

Passport to Higher Education

On Wednesday I had a meeting with some of the staff of the new University Campus Peterborough (UCP) about developments that are planned for this Autumn and beyond. The new campus will be spread over several sites around the city but one of them is adjacent to the Regional College and the building is well on its way to completion. One of the exciting opportunities being offered to our students is called a Passport to Higher Education and this will be available to all St John Fisher Year 12 students in September, i.e. those currently in Year 11 who stay on to the Sixth Form and regardless of whether or not they intend to go to University after completion of Sixth Form. The Passport will include a Learning Skills Course spread over seven sessions and mentoring support. The Learning Skills Course will cover a range of issues such as group work, critical thinking, mind mapping, interpersonal skills, time management, independent learning and so on. Additional topics include money matters, student life and writing personal statements. All of this will be free to our students and can be used towards their individual UCAS points tariff. The same Passport will also entitle them to discounts in certain shops. Much more of this will be in the news over the coming months but I have been given permission to let our students know that they have been signed up for this new facility already. Later in the Autumn Term UCP hope to host some subject conferences for A level students and we have said as a school that we would wish to participate in these too. This is an exciting development for Peterborough as it moves into Higher Education provision and it is good that our school is to be part of it from the outset.

Parents Evenings

This week we had an excellent attendance at Year 9 Parents Evening. Several teachers were either on training courses or unwell and so parents were not able to see them. If there was a particular teacher any parent wished to speak to please let them know, preferably by a note in the student's homework diary and they will telephone you. The same applies to Sixth Form students: the turnout for their Parents Evening was very low and I hope that this was because parents have few concerns at the moment. A full list of Summer Term dates will be issued at the start of term and it will include Year 10 Parents Evening on 28th April, Year 8 on 9th June and Year 7 on 23rd June.

Tea in the Atrium

On Monday afternoon we found another use for our new building when 9PT organised 'Tea at the Ritz' in the Atrium as part of their Lent fundraising. The form started with £5, as did all the others, but they managed to use theirs to provide afternoon tea for 50 people which meant they ended with nearer £300! It was a marvellous example of what can be done and the students and Ms Pignatiello are to be congratulated. Meanwhile the other tutor groups are working away at making the most money they can with their £5: news of how they fared and who raised the most money in a future newsletter.

Buildings Update

We are continuing to settle in well to the new buildings and dealing with the inevitable teething problems that arise. This week an over-sensitive smoke alarm in Science caused the fire alarm to sound and alerted the fire brigade. This in turn meant a delay in returning to the building as the fire brigade had to give the all clear and it was very close to the end of the day. But all was well in the end and the system and evacuation procedure were given a further trial. The students were very co-operative during this frustrating wait. Their patience was tested again when the main server failed meaning that access to work that had been saved on the school network was lost. This is in the process of being corrected and all should be back by early next week. This week saw the new road opened to traffic and work has begun on completing the pedestrian entrance to school, leaving just the crossing in Park Lane to do in the Easter holidays.

Photography

Yesterday we had a firm in school taking photographs of the students working for display around school and on our website. They are returning today to take leavers photos for Year 11 and pictures of the school council for display in the main entrance. If this is all successful we will ask them to photograph the students for the new management system in school.

End of Term

Just a reminder that school finishes at the usual time next Friday, 3rd April, and the Summer Term will start at 8.55 on Monday 20th April.

Sean Hayes

Spiritual Life

Our theme next week is 'Holy Week' and on Friday 3rd April, Period 4, we will commemorate Holy Week with our liturgy.

Lent Fundraising

Congratulations to Clare of Assisi who raised £49.09 last week for our Lent fundraising. Particular thanks also go to Neelam Shahid and Sabba Manzer who raised £140.42 and Year 9 Barbara for raising an incredible £300 this week. Well Done!

Music News

The choir took part in the Peterborough Music Festival on Thursday 19th March at the Fleet Centre, along with five other schools. They performed their two contrasting pieces exceptionally well and were awarded a merit by adjudicator Marilynne Davies. She commented on the choir's skill to sing accompanied, and the way they communicated to the audience.

Well done to everyone who took part!

On Wednesday evening parents, students and staff were treated to an evening of music by students as part of the Spring Concert. It featured some of the school ensembles, as well as soloists and groups that students put together. The choir, fresh from performing at the Peterborough Festival, sang the music that they performed at the competition as well as two new pieces. Class Act sang some of their current repertoire from their 'busking' for Comic Relief event. The audience was treated to piano, flute, drum and violin solos by various students, and two bands played some more up to date music. A lot of hard work went into the preparation of this concert, and this is largely due to our team of peripatetic staff, some of whom were involved in the concert itself. It was a shame that such hard work was not seen by a wider audience, but there will be more opportunities over the coming term for us to perform to an audience. We hope to see you there!

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Tuesday 31st 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

Sports News

Boys Indoor Cricket

Yr 8 vs Orton Longueville:

St John Fisher 78-6, bowling 6 Total - 84

Orton Longueville 108-2, bowling 18 Total - 126

Yr 9 vs Jack Hunt:

St John Fisher 110-3, Bowling 9 Total - 119

Jack Hunt 118-3, Bowling 9 Total - 127

The Year 9 boys finished a creditable second overall in their league behind Jack Hunt. The Year 8 team finished 4th in their respective league.

Year 11 Revision

We have started a programme of revision events for Year 11 as they begin the countdown to the summer exams. Last week we had a general day on revision in school and this week they have spent a day at Orton Hall on Intensive Skills for English. This was a great success and many thanks are due to Mrs Burdett and the English department for arranging this. Over the Easter holidays there will be further sessions, including a Maths morning with Ms Harrison and Mr Darmanin, and a second Maths morning with guest teachers will be held at the start of May. Much of this is being funded by money we receive as a National Challenge school and organised by the advisors who are coming into school as part of our national Challenge work.

Attendance to 20th March 2009

Year 7 91%

Year 8 92%

Year 9 92%

Year 10 92%

Year 11 92%

Reminder: our target this year is to achieve 93% attendance.

St John Fisher School 1959-2009

**This year sees the 50th anniversary of the opening of our school
and we are starting to make plans to mark this milestone.**

**Ideas so far include a Mass, a tree-planting ceremony, and an exhibition
of the school archive, but we want to hear from students, parents, parishioners,
past students and anyone with a link with the school
who may have other good ideas that we could consider.**

**If you have suggestions please write or email them
to Mrs Pereira, Assistant Headteacher
and we will ensure that they are considered.**
