

## **New Link with Kings School**

Last term, Kings School was awarded a second specialism to their Science Status. As a High Performing Specialist School they were invited to bid to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT) to become a Leading Edge School. This bid was successful and they acquired their new status from the start of this term. The bigger part of this involves working closely with another local school and I am pleased to announce that this is to be St John Fisher Catholic High School. If our plans have worked out you may have seen this announcement in the local press before you read this newsletter because on Monday Gary Longman, headteacher of Kings, and myself were photographed outside our school with some of our students to mark an official launch of the new link.

This is fantastic news for us as it means access to more funding and the opportunity for departments in both schools to work closely together over the next few years, sharing expertise and resources. This can only be beneficial for the students. This term the teachers will be starting some initial planning and the real work will begin in the next school year. As a first event each school will be sending five teachers to the national Achievement Show in June at The Emirates Stadium in London. More news of this development as it unfolds.

## **Ofsted**

This week we have had another team of inspectors visiting the school to check on our progress. I am confident that they will again see progress and that they will appreciate how much difference the new buildings have made to the learning opportunities that we offer. As soon as I have some information from them I will pass it on to you. While the team were here we hosted the monthly meeting of headteachers from Peterborough secondary schools with all those attending able to have a tour of the new school: they were very impressed.

## **Prom Season**

The last two weeks I have written about exams in the newsletter, but being the exam season means it is also the school prom season. Today we have the Year 13 Prom at The Holiday Inn and last Friday we had the Year 11 Prom in the school. That was a fabulously successful evening all round: the hall looked wonderful with the decorated tables, balloons and disco; the catering staff produced a wonderful buffet; the limos were able to deliver their passengers right up to the door; and the Evening Telegraph were there to photograph the whole event. We hope to have some of our own photos on the school website as soon as possible; I will not try to include any in the newsletter as they will not photocopy well enough. The students looked impressive in their array of outfits and their behaviour was exemplary. They all enjoyed a wonderful evening and we were very proud of them. Mthulisi Nkobi and Natasha Butler were voted Best Dressed Male and Best Dressed Female, and Sean Titchmarsh and Azemine Dani were elected King and Queen of the Prom. A very big thank you to all who were involved in arranging the evening, but particularly to Mrs Ahmed who did the bulk of the work and ensured that no detail of planning was overlooked.

Next Friday afternoon we will have a Farewell Liturgy for Year 11 and Year 13 to mark the end of their formal lessons and the beginning of study leave. Although many of the Year 11 students will have already started their exams by then this will allow us to finish the half term in a formal way and mark the end of their compulsory education. Unfortunately they all have Maths GCSE first thing on the first day after half term (1<sup>st</sup> June) which is terrible timing as far as revision goes. For this reason we are arranging for revision in school that morning from 8.30 as a warm up for the exam: students will be given more information next week.

## **Half Term Holiday**

A reminder that next week is the last week at school this half term. School begins again on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June which will be timetable Week 2.

*Sean Hayes*

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## Swine Flu

There has been much in the news over the last month about the situation surrounding 'swine flu' and a great deal of press coverage of the few cases in this country. We have been receiving regular advice from the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), the NHS and the Local Authority. All of this advice means that we know what to do in the event of a massive increase in the number of cases. This does not seem likely but appropriate plans are in place should we need to deal with that scenario.

Part of these plans includes closing the school so it seems appropriate to remind parents of our procedure for this. The first thing to remind you of is that **we only announce that the school is closed** and we do so via local radio and post information on our school website. Parents are asked to not phone the school as this jams the switchboard, and we may not be able to change the answerphone message immediately.

The second issue is that **we do not close the school once it has opened for the day**. There is an extreme possibility that we might be told to close the school for health reasons, in which case this second point could not be followed. Should this be the case we will again issue the news via local radio and our website but may need to contact parents directly. It is important that the information we have on the school system is correct and for this reason we have been sending sheets home with the Progress Updates for parents to check and return. If you have not done so or your contact details have changed please let us know as soon as possible. We have collected email addresses from parents of Year 10 and Year 11 students at the parents evening and may use these if we are able.

These notes are subject to changing advice from the government bodies mentioned above and will be adjusted to suit any circumstance that comes along. We hope that we do not have to do anything that will interrupt the students' education but want parents to be aware that we are in touch with the relevant bodies and monitoring the situation carefully.

If any of this changes we will let you know in a future newsletter.

## Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on **Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> at 3.30pm**. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or emailed at [frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com](mailto:frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com)

## Year 10 RE

On Tuesday year 10 took their 'Religion and Life' GCSE paper and took part in a buzz revision session period 2 which was very successful. Thank you to year 10 for your enthusiasm and hard work both in the run up to the exam and on the day itself. A reminder that the RE GCSE Revision classes for year 11 are continuing every Thursday after school in room 210, until the Mark's gospel exam.

## Spiritual Life

Our assemblies this week have been about the need to be sensitive to the needs of others and to try and understand the feelings of other people. Our theme next week is 'Moving on' and is of course linked to Year 11 and year 13 leaving school and moving on in their education and in their lives.

On Wednesday lunchtime in the Chapel Sister Cinzia began a Rosary prayer group. This will be continuing every Wednesday lunchtime. This is a quiet time in the chapel for prayer and meditation - all are welcome to attend.

## Attendance Update

Percentage attendance up to the end of last week was:

Year 7:	91%	Year 10:	91%
Year 8:	92%	Year 11:	92%
Year 9:	93%	Years 7-11:	92%

We continue to work with the attendance team from the Local Authority to ensure that our students attend at least 90% of school days and preferably at least 92%. Individual figures are reported in the student Updates and we contact parents when attendance falls below these levels. Please remember that family holidays should be taken outside term time. If parents need to take their children out of school during term time they must apply to the school for permission and do so at least four weeks in advance.

## City Athletics Trials

SJF had a very good afternoon at the City Athletics Trials on Tuesday. Zygamantas Pukas won the inter boys javelin, William Cook won the senior boys 100m and 200m, Shanwayne Stephens was 3<sup>rd</sup> in both the senior boys 100m and 200m, John Hartwell won the senior boys discus, Kirsty MacIntosh made it through to the final of the junior girls 200m. Judd Delgado came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the inter boys shot with Danny Hartwell 3<sup>rd</sup> in the same event and Lisa Marie Jones was 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Junior Girls 100m.

## Boys Cricket

The under 13's had 2 further games this week unfortunately losing both to strong Orton Longueville and Jack Hunt opposition.

## Leadership Academy

10 students from year 10/11 have signed up to the Peterborough Sports leadership Academy which will involve volunteering in local sports clubs over the coming months. If there are any other students in year 10/11 male or female would like to be involved in the Academy they should speak to Mr Plane before half term.

## Year 9

Over the next few weeks some students in Year 9 will be going for interviews at Peterborough Regional College for admission to Practical Learning opportunities (PLO) courses and we wish them well.

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