



Open Evening

Last Thursday was our annual Open Evening which was very successful. The school looked superb and all of the students who assisted were a credit to themselves. My thanks to the staff who worked late that night. We had very positive feedback from those who attended and from the parents who have been round the school this week for our morning tours. Before the Open Evening started the Local Authority reported that we already have 110 applications for next September – a very encouraging start!

Operations Group

One part of the additional support for schools in Special Measures is called the Operations Group. This is a meeting of senior staff from the school and consultants from the Local Authority who meet each month to monitor progress. Our group met on Wednesday afternoon and were pleased to note that we continue to make good progress. At each meeting they adjust the support that is being provided to the school to suit the latest circumstances. This meeting is followed by another similar one called the RAP Management Group. This monitors the Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) which we have to write and work to as we are a National Challenge school. This meeting looks more closely at the tracking data for Year 11 students and the various intervention strategies that we have in place. These two meetings have become part of the monthly cycle in school but it is useful for parents to be aware that they are happening.

Ofsted Monitoring Visit

We were visited again by Ofsted last week. This was the usual team of four inspectors for two days but is now an 'unannounced' visit which means we do not know when the team are coming. Their report is due before half term and I will again tell you what they say via this newsletter, and it will be available on the Ofsted website.

Uniform – again

We continue to monitor uniform and the way that students attempt to adjust it. We have just had to ask them to not wear the coloured bands on their wrists and as autumn approaches and coats are brought in, we are reminding them that coats should be worn over blazers and not instead of them. Support from home with this would be appreciated.

Attendance Update

We are pleased to announce that our stringent monitoring of attendance last year reduced the number of students whose attendance is regarded as 'persistent absence' to the extent that we are no longer one of the schools that is being closely watched. Unfortunately we have already had eleven students take holidays without permission this term, reducing our whole school attendance rate by enough for Ofsted to comment on it last week. I would again remind parents that applications for leave of absence during term time must be received at least four weeks in advance and can be for no more than ten days. They are only granted when circumstances warrant the student missing school; if the student is absent and permission has not been granted, it is recorded as truancy, in line with government guidelines, and a fixed penalty notice is applied for. Individual students' attendance is reported to parents with each Progress Update and text messages are now sent out each morning if students have not arrived at school but we have not received notification. We hope that all of this will enable us to work together to keep attendance as high as possible.

Sean Hayes

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Wednesday 4 November at 3.30 pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733 562528 ext 5, or by email at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com

HPV Vaccination Programme

NHS Peterborough has issued a press release regarding the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme. The press release has been sent home to the girls who are part of the programme through form tutors but if you did not receive the press release or require further information, please visit our website www.stjohnfisherschool.org.uk.

Year 7 Welcome Mass

Last week we told you about the Year 7 Welcome Mass we are holding on Friday 23 October. I can now confirm that the time of the mass will be 9.00 am. All Year 7 students will be attending the celebration and a warm invitation is extended to all who wish to join us on this memorable occasion. If you have any questions about the Year 7 Welcome Mass, please contact Mrs Pereira on 01733 343646.

Duke of Edinburgh news Success on our expedition

10 Year 11 students were assessed last weekend on their Duke of Edinburgh Award Bronze expedition. The students carried full rucksacks (with tents, all their food and spare clothes), covering 11 kilometres/6 miles each day, and survived despite carrying such heavy loads.

They were assessed on several skills such as first aid, emergency role plays, compass use, teamwork, map reading, cooking on camping stoves, setting up and using tents.

They have all passed the expedition section of the Bronze Award - the DofE Assessor commented that they worked very well as a team and were a credit to St John Fisher Catholic High School.

Some students have now nearly completed their Bronze Award. We hope our Bronze students will progress onto the Silver Award which will entail a 3 day practice walk in the Peak District during April 2010 and a 3 day qualifying expedition in late June/early July 2010.

Sincere thanks go to Mr Price, Mr Clifford and Mrs Davey for ensuring safety cover was available at all times throughout the whole weekend.

John Jones
Duke of Edinburgh Award Co-ordinator

SRE Policy

We have updated our Sex and Relationship Education policy. A draft copy of this policy is available for viewing on the school website. If you have any comments about the policy during this period of consultation please direct them to Mrs Pereira. If you would like to view a paper copy please phone the school. Thank You

Mrs Pereira

Girls' Football

If you are interested, please come along to a free session of girls' football training by a Peterborough United coach. This will take place every Wednesday on the Astroturf, from 3.45 - 4.45. For more information please see PCSO Reid.

Stand Up Against Poverty

Count us in to stand up and speak or even sing out against Poverty on 16 October, as a contribution to this year's 50 days of Global Action by the UN Millennium Campaign and the global call to action against poverty.

We'll be standing up alongside many other Stand Up Schools in this country and with over 100 million people in the 120+ countries across the world. As a Stand Up School we are proud to Stand Up and be counted.

Mrs Pereira


SCHOOL
PRODUCTION

AUDITIONS

This year's show is
The Dracula Spectacula

which is a comedy about a group of school kids
taken on a trip to Transylvania.

They do not need to prepare anything, just turn
up and give it a go.
They will be required to perform a piece of
movement, act an extract and to sing.



Monday 19th October 3.30-4.30 in 501	Wednesday 21st October 3.30-4.30 in 501
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Students can choose either day to
audition

Please remember to keep saving Shoeboxes for this year's Shoebox Appeal.
Empty boxes should be taken to Mrs Pereira's office.
