



Next Steps for Year 11

Today we launched the process for Year 11 to make decisions about the next stage of their education. The options available to them are to continue their education at school or college, to start work-related training such as an apprenticeship, or to start work.

All students have academic tutoring meetings with either their form tutor or their mentor and individual advice is available from the Connexions Service.

Of the three alternatives mentioned above it is those who choose to continue in education that we are able to provide for in our Sixth Form provision. We offer a range of A level courses and one-year BTec courses. These are extended by an arrangement called Team Peterborough through which our students can study some additional subjects at other local schools and this means that a large range of subjects is available.

Another option available to students is the diploma. These courses have a different structure and are available in Peterborough but not at St John Fisher: students who wish to do a diploma need to transfer to the school that is running the course they are interested in.

For those who choose to stay with us there is a range of other courses that make up the full curriculum, including encouragement to do voluntary work in the community and the option to retake Maths or English GCSE. The full details are described in the Sixth Form Prospectus.

For our own students the application process for courses in Year 12 is very similar to the Options process that they completed in Year 9. The one key difference is that each course has its own entry requirements and these need to be checked carefully: it is important that we do not allow students to undertake courses that are not going to be appropriate for them.

Alongside this process this year all Peterborough schools are trialling an on-line application system called the Common Application Form. This is something that the government would like us to use from next year and so we have decided to test it out this year to iron out any teething problems before it goes live. It is important that students complete and submit paper applications to the school by our deadline as well as using the online system. This has been discussed with the students today in a launch session.

On Tuesday next we have our Open Evening at which important information will be available for parents and students and all subjects will be available to discuss their courses and the entry requirements. This is a key element of the process and I would encourage all

students who wish to continue their education to attend the evening with a parent or guardian.

Finally, I would encourage those who wish to continue their education to do so at St John Fisher. We have a growing and effective Sixth

Year 11 students and parents are invited to our

Sixth Form Open Evening

Tuesday 24 November 2009

7.00 pm

Form which has been extensively changed this year with many improvements recognised by Ofsted when they visited this term. Results from last year's Year 12 were much stronger than previous groups and bode well for their A levels in the coming summer. The current Year 12 is considerably larger than in recent years, largely due to the increase in GCSE results this year. As a consequence our Sixth Form numbers rose by 40% in September and we expect to be at capacity next year. We have further enhanced our provision by starting work this term with Durham University's A Level Information System (ALIS). This provides every student with an individual indication of how they might perform at A Level in their chosen subjects. I look forward to seeing our students and parents on Tuesday.

Sean Hayes

Celebration of Eid

Next week this event is due to fall on either Friday or Saturday. The custom is to allow one day's absence for Religious Observance when Eid falls on a school day. If the mosque celebrates Eid on Friday students who attend that mosque may be absent for the day and need only confirm this by bringing to school a letter from parents explaining that this is what they are doing. If the mosque they attend celebrates Eid on Saturday it will not be possible to take a day off school. All local schools have agreed to clarify this with parents as it seems there was some confusion previously.

The Student Investor Competition

Four teams of maths students from Years 12 and 13 have entered the 2009/10 Student Investor Competition. This on-line competition enables students to experience trading a sum of virtual money on the stock market. The teams have carefully selected companies in which to invest and 'trading' opened at the beginning of November. It will be interesting for the students to track their progress against more than 4800 teams from schools and colleges across the country.

Ms Harrison

Shoebox Appeal Operation Christmas Child

Thank you for your generosity in making the shoebox presents for children worldwide. On Monday we counted 102 full boxes which will be collected by the charity 'Samaritan's Purse' this week. A special thank you to Joe Hostead for his exceptional effort and inspirational leadership shown for this appeal. Thank you.

Mrs Pereira

Children in Need: Friday 20 November

Friday will be a non uniform day. Pupils who wish to come to school in appropriate non uniform must bring in £1 which will be collected during form time in the morning. Please remember to bring in your normal school equipment and books as it will be a normal school day. All proceeds will go towards Children in Need.

Mrs Pereira

Interfaith Week

This week is Interfaith week. Our school exhibited samples of student work and reflections at the Town Hall this Wednesday. The theme was Faith and the Environment. Sixth formers from our school also visited the exhibition and took part in the workshop offered to students. This Friday evening is also the Interfaith service at the Cathedral where our school choir will be participating. It would be good to see parents and students from St John Fisher there. The service starts at 7.00 pm.

Mrs Pereira

Reconciliation

Next Tuesday we will focus on the theme of Reconciliation in school. Unfortunately, our deanery priests will be unable to attend to offer the sacrament of Reconciliation as they will be attending the funeral of Fr Ray Kerby. However we will still have our own Reconciliation services as usual in the morning and the chapel will be open at lunchtime for private reflection.

Community Cohesion

Last Friday a group of students from our school watched a drama production and then took part in a workshop at Thomas Deacon Academy. This was an excellent performance and inspirational for the students concerned. It is hoped that as a result of some of the issues raised in the Drama and workshop, a Community Cohesion Focus Group can be set up in school to further raise awareness.

Year 11 Classics Revision Sessions

The following Classics revision sessions are being held for all Year 11 students, in order to help prepare for their mock GCSE exams.



Monday 23 November

Greek Religion

Wednesday 25 November

The Odyssey

Friday 27 November

Greek Festival

Room 108 1.20 ~ 1.40 pm

Parental encouragement with student attendance at these sessions would be greatly appreciated as the mock GCSE result will largely determine whether students go into the Higher or Foundation tier in the summer GCSE.

Mr Boyle

We express our condolences and pray for the soul of Fr Ray Kerby. Fr Kerby was the parish priest at St Ives before he retired in 2001. May he rest in peace.

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Tuesday 24 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