

Recognitions:

Editor-in-chief: Miss Butterworth

Photographs: Mr Higham and Mrs Clark



St Monica's RC High School and Sixth Form Centre
Autumn Term 2016



Venture

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Information about the artist:

Amy was born and raised in Los Angeles, California, but now she lives in Colorado. She started my career in art in 1988 by joining the Entertainment Industry union as a mural artist. For 18 years she has painted countless murals and backdrops for studios such as Disney, CBS and Warner Bros., as well as lots of independent shops. Amy's work can be seen at every Disneyland Park in the world (all 8 of them) as well as many Motion Pictures you've probably seen. She has works in permanent installations all over the world. Now she is a professional full time free lance artist.

By: Aoife Simpson

Thomas Greensmith

Ciara O'Brien

Natalia Nowalk

Oliver Howarth-Campion

Caitlyn Cunningham

Year 8: Art Attack!

Year 8 have been working extremely hard in Art and have produced fantastic pieces based on the work by the artist Amy Giacomelli. Their project was based upon abstract landscapes which is an element of Amy Giacomelli's works.



Editor-in-chief's Introduction

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the first edition of Venture in this new academic year. The students have made a fantastic contribution to the school magazine and some of our articles have been written by the new cohort of Year 7 pupils. However, some of our regular journalists from last year have returned and so once again Venture is an excellent showcase of all the wonderful activities we do at St Monica's.

From myself and the team at Venture, we wish you a peaceful and restful Christmas!

Miss Butterworth

Budding writers wanted!

If you would like to be part of the school magazine for the next edition, see Miss Butterworth to register your interest. We are looking for writers, editors, photographers, artists and technicians.

A word from Year 7...

My first term at St Monica's

On my first day at St Monica's, I was going to walk with some of my friends, I think we were too nervous to walk and ended up going in the car.! Although I was anxious, it did not stop the adrenaline inside me – I was determined to have the best start.

By Matthew
Guerin 7B

As I arrived at school, my nerves eased because two of my best friends from primary school were in my form. This was such a relief!

My impression of high school was that the teachers were going to be mean; the work was going to be too hard and dull! Actually, the teachers are nice and I am learning lots in my fun lessons. In Science, we are writing a lot but I do not know I am writing a lot, because my teacher makes it interesting!

Now that I have settled in, I feel much more comfortable around the teachers and the students. I feel more confident and feel that I am making lots of progress in my lessons.

Overall, it has been a fantastic term and look forward to coming back in the new year!

Operation Christmas Child

Every year, St Monica's support the charity Samaritan Purse ,with their Operation Christmas Child campaign.

A fantastic 250 shoeboxes were made by St Monica's to donate to the charity.This was an excellent effort from students and staff and beats last year's total!

A small shoebox can have a big impact..What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. It was fantastic to be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' name through the power of a simple gift.

St Monica's RC High Retweeted



@stmonicas Amazing! Thank you to all St Monica's pupils, staff and parents.

St Monica's RC High
@stmonicas

9K proud of their shoe boxes 📦📦📦
Pleased to support such a worthy charity

@OCC_UK @OCC_shoeboxes
#OperationChristmasChild



Prayer and Service

7B Help the Homeless

This Christmas, 7B have been making Christmas cards for the homeless in Manchester. This is a charity that is close to Miss Letcher's and 7B's heart. We wanted to do something charitable for the people who are less fortunate and vulnerable, especially at Christmas time. We really hope this brings a smile to these people's faces and shows them that they are in our thoughts and do have the love and support from others and especially from God.

Please read our blog:

<http://news.streetssupport.net/2016/12/14/happy-christmas-from-class-7b/>

Lord, give shelter tonight to people who have nowhere to live, so that they may not be afraid.

Amen



The Mighty Zulu's take over St Monica's!

By Chloe
Howcroft 7B

A Theatre company called Mighty Zulu came to St Monica's to entertain and educate us on their South African culture. They taught us how to sing traditional songs and dance as they do. The experience was phenomenal and everyone was excited when it was his or her turn to go into the hall.

All day, the Year 7 pupils were talking about how it was an amazing opportunity and how they did not want the day to end. When students were in the hall, not only were they having fun, but learning about traditional cultural dances – which were quite eccentric. We dreaded our session ending, because that would mean we would have to go back to class! We wanted to stay wrapped up in their vibrant and unique culture!

A memorable moment was when they taught everyone how to say a few words in their own language like our own names – again his was very funny and strange to us!

This term I have been learning...Russian!

Hi - Привет - (privet)

How are you? - Как дела -(Kak dela)

My name is - Меня зовут (Menya zovut)

By Barney Ahearne
7W

Sports Interview: Netball

By Bradley Nolan 7B

The St Monica's Netball teams have achieved a lot of success over the years. Sophie Taggart and Katherine Donsanjh (two members of the Year 11 Netball team) tell Venture about how much they love the sport and what it entails.

Q: What do you enjoy the most about Netball?

A: It's an amazing and fun-filled team sport that I have been playing since Year 7. The team have great spirit and has brought us closer together.

Q: What does Netball training consist of?

A: We would start off by doing some stretches and drills (courses) and then we would play other year groups.

Q: Have you played in any tournaments and if so, how did it feel?

A: Yes, we have both played in a tournaments. We had a great match against Bury Church, but we were also extremely nervous! However, once we were out on the court , our worries started to melt away.

Q: What has been a memorable moment for you?

A: We were very close to winning a tournament and unfortunately one of our team members tripped over one of the girls on the opposite team and they went on to have a penalty and win the game!

Sing your heart out!

Gabriella Harrington
and Aimee Finc 10R

Venture reporters speak to Aimee Finc and Gabriella Harrington who are apart of the choir and orchestra .

Q: How long have you been apart of the choir and orchestra?

A: We have been apart of the choir and orchestra since Year 7. We both love music and like representing the school .

G: It can be quite frightening standing up in front of the whole school to sing. But, once it is over, you feel a great sense of achievement.

Q: What is your favourite music event at school?

G: I love to sing at the Hidden Gem because of the great acoustics and the beautiful setting.

A: I really enjoy playing at the Christmas concert as we get to perform the festive songs.

Q: What piece of advice would you give to a Year 7 pupil who wants to join choir or orchestra?

A: If you are interested and music is a passion of yours, you must join! Don't listen to any other influences and go and have fun.



Musical Moments

Venture reporters asked Mr Dalton about the musical life of the school.

Q: Mr Dalton, how long have you been playing the piano?

A: I have been playing the piano since I was in Primary school. I love to play the piano and have thoroughly enjoyed playing for the Advent services this year.

Q: What is your favourite musical event at school?

A: I do really like the Advent services, but playing at the Hidden Gem and at Nazareth House has been a highlight of mine. It is great to give back to the community and make people happy through the joy of music.

Q: Which songs are your favourite to play and why?

A: I like to play the hymns as they remind me about the importance of Christmas. However, I do like to play songs like: 'Frosty the Snowman' and 'White Christmas' - the audience love to participate in these numbers!



Rugby!

Have you got what it takes?

By Bradley Nolan 7B

Rugby practice is on from 3:15 to 4:15 on a Tuesday. Pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 can come along, have some fun and show off their rugby skills. Usually a typical practice session would consist of a few runs around the pitch, a challenging obstacle course and then a short game of rugby.

If you think you have what it takes, come along and join the fun!

Remember to bring a gum-shield!



Are you batty about rounders?

By Jenna Reed 10C and
Heidi Walsh 10B

Rounders is a fun-filled activity that involves lots of stamina and team spirit!

The St Monica's rounders team has achieved success over the years in winning the 'Bury Rally' and the 'Catholic Cup' tournament.. Although rounder can be very much a seasonal sport, we try our best to practise whenever we can.

Rounders is not only a sport which keeps you fit and healthy but is a sport where you can make lots of friends and be involved in school life.

Come and join!

The Spanish Exchange

By Sofia Pogliano 9B

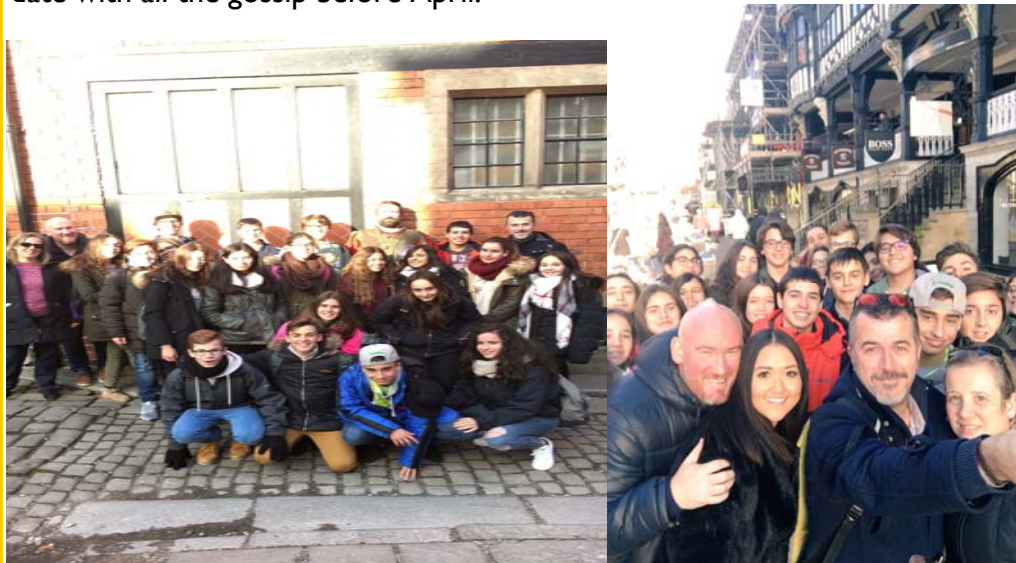
The week leading up to the Spanish Exchange is very exciting. We are all so nervous, yet

As our partners arrived by coach, everyone was laughing and screaming from impatience! We could all not believe the day had finally arrived!

Meeting our partners for the first time can be initially a little awkward, even though we have spoken over email and Skype. But, the whole experience has brought us closer together and we have all made life-long friends. Soon, we were all laughing and joking and really enjoying the trips.

Later on in the week, the idea of our partners leaving is really upsetting, but on the last night we all had a party which was extremely fun. On the day of their leave, seven days after the partners arrived, most people were crying and hugging.

Although the last day was very sad, we know we would see our partners again. We have their numbers and Skype accounts so we can keep up to date with all the gossip before April.



The Woman In Black

Nyasha Mhinda 10C

She sits in the middle of nowhere isolated from the world. The thick green forest surrounds her and anybody who makes it through, would be turned away. Her mystery and ghostly appearance inflicts fear within the hearts of the villagers. She slowly crumbles from all the heartbreak and despair that devours her from the inside out.

She was once filled with joy, open to everyone and was warm and inviting; she now has locked doors, a dark mysterious look and a cold emptiness that frightens everyone away. Rejected by society, she now sits there: old, lonely and abandoned. The damage is now irreversible and her ugliness prevents anyone from ever loving her again.

She once had a light within her that was abruptly extinguished and all that's left is the haunting screams of those who bear witness of her daunting appearance. That light was the spirit of a child that was taken away from her, leaving her vacant and unwanted. Even the world around her isolates the very soil she stands on.

The murky waters come rolling in and surround her, dark grey clouds linger over her and deflect any sunlight from shining down on the lonely island. A fearsome storm frightens away any visitors and the misty fog covers up the world's mistake that is Eel Marsh House.

Gothic Tales

Eel Marsh House

Cian Walsh 10C

Fog rolled over the isolated island on which sat Eel Marsh house, the chimney climbed above the fog to a height where it was brilliantly illuminated in premature twilight that shone through the dense fog.

From the outside, the house was broad and wide, made from large dark grey stones. Plants grew up the house winding around the drainpipes grabbing for the little sunlight that was not rejected away from the island by its lingering inhabitant; fog. The windows rattled vigorously from the howling wind, as though they were about to fall out of the frames which were once made from glorious birch now all that what remained could only be described as a rotting mess that has fallen prey to wood worms. A few potted plants lay next to the door, once there for neat presentation now withered and brown, almost certainly dead.

His eardrums were bleeding from the silence, he was surveying his surroundings until all of a sudden: He saw her; the women in black. His face was struck with an expression of abject terror and despair, as froze his very blood as it circulated through his thin, feeble veins. He was pale with a disturbing horror on his mind only he could know.

Light! Camera! Action!

By Olivia Campion 11G

Winner of the Pulitzer Prize, Tennessee Williams's A Streetcar Named Desire is the tale of a catastrophic confrontation between fantasy and reality, embodied in the characters of Blanche DuBois and Stanley Kowalski.

Fading southern belle Blanche DuBois is adrift in the modern world. When she arrives to stay with her sister Stella in a crowded, boisterous corner of New Orleans, her delusions of grandeur bring her into conflict with Stella's crude, brutish husband Stanley Kowalski. Eventually their violent collision course causes Blanche's fragile sense of identity to crumble, threatening to destroy her sanity and her one chance of happiness.

During the autumn term, the Year 10 and 11 performing arts students went to the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester, to see the astounding play: 'A Street Car Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams.

The play was fantastic and we thoroughly enjoyed the fascinating story of Blanche Dubois. The stage production was very clever and the way they used the lighting to represent the emotion of the scene. For example, whenever there was a tense scene, the light would dim and slowly get brighter to expose the truth. This is something our class have been learning about, so it was interesting to see it in action.

After the play, we took part in a workshop where we learnt about the production of a play and the skills needed. We also spoke to some of the actors who gave us some great tips on performing.

Overall, it was a great trip and gave us a valuable insight into the world of theatre.

Soap Box Corner

Perfectionism in the media -too much to young?

Have you ever entered a supermarket picked and scanned through a magazine to uncover an article that viciously attacks the appearance of a male?

By Grace Carty
10G

The most probable answer is no.

However, the impertinent columns of journalists analysing the most recent female celebrity to not have lost her baby weight, is a familiar article to a monthly Heat magazine reader.

I understand that this type of media is relaxing for someone who has worked a full day at the office and wants an 'easy' reader. However, this 'easy read' is offensive to women and consists of topics which are not 'current affairs'.

Deny this is you please, but there is has been a severe increase of female body issues , with 3 in 4 teenage girls admitting they loathe their body, and 2 in 4 show signs of eating disorders and body dysmorphia.

Could be so cold and dis-heartened over the wonderful Boxer!

I think the John Lewis advert did a great job this year and I would like to say a big congratulations to them for entertaining the nation, once again!

I strongly suggest that you ignore the criticism and keep creating the best Christmas adverts on television.

I look forward to next year! Good Luck!



Give Christmas adverts a break!

By Caitlin Stanton
10B

I must start by saying the hate and criticism towards the John Lewis Christmas advert is absolutely ridiculous! I think people have hugely over-reacted to an advert that enlightens and increases the joy of the Christmas spirit.

It is clear to see that the advert has a wonderful and touching message which will place a smile on someone's face this Christmas.. Christmas is supposed to be a happy, joyful and fantastic time, so why can't a little happiness be brought into people's lives?

Personally, I think these types of adverts are should be much appreciated as they have a heart-warming story behind them and this time around John Lewis have used a loveable dog called Buster! Surely, this advert is more pleasing to watch rather than some man from 'Safestyle UK' shouting 'BUY YOUR MUM A KETTLE'. Don't you agree?

The fact that little Buster the dog learns and enjoys to use the trampoline with such excitement, creates that touching moment for the audience. I simply cannot get my head around the fact that such pessimistic people

I admit there could be a several factors which exist to equal this frightening statistic. Though, the endless photo shopping of women's natural curves, moles, freckles and cellulite, is encouraging young girls to look at their reflection and doubt how beautiful they actually are.

Many music artists, for example Megan Trainor, who made her opinion clear on the photo shop scandal on one of her recent music videos. She said: 'It wasn't my decision to be photo shopped and I am pretty outraged at the message this is sending to my fans, especially young girls.'

The presumption that her normal female body wouldn't be acceptable in our society and that the music industry put money before natural beauty is disgraceful!

This leads me to my final thought that the representation of women through the media is still plagued by perfectionism and that we are just not good enough.

Despite best efforts by women to put a stop to this issue, this is still a continuous problem in this industry.

