memorial, and the Henry VII Cope is proudly displayed in its new museum case in the Do Room.

We hope to announce the arrival of the golf simulator after Easter. Our final project to complete is the installation of four benches for the Embroidered Meadow. If you are able to support this final project please visit: <https://justgiving.com/campaign/stonyhurstannualfund2021>.

ANNUAL FUND

Projects that will bring immediate benefit to our pupils





Odyssey Out Loud

On Wednesday 9th February, the Classics and Philosophy Society held a sponsored marathon reading of Homer's 'Odyssey' - one of the two major ancient Greek epic poems attributed to Homer. It follows the Greek hero Odysseus, King of Ithaca, and his journey home after the Trojan War. After the war itself, which lasted ten years, his journey lasted for ten additional years, during which time he encountered many perils.

The Society aimed to raise £2,000 before the end of the reading. This sum equated to £100 for every year Odysseus was away from home. Thanks to the generosity of the Stonyhurst family the Society not only exceeded its target but did so before the reading began - the final amount raised totalling £3,605!

The Classics and Philosophy Society decided the money raised from this project will be going to the St Aloysius Rhetoric 2022 Bursary. This bursary will support the funds needed to cover the boarding costs for a pupil's time at the College, allowing the bursary recipient to join the Stonyhurst family and benefit from a Stonyhurst education.

Prior to the event, we were delighted to receive an inspiring and supportive message from Professor Mary Beard, which you can view here: www.stonyhurstfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Mary-Beard-Supports-the-Odyssey-Out-Loud.mp4

The event started at 9am sharp and ran for over twelve hours. It was wonderful to see support not only from the wider Stonyhurst community but from the staff and pupils who remained until the final word - despite the late hour!

We were joined by 82 readers, 60 in-person and 22 via Zoom. This included pupils, staff, OS, parents, governors and a former member of staff. The youngest reader was aged just six - starting a love of Classics at a young age.

The support shown by our OS, from around the world, was exceptional, whether it be through supportive messages, donations or signing up to read. We even had one OS take on the challenge of reading in Greek!

No matter where they were in the world, their OS year or occupation, there was one common theme that appeared in the messages and conversations with the OS readers on the day, and that was how Stonyhurst ignited their passion for Classics, so much so that many of them went on to study Classics at university. They were delighted that Stonyhurst is continuing to inspire our pupils' passion for the Classics.

This exciting and unique event was initiated by Adrienne and Maddy in Rhetoric. They worked tirelessly to make this event a huge success, one that brought members of the Stonyhurst family together to read this classic, from staff and pupils to OS and parents around the world.

Well done Adrienne and Maddy!



Gibraltar Reception

In January, the Head of Admissions and Head of Development visited Gibraltar. For over 100 years, pupils from Gibraltar have been travelling to Stonyhurst to receive a Jesuit education and have contributed significantly to College life.

Much of the visit was spent meeting prospective families, briefing new pupils on what they can expect and look forward to in September, and thanking the Gibraltar community for their generous support for the new pavilion on Smithfield.



New Higher Line Bursary

We are thrilled to have received support from an OS family looking to provide a fully funded Higher Line boarding place enabling a pupil currently attending a Jesuit school in Europe to attend Stonyhurst.

The College Admissions Team is working with Dr John Stoer, the Delegate for Education, of the British Province of the Society of Jesus to enable this to happen.

We would like to thank the donor family for this generous gift of a Stonyhurst education.



The Stonyhurst Foundation and Lanx Shoes

Stonyhurst launched the 'Stonyhurst' shoe in collaboration with LANX shoes on the 9th March, 'Made in the UK' day. The founder of LANX is Marco Vagheti OS 2003.

This limited-edition 'mini range' includes a shoe and boot for men, featuring the 'Ribble Aster Tweed' used for the Stonyhurst College blazers. The Borrodale Tartan lines the interior with the Stonyhurst logo embossed on the sole.

20% of the profits, of shoe sales, will be donated to The Stonyhurst Foundation. To purchase a pair of these limited edition shoes, please visit:

<https://lanxshoes.com/collections/stonyhurst>

We are incredibly grateful to LANX shoes for its generosity!

The Stonyhurst Foundation would like to thank Harriet, in Marketing, for organising and working on this project in aid of bursaries.



Centenary of Stonyhurst Rugby

Stonyhurst is continuing to celebrate its rugby centenary, by reminiscing about past games, tournaments and achievements, as well as looking to the future and the many rugby-playing generations to come.

The 'Passing It On' Appeal

A new pavilion for Smithfield

In recognition of the contribution of the Gibraltarian OS and families to Stonyhurst life, and in particular to rugby at the College, the new pavilion on Smithfield will be named 'The Gibraltar Pavilion'.

We are delighted to announce that work started on the 18th March and the pavilion building arrived earlier this month. Exciting times!

Our sincere thanks to all those who supported the "Passing It On" Appeal to make this happen.

Centenary of Rugby Decades Tournament

3rd June 2022

11.00

To mark this milestone in Stonyhurst's rugby history, and to celebrate what remains one of our proudest sporting traditions at the College, our two-day rugby celebration will begin on Friday the 3rd June.

The Decades Tournament will see ten OS teams taking to the pitches of Stonyhurst once more. Each team representing a decade of history.

We hope to capture the spirit of the Stonyhurst Rugby 7's, a highlight of every pupil's experience at Stonyhurst, rugby player or not. We look forward to welcoming many OS from all eras back to the College for a once in a generation celebration of our school.

Please join us on Smithfield at 11:30am on Friday 3rd June 2022 for the blessing and official opening of the new rugby pavilion, The Gibraltar Pavilion, which will be followed by the tournament start. Local artisan food and drink stalls will be available all day.



The Stonyhurst Foundation Online Shop - New Stock

Visit the online shop at: <https://stonyhurstfoundationshop.org/>



Upcoming Events

*Save
the
Date*

Development and Foundation Events

100 Years of Rugby Tournament - Stonyhurst College - Friday 3rd June 2022

Thomas Weld Society Service of Thanksgiving and Lunch - Stonyhurst College - Saturday 1st October 2022

Association Events

Holy Week Retreat - Stonyhurst College - 14th – 17th April 2022

OS 71 Reunion - 30th May – 1st June 2022

Walk the Tolkien Trail, with our President, for Maundy Relief - 18th August 2022

Lourdes Pilgrimage - 19th – 26th August 2022



We thank you for your support and generosity, and wish you and your family a very Happy Easter.

Soha Browne

Headmaster

Stephen McNeill

Deputy Head (External)

Cathie Butcher

Foundation Manager

Suzanne Webb

Head of Development

Lorna Goggin

External Affairs Associate

Eva Fortune

Development Officer