

Stonyhurst, St Mary's Hall  
 Clitheroe  
 Lancashire  
 BB7 9PU

10<sup>th</sup> February 2011



Dear Parents,

Despite the drenching rain, we managed to have a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. The rearranged away match against Packward school went ahead, although our home matches had to be postponed, due to sodden pitches. Mr Shaw was also forced to abandon the proposed Figures fundraising car wash, as the rain was doing such a good job already! Many of the teachers were involved with Figures parents' consultations in the Sports Hall, so Mr Watson had arranged for a team to come in and run a variety of exciting activities, from lacrosse, to team-building, survival skills, crystal maze and dance. All our Figures and Rudiments' boarders had a great time – as did the Upper Elements children who also participated. Morning school went on as normal for Lower Elements and Prep classes, though.



We were joined by Hannah, who was trialling boarding, and our boys and girls made her very welcome, as they always do. Despite the downpour outside, Mr Flanagan and Ethan strode boldly off with Bwana the dog for their outdoor adventure, although most of the children chose to head up to the Art room to make Chinese New Year themed crafts with Mrs Hines. There were Chinese dragons and fans and everyone enjoyed themselves hugely. There was also a sizeable minority who went across to the sports hall and played, "The best game of football ever" as they pantingly assured me when they came back.



The rugby players came back in time for a late tea, and then we all went across to the Centenaries Theatre to





enjoy our tuck and watch the new Shrek movie, which caused some boarders to laugh until they fell off their chairs! We also had an unexpected visit from some of our overseas parents, which was a wonderful surprise. Everyone was pretty tired by the time we headed upstairs to bed.



We had our usual relaxed start to Sunday morning, with breakfast in pyjamas and free time for those not doing their music practice. Our very last Rudiments revision session took place before we went across to the College to celebrate Mass. Upon our return a real treat was waiting for us. As it is the Chinese New Year period, the kitchen



staff had gone to town in arranging a Chinese buffet with prawn crackers, spring rolls, spare ribs and a huge selection of rice, noodles and delicious dishes to choose from. Not only this, but the refectory had been decorated with lanterns and dragons to create a real festive feel to the day.



We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves – and there was some debate as to whether or not this was better than the International Buffet of last term.



Our visiting dance workshop leader arrived after lunch to teach the children some new street moves, before they went swimming to cool down. After the swim break, they came back to the theatre to incorporate what they had learned in the training session into their own dance routines, which we shared before Sam judged the end results. The competition was very close, with one of our girls' groups winning the coveted trophy and chocolates in the end.



Despite our huge lunch, everyone had worked their appetites up again for pizza and chips, which we enjoyed before our letter writing and studies session. Hannah went home full up and worn out, hopefully with some memories to treasure and with some wonderful new friends.



Then it was boarders' activities – with a sizeable group of boys mustering the energy for another sports session before showers and bed.



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full colours for his ruby this season – well done! The weather continued to be miserable but that did not stop the games and despite the drizzle it was good to get outside after a weekend of indoor activities. Our prep children



headed off to Salmesbury Hall, to experience a Tudor day, in full costume. Mr Flanagan also accompanied the class in jester outfit complete with tights! What a great experience for everybody.



Tuesday was our first day of sunshine in over a week, and everyone enjoyed the promise of spring that the day held. Saint Mary's Hall hosted a celebration of the life of Mrs Crouch on this day and we all continue to hold the



Crouch family in our thoughts and prayers.



Examinations continued through Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday – but on this evening, with all the examinations safely behind them, the Rudiments were able to let off steam with an end-of-examinations party, joined by the Figures pupils who were only too willing to help them to



celebrate. We also celebrated Robert's birthday with him this evening.



Soon all your children will be leaving for half term. We wish you a wonderful break and look forward to welcoming them back, rested and ready for the second half of term.



In the meantime, we do hope you enjoy these photos from the past week.



Best wishes to you all.

Ruth Hughes  
Director of Boarding



