

## Official Opening of the new school

Last week was a wonderful one for our school as we had both the official opening of the new buildings and an open day for parents and visitors. On Friday afternoon about 40 guests gathered in the Atrium with the school council to see Bishop Michael bless the building and unveil the plaque, which is due to be permanently placed in the main entrance. The Bishop was then escorted around the school by the head boy and girl, visiting and blessing every classroom. This enabled every student to be part of the event.

The guests for the official opening included John Peach, Leader of the City Council, and the Chief Executive, Gillian Beasley; Stewart Jackson MP; Diocesan Director of Schools Service, Julie O'Connor; Carole Archer represented the Local Authority; the headteachers of our other Catholic schools; members of the IEB and our local clergy. They were joined by the architects, builders, project managers and other contractors involved in the building contract, all of whom were delighted to see the building in action and working so well. We were also pleased to welcome the team who designed our new school logo and website. All were very impressed by the two excellent performances by our choir.

On Saturday the school was open from 12.00 to 4.00 for parents, staff, parishioners and feeder schools to visit. A continual stream of people passed through during this time and all were impressed by what they saw. This was greatly helped by a team of students who were on hand to guide and direct the visitors. I am very grateful to these students for giving up their time like this.

All of this had been preceded for me by two rather arduous days of interviews for the position of headteacher. As you will know from Ashok Khosla's introduction to last week's newsletter, I was appointed and I am of course delighted with this. I would like to thank all the students and staff for their support and express my gratitude for the messages of congratulations from parents. The last six months have been very busy and we have done a lot but there is still a long way to go; I believe that we are all ready for this and in a strong position to move forward together. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead.

*Sean Hayes*

## Choir Success

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February the choir braved the weather and took part in a concert at St Luke's Church in Orton as guests of Peterborough Young Singers as they raised money for HCPT. The evening was a great success with the choir performing two solo items as well as some very challenging music with the Peterborough Young Singers. We received some fantastic feedback from the audience and the other choirs for our performances, and we have been invited to join them for future events. The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by a full audience at the church and the whole evening raised £726. Well done to everyone who took part and thank you to those who came to support the event.

## Welcome

During the year we have students joining and leaving the school on a fairly regular basis. This week we have welcomed the following and we wish them well and trust that they will enjoy their time at St John Fisher: Yasmin Yavani, Heather Porter, Tiffany Guest, Kirsty Coles, Rabia Amir, Tomas Horvath, Jozef Galyas, Maros Conka, Mohammed Umar, Olga Galyasova and David Guest.

## Attendance

I would just like to remind parents of the importance of student's attendance to school. There is a clear link between students who achieve well in school and who have good attendance. If a student is absent, parents should notify school as soon as possible either by phoning in or writing a note for the form tutor.

Below are the present Year attendance totals for Years 7 – 11 our target this year is to achieve 93% attendance.

Year 7	92%	Year 8	92%
Year 9	93%	Year 10	91%
Year 11	92%		

## Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 3.30pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or you may email him at [frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com](mailto:frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com)

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## Drama Department

Two of our students took part in the Peterborough Drama Festival 2009 on Saturday. This is an annual event where schools from all over the region take part including Peterborough High and Kings. Students are entered by their Drama teachers into a range of categories from monologues to groups. Zain Awan and George O'Hara were entered into the Duo Improvisation cup, and I'm delighted to say that they won first place with distinction.

A trophy will be sent in due course, and the examiners were full of positive praise and feedback. Well done Zain and George!

## Year 10 Work Experience

On Monday our Year 10 students begin their two weeks' work experience. This is a valuable part of their education and an opportunity to find out about the world of work. From this, whether it proves to be inspiring or dull, varied or boring, students can get an insight into types of work and a better understanding of what would suit them when they have completed their education.

We hope that all of the students will make the most of this opportunity and be a credit to the school. Afterwards perhaps a few will write brief account of their placement for this newsletter.

Voluntary Mass continues to be celebrated in school every Friday in the Chapel at 8.55. Any student or member of staff is welcome to attend. Our deanery priests come in to celebrate Mass on a rota basis. Today Father Joseph Gnanam from St Peter and All Souls parish celebrated Mass with us.

## School Musical

There will be auditions for the forthcoming school production of 'Return to the Forbidden Planet' on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 3.45 – 5pm. If you can sing, act, play a musical instrument or just want to be part of a fun and exciting production, put your name on the list outside room 101 and we'll see you there!

## Spiritual Life

Our theme for next week is The Lord is Compassion and Love. During morning assemblies students will be learning about caring for our immediate environment.

Voluntary Mass continues to be celebrated in school every Friday in the Chapel at 8.55. Any student or member of staff is welcome to attend.

Today many of our students joined in Red Nose Day activities by wearing something red with their uniforms. Bucket collections were held at break and lunchtime and I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time and money for this worthy cause.

## Drama Officers

Thank you to Sam Henderson and Tami Brieses for their help and support over the last year and well done to our new Drama Officers, Hannah Bolton and Marianna Mancellos.

## Year 9 Options

On Tuesday evening Year 9 students and their parents attended our annual options evening. This was in a new format this year with subjects doing individual presentations in different classrooms and students able to visit up to five. The feedback from those present was that this was a very successful way of doing things and enabled them to get the information they needed. A very big thank you to the staff who were in school that evening to give the talks, including Peterborough Regional College and Connexions.

This even was also the first in the new school and parents were able to see both the audio-visual system in the main hall and the interactive whiteboards in the classrooms being used. It is a long way from the days of blackboards and chalk!

Students are reminded that their choices forms should be handed in by Tuesday next, 17<sup>th</sup> March. We will then start the process of sorting them and working out how many classes we need and how they should be blocked together. Students will then be spoken to about their choices where there is a problem with a certain combination or too few for a course to run. Once this is complete parents will be informed in writing of the outcome.

## Year 11 Revision Roadshow

On Wednesday, all Year 11 students had a chance to explore different revision techniques when a revision 'roadshow' came to school. We all discovered whether we preferred to learn in a visual, auditory or practical way. As well as planning our revision, we learnt to juggle (some better than others), to show how, we need to do it in steps to be successful. This is just like our revision! We also drew a fictional animal with long green fur called a 'logum' and attempted to identify adverts that hadn't been seen on TV for over a year. Overall, everyone had a very enjoyable day, leaving with a new method of revision and having much better juggling skills than they had done when they arrived.

Charlotte Whitwood and Connor O'Sullivan

## Academic Progress Awards

Congratulations to the following students were presented with various prizes based on their academic achievement in their GCSE Mock Examinations.

**iPod Nanos:** Connor O'Sullivan and Charlotte Whitwood.

**iPod Shuffle:** Chantel Carr, Fenella Cook, Cecilia Da Silva, Steven Fairbrace, Arslan Gondal, Jessica Guy, Kasim Hussain, jim Jose, Shaunagh McClean, Eleanor Savill, Reasa Sheikh and ismah Zaib.

**£10 WHSmith Voucher:** Tom Allan, Anita Arif, Esther Beard, Gintare Braskyte, Katie King, Lucas Koncek, Erich Kuc, Siobhan Lakey, Aneeka Majid, Anthony Martignetti, James Saliba, Krzysztof Sokol, Courtney Starkey, Hifza Tariq, Sean Titchmarsh, Shannon Walker and Michael Wiles.

## Fairtrade

We will be selling Fairtrade goods every Tuesday and Thursday breaktime at the back of the hall beginning Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

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