



Spring and Easter

As we reach the end of the term this week there is a lot to think about and a lot to be grateful for. We are coming to the end of Lent and will next week move into Holy Week as we begin the final countdown to the great celebration of Easter.

This has not been an especially long term but there has been a lot happening as usual. It has been capped by the successful inspection which saw us removed from Special Measures. Next week the Leadership Group will be meeting to plan for the next stage in the school's development and we will then share these plans with the new Shadow Governing Body at the start of next term.

This week's newsletter seems to be dominated by information for Year 11 but it is good for other students to see this and to appreciate what is coming their way in the future. A lot of effort is being made to run the various revision sessions next week so I do hope that the students make the most of these opportunities: the English and Maths days held last week were certainly well received.

Year 10 have also been working hard as they completed their Work Experience last week. I was very pleased to hear positive feedback from many placements: this is a compliment to the students and good publicity for the school. Well done to you all.

Miss Wilson begins her maternity leave at the end of the holidays. Our prayers and good wishes go with her at this exciting time, but I am sure that she will keep in touch.

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Sean Hayes



Congratulations

Earlier this month Zain Awan, in Year 11, was appointed as Young UK Ambassador, one of three appointments made from thousands of applications. This is a tremendous achievement and one that reflects Zain's work in the local Youth Council: the appointment will take him all over the world to different conferences and meetings. Only days after this was announced he was awarded The Malcolm X Young Person's Award for Excellence at the Muslim News Awards in London. This was no mean feat as he was in competition with a post-graduate researcher and an agency. Very many congratulations, Zain.

Term Dates

School ends on Friday at 3.30 pm and begins again on Monday 12 April at 8.55 am, which will be Week 2. Term Dates for 2010-11 will be included in the next newsletter.

Top Tips for gaining A-C grades in the English examination - Media - Non-Fiction Paper

1. Learn the difference between fact and opinion; you can "prove" facts; opinions often begin with adjectives like "seems", "appear", "might", "possibly".
2. Analyse form and presentation; learn to see how the following devices are used:
 - Images (pictures, etc)
 - Colour
 - Headlines
 - Sub-headings
 - Font sizes
 - Catchy headings/slogans
3. Analyse language techniques, spot them and understand how they work in a text:
 - Sensational/emotive language
 - Exaggeration
 - Rhetorical questions
 - Alliteration
 - Rule of three
 - Repetition
 - Figures of speech
 - Similes
 - Metaphors

Year 11 Mathematics Revision Day

Last Tuesday a number of students spent the day involved in Mathematics to support their GCSE work. The sessions were aimed principally at the students who are currently working close to the grade C/D borderline. Students attended three sessions in the morning, led by different members of staff. In the afternoon, the students participated in a quiz: they worked in teams of 3 to tackle a variety of exam style questions, with each round involving questions from one of the core curriculum areas for mathematics: number; algebra; shape, space and measure; data handling. The students worked very well and now need to plan their independent study. There will be a Revision Session in the Easter Holidays to follow this - during the morning of Tuesday 30 March - and the students concerned have received letters about this.

YEAR

11

COUNT
DOWN

07

WEEKS to
half-term

34

school
DAYS
to exams

18

Maths &
English
LESSONS

14

other
GCSE
LESSONS

Achievement in Music

This week we are celebrating the achievement of students in the Music department. The following students have been nominated for consistent effort or particular achievement in their music work:

Achievement:

| | |
|------|---|
| Yr 7 | Danae Larham, Elizabeth Ager Kieran O'Reilly, Ryan New |
| Yr8 | Kayley Darroch, Katie Smart Connor Ormsby, Dainius Pliuskus |
| Yr9 | Lisa Jones, Emily Doherty Carlton Souza, Tom Kemp |
| Yr10 | Shannon Craig, Frankie Ciarla Kyle O'Sullivan, Claudio Marques |
| Yr11 | Fiona King |

Effort:

| | |
|------|--------------------------------------|
| Yr 7 | Elizabeth Ager, Michal Polak |
| Yr8 | Olivia Muffit, Connor Ormsby |
| Yr9 | Sarah Silk-Smith, Tristan Goodfellow |
| Yr10 | Zainia James |

Year 11 GCSE Easter Revision

Parents and students should already have received a timetable of revision sessions available during the first week of the Easter Holiday. Please could I encourage you to identify subject areas where further help is required and to return permission slips as soon as possible. Extended revision time can be very effective and can make a difference to final grades and ultimately post 16 options. We want to see as many students as possible participating in these sessions so they can achieve to the best of their ability in their GCSE examinations.

The timetable for Easter revision sessions is:

| | | |
|----------------------|---|--|
| Monday 29.03.10 | Art and Textiles Business Studies History (American West) Chemistry (Higher) Biology (Foundation) Chemistry (Foundation) Biology (Higher) | 9.00 – 3.30 9.00 – 3.30 9.00 – 12.00 9.00 – 12.00 12.30 – 3.30 12.30 – 3.30 |
| Tuesday 30.03.10 | Art and Textiles Maths IT | 9.00 – 3.30 9.00 – 12.00 9.00 – 3.30 |
| Wed 31.03.10 | Sports Studies IT History (Medicine) Drama | 9.00 – 3.30 9.00 – 3.30 9.00 – 12.30 9.00 – 12.30 |
| Thursday 01.04.10 | IT | 9.00 – 3.30 |

Reading Matters : Log on to Blog

We now have a St John Fisher Library Blog at <http://sjfslibrary.blogspot.com/>

Access the blog to find out about library events, new books, authors, film news, and much, much more. Next term, Staff and students will be able to obtain a username and password, to allow them to contribute to the blog.

Knife Crime

On Friday 5 March 8WK (Vincent De Paul) were lucky enough to have Police Officer French come in and talk to us about knife crime. PC French helped us understand that if you are going to carry a knife you have to risk losing your life! He explained that by showing us a variety of pictures of people that have been previously suffering and some even dying due to knife crime. Everybody enjoyed the experience and found out new facts. We all appreciated him and Jackie coming into our PSHE lesson!

Grace Murfitt

This experience was great because we saw the wounds of some victims and it made me think twice about taking a knife out even for protection. I would like to say thank you for the opportunity to learn about knife crime.

Katie Smart

PC French told us shocking stories about knife crime. The one thing I learnt was never take a knife out with you because if you do, it is more likely that you will end up being the victim.

Zehra Latif

PC French told us a story and showed us disturbing pictures of victims of knife crime. I was shocked and I'm sure it made everyone realise that carrying a knife is dangerous. PC French told us, "If you carry a knife, be prepared to kill or die."

Rufaro Chibanda

Music of the Stage & Screen

Thursday 15th July at 7.30pm



Scenes, songs & dances required for summer show

Audition dates for soloists and group
Wednesday 28th
April at 3.30pm