



## Thank You Messages

Every week or so I receive a message by post, email or phone from someone wanting to thank the school for something that we have done. Recent examples have included a member of the public who rang after the Holocaust Memorial performances at the Key Theatre to say how impressed they were with our students' piece. Another was a letter from a parent who was moving away and wanted to say thank you to the staff for making her son's time here so enjoyable. This week I have received a letter from Sister Winifred which was addressed to both staff and students:

*Dear Staff and students,*

*I saw in your newsletter that you have raised money for Haiti. We have seven sisters there. The house is damaged but temporarily safe.*

*The country was already desperately poor. No free education, no medical system, no travel system, no decent roads and then severely flooded last year. 250,000 died and that would have been more but they mostly live in one-roomed, flimsy shacks so escaped heavy weights falling on them.*

*The sisters send immense thanks for all the help which has been sent. The aftershocks have calmed down, they were sleeping outside to be able to move quickly in case of need.*

*Again, tremendous thanks,  
Sister Winifred*

During Lent we are again raising money for good causes, including Haiti. It is easier to picture what happens to this money when we receive personal messages like this. We will bear this in mind over the coming weeks as we again think of those less fortunate than ourselves.

## Parking on site

Parking in the car park is very limited but if you are visiting school you should be able to park in the car park. If you are only dropping off or collecting children please do not come into the car park as this is causing some problems. We have recently had a bus become stuck in the mud trying to get past badly parked cars and also an incident where an ambulance could not get through. We have been putting cones out since half term to indicate where cars should not be parked but have still found people parking across the cones. Your co-operation in this matter would be very much appreciated.

## Free School Meals

There has been an exercise over the last few months to check that students who are entitled to a free school meal do take up their meal. Part of this exercise has required parents to prove that their child is still entitled to a meal. We have had quite a few cases where this proof has not been provided, despite writing home several times. We have now reached the stage where we have had to tell some children that their entitlement to a free meal has ended. If you are a parent who has been written to and you have not replied could you get in touch within the next week as we have to finalise our list of students entitled to a free meal.

## Interim Executive Board

On Wednesday evening this week we had the final monthly meeting of the IEB. This body temporarily replaced the governing body in July 2008 and ceases to operate after the end of this month when the Shadow Governing body takes over. I would like to thank the members of the IEB for their support and advice over the last five terms. This has been supportive and valuable. Some members are staying on as they are also on the Shadow Governing Body and some have changed over the time that the IEB has been running. I would particularly like to thank those members who are not continuing with us: Julie O'Connor, Paul Phillipson, Carole Archer, Charles Swift, Marion Todd, Allison Sunley and Mel Collins.

The Shadow Governing Body will operate until the start of the next school year when we will return to a 'normal' governing body. More about this will be included in newsletters over the coming months

## Another Success!

Finally for this week, a big vote of congratulations to the cast of *The Dracula Spectacula* which has its final run this evening. This show was sold out weeks ago and having seen the first two nights it is easy to see why. A massive effort has gone into the production but it was certainly well worth it. This is a big opportunity for students to contribute to school and enjoy it at the same time. Thank you again to the staff who made this the success that it was.

Thank you also to the Year 5 children who made up the audience for Tuesday's dress rehearsal. I hope that you enjoyed it and that you will consider being in a future show when you are in high school.

*Sean Hayes*

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## Year 11 countdown

We have been wondering if Year 11 students realise how many lessons are left until their GCSE exams. (Or should that be how **few** lessons are left?) We think it would be useful to remind you each week in the newsletter and we will add also some reminders about revision opportunities each week.

So the headline numbers for today are:

School weeks to May half term: **10**  
School days to start of written exams: **49**  
English and Maths lessons to go: **25**  
Other GCSE lessons to go: **20**

Written exams formally start on 10 May but lessons will continue until half term but you may miss one or two if they clash with an exam. There is no study leave before half term and we will clarify arrangements for after half term towards the end of May.

The important thing is that time is running out and you need to be making the most of every lesson now. (We are hoping that Sixth Form students can do their own countdown based on this information!)

## Reward Shop

Beginning Monday 14 March students will be able to 'cash in' their merits and receive rewards. Below is a list of the number of merits required and the Rewards that a student may choose.

25 Merits	Items of stationery, such as ruler, pencil, eraser
50 Merits	Highlighter, drinks bottle
100 Merits	Torch keyring
175 Merits	Pen, pouch, box
250 Merits	Calculator, clock, pen holder
350 Merits	£10 book token or £10 towards Year 11 Prom
500 Merits	£15 voucher or £15 towards Year 11 Prom

Merit Certificates will be issued as follows:

25 Merit Award  
50 Merit Award  
100 Merit Award  
175 Merit Award  
250 Merit Award  
350 Merit Award  
The St John Fisher Catholic High School Merit Award (500 merits)

Students may cash in their merits in the Student Support Office at break.

## Film Club

We have registered to take part in a new initiative offering free films to schools setting up a Film Club. Film Club will organise a launch party for the club, providing bean bags and free popcorn with the first film. They can also arrange presentations on all aspects of the film industry including acting, stunt work, camera work, animation, model making, costume and make-up. For more information and to see the listings of 4000+ films available for loan, as well as some trailers of popular films, students can visit [www.filmclub.org](http://www.filmclub.org). To register your interest in joining a Film Club, please visit the Library.

## UK Intermediate Maths Challenge

On 4 February, a number of students in Years 9 and 10 participated in the UK Intermediate Mathematical Challenge, organised by the UK Mathematics Trust. There were over 200,000 entries. Students were required to use a variety of mathematical and problem-solving skills to solve a wide range of challenging questions.

Many congratulations to Maria Miranda who achieved a silver certificate.

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved bronze certificates:

Aisha Shakoor 9WM	Ben Buttigieg 10GW
Holly Hung 10QU	Emily Kerrigan 10CK
Erin McClean 10HD	Ella O'Sullivan 10QU
Chynna Pascual 10QU	Luke Scott 10HD
Gemma Titchmarsh 10HD	

## Achievement in ICT

This week we are celebrating the achievement of students in the ICT department. Awards go to:

### Effort

Year 7	Corey Buckley, Elaine Krstonosic
Year 8	Grace Murfitt, Thusneem Kausrr
Year 9	Jessica Gilbert, Jordan Mould
Year 10	Mohammad Umar, Jordan Lancaster
Year 11	Suat Timocin, Mariyum Khan
Year 12	Joel Miranda, Iram Tahir

### Achievement

Year 7	Sidne Reeve, Jacob Knighton
Year 8	Aleksandra Tetnowski, Federica Funicello
Year 9	William Healy, Nicole Atkinson
Year 10	Sean Barry, Maria Miranda
Year 11	Haider Sheikh, Farwa Ahmed
Year 12	Rabeel Hussain, Daniel McGarry

Congratulations and well done to all.

*Miss Reynolds*

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