



## The Season of Advent

On Sunday last we celebrated the Feast of Christ the King which marks the end of the church's year. This Sunday we begin the season of advent and the period of waiting for Christmas. During Advent we traditionally raise money for charities and tutor groups have been asked to begin thinking about this, especially which charity they would like to support. We also arrange for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to be available to students and a joint Carol Service with Sacred Heart and St Thomas More primary schools on 10 December, and we will conclude our term with a liturgy to mark the start of Christmas.

## Confirmation Candidates

Bishop Michael presided at Mass at All Souls on Sunday morning, conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on eight of our students. It is rewarding to know that these young people are continuing to grow in their faith and make this commitment. Our congratulations to: Heather Hung, Stacey Noronha, Sian English, Lourdes De Souza, Jones De Souza, Christopher Collick, Luke Sheridan and Sheryl Mendonca.

## Interfaith Service

Last Friday evening there was an Interfaith Service in the Cathedral at which the school was represented by the choir. This was a wonderful occasion which brought together a wide range of people and faiths and in which we were pleased to take part. Many thanks to Ms Vivash and the choir for representing the school and to James Wilson, our Chaplain, for organising our participation. Another of our students, Zain Awan in Year 11, read three of his own poems as the representative of his mosque. These were on the subject of Faith and the Environment which was the theme of the event. Zain also organised and ran the spectacular visual projections with the help of a friend from a photography club.

## Sixth Form Open Evening

We had an excellent turn out at this event on Tuesday. I do hope that those who attended found it useful and informative. Please remember to ask your teachers or Mrs Weston if you have any questions over the next few months. My thanks to the staff and other students who were involved in planning and supporting this evening. As we explained on the night, there has been a delay with the Local Authority's online facility becoming ready to use but we will notify students as soon as it is up and running.

## Photographs

We recently had photographs taken of all students and the usual packs were sent home this week offering parents the option to buy copies. We have arranged with the company to extend the date for orders to 3 December but must have all packs or orders back by then please. We intend to arrange for some alternative photos to be taken of Year 11 students next term, as we did last year. I mention this now as parents and students may wish to wait and order those photos instead: not everyone is willing to buy two sets of photos in the same year.

## Year 11 Mock Exams

Starting on Monday we have just over two weeks of exams for Year 11 students. These are a chance for them to experience GCSE papers in exam conditions and gives a valuable picture of where the students currently are with each subject. For parents we will follow these exams with a Progress Update on 18 January and a Parents Evening on 26 January. I hope that the students make the most of this opportunity to show what they can do and also to familiarise themselves with what will be required of them in the summer. One of the aspects that many find difficult is the need to be examined in all the subjects in the same period and this is another reason for these mock exams. Students have received copies of the timetable and should check that they know which exam they have when: in the summer it is their responsibility to present themselves in the right place at the right time. During this mock exam period they will be in their normal lessons when not in an exam – even if some other students in the same class have an exam at the time; there is no study leave for students.

*Sean Hayes*

## Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Thursday 3 December 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](mailto:frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com)



## Children in Need

Last Friday we contributed to Children in Need Day by having a non-uniform day and raised £635.39 for the charity. The Sixth Form had the option of coming in fancy dress and had some very creative ideas; one of the best were the 118 runners, Chris Collick and Adam Rowland (above). Well done everyone.

## French Revision Club

The Languages Department is running a French Revision Club to help students progress well and achieve their full potential in next summer's examinations:

**Thursdays 3.45 pm - 4.45 pm**

Years 11 and 12 with Mr Vermaut and Ms Haine

**Mondays 1.35 pm - 2.00 pm**

Years 7-10 Miss Bevilacqua and Marie-Cecile

Please see any member of the department for further details.

## UK Senior Maths Challenge

At the beginning of November, a number of mathematics students from Years 12 and 13 entered the UK Senior Mathematical Challenge. The students faced a variety of problems requiring logical thinking and application of mathematical skills. There were over 63,000 entries from schools and colleges across

the country. Congratulations to Connor O'Sullivan, in Year 12, who has achieved a bronze certificate.

## Sports News

### Basketball

The Under 14s basketball team were in action recently in the Under 14s finals. They lost narrowly in games against Stanground and Ken Stimpson. All players played with great effort with the remaining games are to be played on 14 December.

A number of Year 7 and 8 students took part in rowing competitions at Hampton recently. The Year 7s had to row as far as possible in 2 minutes with Hassan Nawaz winning his heat. For the Year 8s Amy Pragnell performed very well achieving the highest score for the year group. Well done to all.

The Under 16s boys basketball team have also been in action recently. They won 16-10 v Ken Stimpson and lost 25-8 to TDA.

### Rugby

On Wednesday 18 November the Year 10/11 rugby team travelled to Peterborough Rugby Club for a tournament against 6 other schools from around Peterborough. The team had a tough pool, playing teams from Bourne Grammar and Sawtry College. Unfortunately the team lost both these games but the boys played some outstanding rugby at times! Both Bourne and Sawtry went onto face each other in the final of the competition which showed the measure of the opposition.

### Year 6 Primary Schools Dance Festival

On 19 November approximately 60 Year 6 children from St Thomas More and Sacred Heart Schools attended a dance festival hosted by St John Fisher. The theme for the festival was 'Hairspray', the hit musical. The children were given just over an hour to learn a dance from the musical led by our dance teachers Ms Ward and Jenna Tudor Knibbs. They then performed their final dance in front of a group of Year 7 students. All children and staff involved thoroughly enjoyed the morning with the primary school children returning to their own schools to perform their dance in an assembly.

### Table Tennis

A group of students took part in a table tennis skills festival at Jack Hunt last week which involved fun games and tournaments. The students performed very well with Rahul Seta and Samuel Mendonca both winning their groups.