

Saying Goodbye

Last Friday we had a wonderful Year 13 Prom at The Holiday Inn and this was another great school occasion. The students looked very glamorous in their prom outfits and the excellent food and disco made for a superb evening. Today we have a farewell liturgy for Year 11 and Year 13 students before they begin their study leave. Although many exams have already taken place for Year 11 the bulk have yet to come and there are so many after half term that it is not reasonable to try to continue lessons. Individual subjects will arrange revision sessions if they can but once we are into June the session before each exam is often filled with another exam. There will however be Maths revision for all Year 11 students from 8.30 on Monday 1st June ahead of their final exam at 9.15.

It is particularly important now that students are able to get themselves to the exam at the right time and on time – that is, 15 minutes before the start of the exam. Once they are on study leave we are not able to remind them as easily.

I wish all of our students the very best of luck in these examinations.

Ofsted

A team of four inspectors visited the school again last week. I expect to receive a letter reporting on their findings in the week after half term but am optimistic that they will again report that we have made satisfactory progress since they were last here in January. At the end of the two days the lead inspector asked me to thank all of the students that spoke to the team during the visit. It seems that they were impressed with all of the conversations they had with our students and with their behaviour, especially when not in class. They were particularly impressed with the way the students respect the new buildings and are appreciative of them, commenting on the lack of litter and the pride the students have in the new facilities. The two groups of students who were interviewed specifically were very positive about the school, I understand, and especially the sixth form students who said that they appreciated the emphasis on respect for each other and the religious and racial harmony in the school. This is all very encouraging for me to hear and so impressive that it was said by the students themselves. As soon as the letter reporting on the visit is available we will post it on the school website and include highlights in a future newsletter.

Staff Changes

After half term we are joined by two new members of staff. Emma Weston joins us as our new 14-19 Co-ordinator, a role that includes being Head of Sixth Form. Once Mrs Weston has settled in we are hoping to boost the sixth form in various ways and ensure that we are able to provide the best experience for our new Year 12 intake when they start, not least because numbers are up on last year. She will be assisted by a new appointment as the sixth form will now have a Student Support Officer, Louise Ahmed. Mrs Ahmed is already known to many of the students as she has been on our administration staff for several years. I hope that this new arrangement will benefit both students and parents by providing the right balance of support and management.

We are also joined after half term by our new EAL Co-ordinator, Lindsay Roberts. We have put a lot of effort into improving the provision for students whose first language is not English this year and now will have a dedicated person with experience in this area to oversee our work.

There will be several more new staff in September as we complete the increase in the number of teachers that we started in January. We have made some very good appointments and expect to be fully staffed with permanent subject specialists for the start of the new school year. This is not easily done these days and I am sure that it is a reflection of how far the school has come this year that we have managed to attract suitable teachers. More details will follow later.

Uniform

When we moved back to Park Lane we changed our school tie. We are now arranging for new blazer badges for new students who join us in September. When these are ready we will also make them available for any student who either wishes to have one of the new badges or who needs a new badge because they are changing their blazer. We will not be able to issue these free of charge this time but are aiming to obtain them at the best price we can. I would also like to remove the option of wearing grey pullovers and enforce the rule that they should be black pullovers and not cardigans. Will parents please bear this in mind when buying uniform for next school year.

I hope you all have a very good break next week.

Sean Hayes

Classics Students of the Month

Usha Gharti, Aleksandra Tetnowski, Karina Akim, Lisa Marie Jones, Daniel Tetnowski, Katherine Ager, Janatul Tahir, Kieran Evans, Shannon Walker, Michael Wiles, Chris White, Laura Epton, Jessica O'Sullivan, Samantha Smith, Kierran Porter, Lewis Smith, Mohammed Abbas Tejani, Sabba Hashmi, Sonny O'Rourke, Catherine Brooks, Ilona Vitkauskaitė, Daniel Anderson, Martina Cravotta, Stefan Salerno, Mariana Mancellos, Chris White, Jessica O'Sullivan, Eda Carmona and Amy Pragnell. Congratulations!

Invitation to Parents

We are working towards trying to achieve Healthy Schools status by October next year. To help us achieve this it would be very useful to have Parent involvement in the Healthy Schools Working Group. The key areas of Healthy Schools are Physical activity, Healthy Eating, Personal, Social and Health Education and Emotional Health and Well-being. Therefore if you feel you could help us in one or more of these areas then please contact Mr Reilly in order that we can move to the next stage of our Healthy Schools status.

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.

Storyboards

We have had some photographs taken of students working for display around the school. These have now arrived and will be erected soon. They are from the same firm that did the Year 11 Leaving Photographs which have been so well received. These storyboards, as they are called, were quite expensive so we are asking the students to respect them as they do the rest of the building.

Library News

Yesterday we hosted the Peterborough School Librarians Network meeting at St John Fisher School. Year 8 student librarians hosted the meeting and took part in a power point presentation to introduce our visitors to the Learning Resource Centre. These students were efficient, polite and welcoming and their introduction won enthusiastic applause from their audience.

Year 8 Librarians: Aisha Shakoor, Matthew Bryan, Samiran Moradi, Amy Godleman and Rahmana Kazemi.

Year 11 Prom

On Friday 8th May the Year 11 prom began, everyone was suited and booted, dressed to impress. Most people arrived in style, from pink limos to red sports cars. Once sat at our tables we were invited up to the buffet which was followed by a delicious desert and certificate presentations. Best dressed went to Natasha Butler and MT. The Prom King, Sean Titchmarsh and Prom Queen, Azemine Dani, led the first romantic dance, which was then quickly followed by a rave led by Mr Clifford through many signature moves. The evening ended on a high with everyone celebrating together, and reminiscing about the last few years as we go our separate ways.

By Katie King, Sean Titchmarsh and Connor O'Sullivan

50th Anniversary

One of the events to celebrate the school anniversary will be a **Concelebrated Mass** with Bishop Michael Evans and our Deanery priests. This will be on Thursday 16th July at 7.30pm. Please make a note in your diaries. More information nearer the time.

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Tuesday 2nd June at 3.30pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or emailed at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com

Voluntary Mass

We continue to celebrate Mass every Friday morning at 8.45 in our school chapel. Any parents that would like to join us would be most welcome. The next Mass will be on Friday 5th June when the celebrant will be Father Bruce.

Half Term Holiday

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