



Year 9 Options

Today we introduced the Options process to Year 9. This is the time when they start to think about what courses they would like to take in Key Stage 4, that is, for the next two years. Many are compulsory as part of the National Curriculum but there is still a lot of ways for students to personalise their subjects to suit their own skills and future wishes. Many of them are not sure what they want to do for a future career so it is good for them to maintain a variety of courses if they can.

The situation is now rather more involved than simply choosing some GCSEs from a list as there are BTEC courses and some college courses that should also be considered. These courses are often only available at one level rather than across the whole ability range so it is important that students only take courses for which they are suited. For this reason we will be guiding their choices to a certain extent and sometimes saying that they cannot take a particular course because we know that it will be too easy or too hard for them.

Parents and Carers have an important role in this options process and so we hold the main choices event in the evening. This means that students and parents can come to the event together and discuss each course as they find out more about it. This Options Evening is next Tuesday, 2nd February, and starts at 7 pm with a talk in the hall at which we will explain in more detail about what is available for next year. As is often the case, the number of choices has increased again this year.

After the talk students will be able to attend short presentations on the subjects that they are interested in and ask any questions that they may have. We asked them today to plan in advance which of these presentations they want to attend on Tuesday so that they make the best use of the time available on the evening.

I do hope that we will see all of our Year 9 students and their parents or carers on Tuesday.

The Dracula Spectacular

This is our school production this year and we anticipate another impressive show which is sure to again be a sell out. We have moved the production from July to March for a variety of reasons and would appreciate feedback on this change afterwards. We are also looking to stage the show in our main hall so that we can have larger audiences. Please watch for more information in newsletters over the coming weeks.

Another Award

Hot on the heels of our award as a Healthy School we have received recognition as an Eco-School. This award is concerned about sustainable development and recognises that we have an awareness of



**Eco-Schools
Bronze Award**

the issues and incorporate them into our curriculum. The government requires all schools to become Eco-Schools by 2020 and has set up an international award scheme to help schools develop their work on sustainability. Our award is at Bronze level so there is more we can do, including linking with other schools around the world and working together on environmental issues. There is a website which allows this to happen and gives more information about the scheme: www.eco-schools.net. I would like to thank Dr Bottrill for leading our work on this issue and also all those who were part of our achieving this award.

Songs of Praise

This coming Sunday afternoon the BBC is broadcasting *Songs of Praise* from Peterborough. The programme was recorded at the Kingsgate Centre and includes an interview with one of our support staff members, Wilson Chetian, and his wife. The introduction to this part of the programme was recorded in school so for a brief few moments – about 20 seconds – we will be on prime time TV this weekend. If you would like to see this, tune in to BBC1 at 4.55 pm on Sunday.

Sean Hayes

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Thursday 4 February 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

Celebrating Success

This week we celebrate success in the English department.

The following poem has been written by Sophie Smith, 9WM.

Soldier

*You walk out there with your head held high
Some may return and some may die
But all you soldiers deserve so much more
Away from your home three months or more*

*You all wear your uniform with so much pride
Great British soldier we mourn for those who died
Defending our country, fighting for our lives
You leave your families, your children, your wives*

*So every day we pray for you
The battle fields that see you through
The guns and bombs that lay in your way
We ask dear Lord for your return some day*

*You step off the plane onto your won ground
The crying kids just want their dads
So well done lads
The crying wives with tears of joy
Thank God you're home my soldier boy*

(In dedication to my brother Stewart who is fighting the war in Afghanistan and is a Royal Anglian Regiment sniper.)



Holocaust Memorial Day

Congratulations to all the Students who represented the school on Holocaust Memorial Day 2010 on Wednesday. Students from Year 10 performed a piece of physical theatre outside the town hall, prior to the ceremony which took place at Midday. This performance was filmed by the Evening Telegraph and can be viewed at www.peterboroughtoday.co.uk.

A group of students from Year 11 also performed a thought-provoking piece of devised theatre in the evening at the Key Theatre. They performed alongside seven other schools and community groups in a dramatic tribute to the memory of the Holocaust. The Year 11 students commented 'the experience of working in a professional theatre was amazing and each performance made us reflect on the past and look forward to the future with hope for peace'.

PE News

On Thursday 21 January, 10 boys from Yrs 7-11 cricket teams visited The King's School to hear a talk given by the ex-England cricket captain, Alec Stewart OBE. The boys who attended the event thoroughly enjoyed listening to Alec talk about his career as an international cricketer as well as gaining some helpful advice, should they wish to follow in his footsteps! Many of the boys also had the opportunity to meet him face to face and ask him questions. A big thank you to Sue Hostead who supervised the group on this visit.

Music News

Charity Concert

Please come and support our charity concert in aid of Shelter on Thursday 11 February. The school choir are performing a new piece, a new staff choir are performing accompanied by a sixth form band and there will be pieces performed by our sixth form in preparation for their exams. A raffle will also be held and if anyone has any prizes they could consider donating, please let Miss Vivash know. The cost of a ticket is £3 for adults or £1 for students. Tickets from student services or on the door

Music Trip to the Royal Albert Hall

Students and parents are invited to join us on a trip to London on Sunday 18 April to hear the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra play popular Rock Anthems (including Robbie Williams, Bon Jovi and U2). The total cost of the trip, including some sightseeing in London, is £18.50 per person. Places are limited! Letters regarding this trip are available from Miss Vivash and Mr Dalton.