



Many thanks to the 34 outstanding students and 4 colleagues (Ms. Mulligan, Ms. O Sullivan, Mr. Kelly & Mr. Clarke) who made our Classical Studies trip to Rome such an unforgettable experience. It would be impossible for me to choose a favourite moment or site. The trip simply could not have gone better. May all those on the trip especially 6th Years continue to appreciate and have an interest in the Classical World. Ms. Donohoe (Minerva)

What the students' say:

Rome, the eternal city is truly breathtaking. The trip was wonderful, the architecture beautiful and sites like the Coliseum and Ostia Antica really made classics come alive. Thank you very much for this amazing trip. Sasha

The Rome trip was full of fun and frolics. I especially liked the Coliseum & the Pantheon. An experience I will carry with me forever. Sian

Hadrian's Villa is like the first episode of cribs. Niall

Rome was peppered with ancient ruins, squeezing between crowded streets, a UNESCO heritage site at every turn. History dogs the city and little imagination is needed for the gold, marble and bronze to refurbish the ruins and lift the ancient past into the mind's eye. Finn K

## Purim

## Dates for your Diary

*Purim*, the 'Festival of Lots', commemorates the events which took place in the Persian Empire, during the reign of King *Achashverosh* (thought to be Artaxerxes 2). The story is recounted in the Scroll of *Esther*. The king's Grand Vizier, *Haman*, developed an irrational hatred of Jews and persuaded the King that, by extension, all of his Jewish subjects were a threat to royal authority. He asked that all the Jews in the Empire be executed and cast a lottery to determine the date. The day chosen was the 14<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*.

In the meantime, the king was in need of a new wife and chose one through the process of an enormous beauty pageant. The new Queen was *Esther*, a Jewish girl who kept her religion a secret. On being informed of the plan to kill all the Jews, *Esther* and her uncle *Mordechai* worked out a plan by which she would appeal to the king for clemency for her people. The plan succeeded. They also received the king's permission to write to all the Jews telling them to defend themselves on the chosen day.

To celebrate and commemorate this great event, all Jews, from that day to this, read the story twice [evening and morning] on the 14<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*, give charity, send gifts of food to friends and eat a festive meal. During the reading of the Scroll, it is customary to drown out *Haman's* name with noise each time it is read to show that oppressors will never gain the upper hand.

Ms. J. Charry (Hebrew and Jewish Studies)

- ✚ Vintage Ltd. are having a Fashion Show Wed. 4th March at 7.30pm.
- ✚ Bring a Book Buy a Book Tuesday March 10th supporting St. Michael's House
- ✚ Seachtaine na Gaeilge 16th-20th March.
- ✚ School closed Tuesday 17th March.
- ✚ Céilí 20th March
- ✚ Community Week TY students 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> March
- ✚ Song School TY 31<sup>st</sup> March-1<sup>st</sup> April
- ✚ School Closed 6<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> April

Rome was one of the most charming cities I've ever visited. I loved the Sistine Chapel, the Vatican, Crypt, and St. Peter's Basilica. All of these sites wowed us with their beauty; words cannot explain the magic of the Vatican. Coffee was outstanding.  
Jessica



My favourite trip was to Ostia Antica, we were able to walk through the houses in the ancient port town without being restricted by railings. The scale and attention to detail of the massive statue of Constantine amazed us.  
Verity & Jessica

Ostia was one of the best parts of the trip. It was well preserved especially the bars & toilets.  
Alan

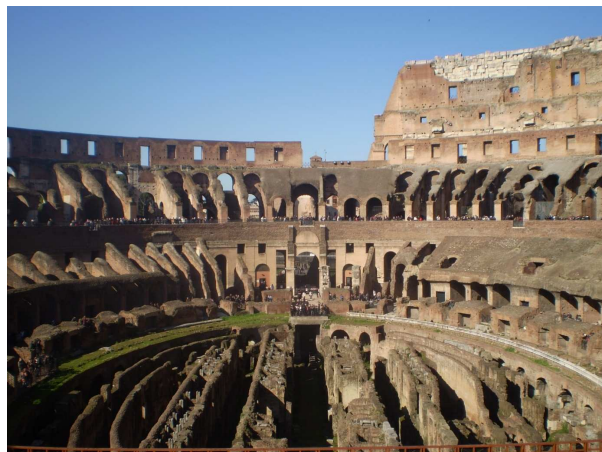
There appeared to be ghostly noises in our room. I'd like to think it was Julius Caesar but the voice sounded awfully familiar!  
Eithne

Ever played charades in a toilet? Well I have!  
Kevin

Roman landmarks are like tigers, look but don't touch.  
Damien

Singing in the theatre in Ostia Antica was the best part for me.  
Graeme

The ice-cream was unbelievable and the sites were lovely too.  
Michael



**Supervised study Mon-Thurs 4-6pm: Fri 1.30-3.30pm (exam classes only)**

**Sport and other Activities**

Well done to Craig Derham 3<sup>rd</sup> Year who travelled to Leeds for trials for the youth team.

1st Year girls basketball team had their first win over Mount Anville. I'm delighted with the level of enthusiasm in the group, keep up the good work.

Barry Grehan 6<sup>th</sup> Year impressed scouts from DCU who are very keen to have such a talented football player on their College Team. Good luck choosing your course.

Golf lessons begin on March 6<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Remember if you have clubs bring them with you.

Ski Trip Jan 2010: places are filling up quickly. If you are interested please bring in the deposit.

Ms. Finnegan (PE)

**Budding Entrepreneurs'**

Congratulations to Zoe, Joanna and Alice 1<sup>st</sup> Year business students who won **'best display award'** at the Dublin City Enterprise Awards.

Well done to Anne, Adam, Sorcha, Matthew, Ciara and Luke (TY students) who gave a great performance at **Form and Fusion**.

Congratulations to **'Chocolate Rain'** TY mini company who organised a very successful 'Battle of the Bands'.

**Past Pupil News**

Congratulations to Barry Murphy (2000) who recently qualified as a Chartered Accountant. Barry is the son of Mr. Barry Murphy Stratford Primary School.