



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



24<sup>th</sup> November 2010



Dear Parents,

The weather has changed and now winter is really here. When I looked out of the window across the fields this morning, everything was white with frost, and the sunrise burned orange and pink at the rim of Pendle Hill. Although the match against Ermyston was cancelled because of waterlogged pitches, the boys playing rugby at home this afternoon ran on frozen pitches, even in the afternoon sun and were glad of their thermals.



Last week was not so cold – and we were all warmed by the sight of the Elements

Drama Group in Thursday's assembly. They performed a fantastic play, written by Mr Flanagan as a result of workshops the group had done on the theme of preventing bullying, as part of the National Anti-Bullying week.



Many of the children who took part were boarders and I was proud of the confident way they presented their work to the whole school and really brought the issues involved home to their audience.



I left for Madrid on Friday and I am grateful to all of you who looked after me so well during my brief visit. It was good to meet with so many parents, both existing and prospective, and to hear how pleased you are with the way your children have settled and are progressing at Saint Mary's Hall.



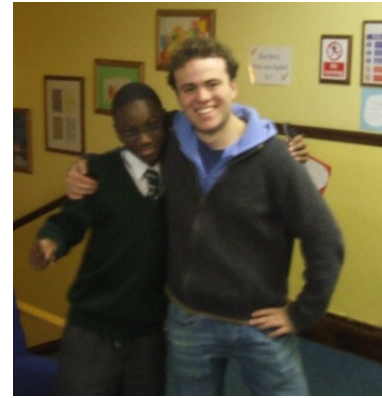
For the boarders back in Lancashire, however, the week continued under the care and guidance of Mr Stokes, Mr Hughes and the Gap team, and before they knew it, the weekend had come around again. When I got back, and Mr Hughes talked with me about the weekend, what came across was a real pride in the boarders. They are such independent, caring and happy young

people. This was brought home by the way they looked after a new prospective boarder who stayed with them this weekend. She loved the experience so much that her dad told Mrs Ashton she cried when she had to go home!





This weekend was a physically



punishing one, as pupils from St. John's Beaumont were visiting for a special swimming gala and rugby tournament. Although we didn't win, we swam and played with spirit, and the final rugby match was nail-biting, with Mr Walter telling the boys they had put in their best performance this season.



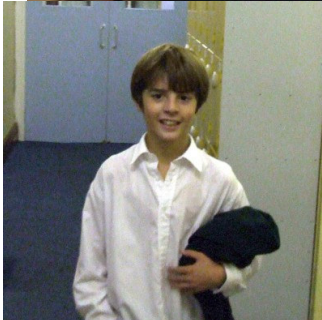
Saturday afternoon had been very exciting for the boarders who had been with us last year, as Mr Page, the originator of the Saturday afternoon adventure, returned to join us for the day. It was great fun to have him back, and he headed off into the Stonyhurst hills with the children for an afternoon of mud, woodland and fresh air. The other children enjoyed Art, ICT and collapsing in front of the television to regain their strength after sport, before heading to the Centenaries Theatre for tuck and a comedy, "Dirty, Rotten Scoundrels."



year, as Mr Page, the originator of the Saturday afternoon adventure,



Sunday started with a relaxed breakfast in pyjamas, followed by early Mass, before all the boarders who were not actually playing against



St John's Beaumont went outside to cheer them on. Mr Stokes told me what a great atmosphere there was to the game, reinforcing our sense of being a boarding family. There was then a great Sunday lunch before heading towards the coach destined for the cinema in Preston. The Rudiments' children watched the latest Harry Potter, and everyone else watched "Despicable Me." Both films were



thoroughly enjoyed by all. We had the added bonus of the College children going to the same cinema, so there was an opportunity to meet up with some friends from last year, and share experiences. There was also time to spend in the arcades before returning home to letter-writing, studies and bed.



On Monday in assembly we were proud to congratulate Fernando on being our Optimus Dormitor, or boarder of the line period. We have



had some new occasional boarders staying with us this week, with two Harrys on the Boys' Gallery, and Alex





and Molly on the Girls'. We also look forward to welcoming another Ellie later on this week.

I know that the children are also very much looking forward to their trip to the Trafford Centre at the weekend, where they will have an opportunity to do some Christmas Shopping – and even, perhaps, to get some decorations for the dormitory decorating

competition in the final week of term. We hope that you also have a good week and start

looking forward to Christmas, as we shall, with the impending commencement of Advent.

This comes to you with best wishes from all of us at Saint Mary's Hall.

Ruth Hughes  
Director of Boarding

