

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome to our new school, **St John Fisher Catholic High School**. Months of working towards the Big Move paid off last week when we moved back to Park Lane after eighteen months at Reeves Way. A very, very big thank you is due to all who helped to ensure that the move went smoothly: the staff of the school and particularly the Premises Team headed by Andy Shaw. Technicians and support staff worked hard over half term to unpack. Caroline Behan, our bursar, and David Bliss, Executive Assistant Head, oversaw the whole thing and deserve great credit for its success. I am grateful to Pickfords for the professional way they moved us and to the builders, Kier, for the efficient way they have completed the whole project. I also appreciate the patience shown by St Thomas More School and the residents of Park Lane in dealing with the disruption caused by the rebuilding of the school.

The final part of the building project was the extension of Park Lane around the new Astro turf pitch to the new main entrance for both our school and St Thomas More. The road has not been completed in time for the students return but will be finished in a few days. This phase includes a pedestrian crossing which will not be completed until the Easter holiday; in the meantime we will monitor the students as they leave the site at the end of the day. Will parents please not drive all the way round to the car park in the morning or afternoon when dropping off or collecting students by car. This should be done by waiting in Park Lane please.

I decided at the start of the year that the move offered a golden opportunity to rebrand the school and you will be aware that our new name is accompanied by a new logo as seen at the top of this revamped newsletter. The students look very smart and proud in their new ties and I am grateful to the IEB for funding these. This new image is complemented by a new school website which is being launched: it can be found at www.stjohnfisherschool.org.uk and will be added to over the coming months. Please note that this is a different address to the old website.

The new buildings will be blessed and officially opened next Friday afternoon by Bishop Michael. The following day the school will be open between 12.00 and 4.00 when parents are invited to visit: if you bring your children they can act as your personal guide!

Have a very good week.

Sean Hayes

Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday we marked the start of Lent with a liturgy for Ash Wednesday, during which Ashes were distributed. This annual event reminds us that we came from the earth and return to the earth. It was the first event in our refurbished school hall and I am grateful to Kate Pereira and Sister Cinzia for the preparation of this service.

Year 9 Options Evening

Next Tuesday week, 10th March, there is an evening for students in Year 9 and their parents. This will commence at 7pm with an introductory talk to explain the process after which students will be able to visit the subjects they are interested in and hear more about the courses available to them. More details will be issued via the students.

Ofsted Report

The recent Ofsted Report is now available in full on the Ofsted website at www.ofsted.gov.uk. Select Inspection Reports and then Secondary Schools and the list of the most recent inspections will appear. Clicking on the school name will take you to our section of the website where all reports relating to the school are available.

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on **Thursday 5th March at 3.30pm**.

Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or emailed at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com

Uniform

The students have all been given their new ties, a gift of the IEB. Obviously we expect these to be worn properly and would like to improve the standard of uniform across the board so will be checking that blazers are being worn and shirts are tucked in. It is all part of our new image and we want to have and meet high expectations across the school.

Lockers

There are several hundred lockers in the new school but not enough for every student. They will be allocated over the coming weeks, starting with those students who had paid for a locker at Reeves Way. The lockers are all positioned in corridors and look very smart while new but can easily look tatty: we would ask that the students respect all lockers and not just their own.

Weekly Mass

We will be continuing to have Mass each Friday at 8.55. Today's Mass was celebrated by Father John Warrington and is the first to be held in our new Oratory. This circular prayer room is at the heart of the school and will be used throughout the week for prayer and reflection. It is open each lunchtime for students and staff.

Access to School

The phone number remains as before (343646) and the reception opening hours are also unchanged. There is a new phone system which we hope will be much more reliable. As mentioned overleaf, the website has a different address and as a result emails to the main office should be sent to enquiries@stjohnfisherschool.org.uk

St John Fisher Catholic High School

OPEN DAY

Saturday 7th March – 12.00 to 4.00

An opportunity for Parents to visit the new school
Please park considerately

Computers and ICT

In our new school we have over 300 computers for students to use. These are in four dedicated classrooms as well as the Atrium, Library Resource Centre and in several classrooms. Apart from the ones that were new in November at Reeves Way, all are new. All of these are on the same network and connected to the Internet. Every classroom has a SmartBoard – an electronic whiteboard that projects whatever is on the teacher's computer and which can be used to show DVDs or display the Internet.

In the Main Hall we have a wonderful audio visual setup with a large screen and the ability to show presentations clearly, including DVDs. A public address sound system is incorporated and this makes it a very impressive venue and one which we hope to exploit greatly.

The new school management system, SIMS, which has been phased in since November, will continue to expand. By the end of the year teachers will be using this for assessments and we will be introducing electronic registration. It is only a matter of time that is holding back these developments but once they are fully operational we will have possibly the best supported school in the area. The main database has been worked on until now and we will shortly begin issuing data sheets for parents to check so that we can be sure that our information is accurate. At the same time we will be asking for permission to photograph students in school for display, press coverage on in school publications like the prospectus. If you do not wish your child to be photographed please write to the school to say so.

We are also hoping to introduce a system whereby teachers can contact parents via email. Parents of Year 11 students were asked for email addresses at the parents' evening this term and we will trial their use first but plan to extend it to students in other years if it is successful.