



## Tuesday's Mass

On Tuesday morning our weekly Mass was said for the intentions of the victims of the Polish air disaster, as announced last week. Mass was concelebrated by Father Piotr and Father Bruce and we were joined by students and staff from St Thomas More School as well as parents and members of the Polish community. It was a lovely service and a good opportunity for us to stop and pay our respects, and to pray for all those who have been affected. During Mass a display was on view with details of the disaster and information about the Katyn Massacre. After communion we had a reflection led by Miss Weigelt and Mr Piotrowski. I would like to thank everyone who helped to arrange this Mass or played a part in it, and all those who attended.



## Our School Day

Thank you to everyone who responded to our consultation about the timing of our school day. Before Easter I included in a newsletter the version of times that the staff had favoured and this was accepted by the School Council. There were only two letters from parents who thought there would be issues with the proposal and so it was put to the governors last week and they approved the change. We are now letting parents and others know, including the transport people and the Local Authority. So from September school will start at 8.40 am and finish at 3.15 pm. I will remind you of this towards the end of term.

## School Mission

Later in the term we are having a Mission Week. To prepare for this we had an introduction last Friday. Diocesan youth worker, Hamish McQueen and mime artist Steve Murray enthused students with their presentations which involved a mime about 'calling' based on the biblical character Ananias in the conversion story of Saul to Paul for Years 7-10 and a very moving testimony about Identity and a mime about Fathers for the sixth form. We look forward to welcoming them back for our school mission at the end of June.

"I felt that Steve's message was relevant for today's society. He expressed his personal opinions which related to issues that affect teenagers today, in a clear way. His personal story was very touching and the way in which he expressed his faith was very inspiring." (Michael Wiles – Year 12)

## Study Leave

We have decided on the arrangements for study leave this year. In recent years the government has encouraged schools to keep this to a minimum as it is felt that students often do more and better revision in school than they do at home, and I would agree with this. We do reach a point, however, when there are more students out of lessons for exams than in, and when we need rooms for so many exams that we cannot also run all lessons. As most of the A level exams this year fall in June this has influenced the arrangements we have made:

Year 11: all students continue lessons until half term. After half term students should only come into school when they have an exam. There will be some exceptions as some subjects arrange in-school revision prior to their exam. For example, there will be Maths revision provided on Monday 7 June prior to Paper 1 that afternoon: students will be given details of this nearer the time.

Years 12 and 13: students will not have study leave as such. They should continue to attend lessons in all subjects until the final exam in a subject has finished. Once this has happened the students need not come into school for those lessons. In addition to this, students will be allowed to study at home during their free periods from 10 May, no earlier. Students in Year 12 who are continuing into Year 13 return to start their A2 courses on Monday 14 June.

## Missed Exams

I would like to remind parents and students of a few of the details concerning external exams that are often misunderstood. These exams take place in school but with the school acting as an examination centre for the exam boards. This means that we do not make the rules, nor do we have a say in them. The exam boards decide what time they want students in school, how far apart they must sit, that they must write in ink and not pencil, that mobile phones must not be taken into the exam even if turned off, that school uniform must be worn, and so on. Most important of all, the exam boards require a doctor's note or medical certificate to cover any missed exam: the usual school arrangements for explaining absence will not suffice. Doctors may charge for this but without one no exam result will be awarded. It is therefore important for any student who misses an exam to see a doctor that day.

*Sean Hayes*

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## Sports News

### Boy's Football Season Round Up:

Year 7 - played 5 games - won 1, lost 4  
Year 8/9 - played 5 games - won 2, lost 3  
Year 10 - played 3 games - won 1, lost 2  
Year 11 - played 5 games - won 3, lost 2

### Young Sport Ambassadors Programme

6th formers Sean Titchmarsh and Stefan Salerno have been awarded the roles of Young Silver Sport Ambassadors. This is a nationwide initiative designed to get more young people volunteering in sport in preparation for the 2012 Olympics. Their role also involves the championing of every aspect of PE and School Sport, including the planning and organisation of intra-school competitions, promoting sports leadership opportunities and heading up the newly formed Sports Council which will provide the students with a voice for their opinions and suggestions for improving PE and School Sport. Sean and Stefan will also be working towards a whole school 'Olympic Football' event to take place during National School Sport Week (28 June - 2 July).

In assemblies this week Sean and Stefan have been explaining their role and exploring the Olympic Ideals as London 2012 approaches. They have also announced the following events which they are organising:

w/c 26 April: Applications for Sports Council Representatives - Years 7-10

11-13 May: Year 7, 8 and 9 Inter-form Dodgeball

28 June-2 July: SJF School Olympic Football Competition National School Sport Week

### Year 10 Rugby Tournament

Just before Easter the Year 10 boys' rugby team played in a tournament hosted at Peterborough Rugby Club. They came up against tough opposition from schools across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, all of whom play rugby regularly at a high level. Our relatively inexperienced team did brilliantly to qualify for the semi-finals of the competition beating King's School 10-5 on the way. Unfortunately they lost their semi-final to Sawtry College who went on to win the final.

### Sport to come in the Summer Term!

This term there will be plenty of extra-curricular sport, so why not get involved? Next week sees the first of many Boys' outdoor cricket games as well as the first athletics meeting of the season at the embankment open to boys and girls in Years 7 to 10. See anyone from the Sports department for more information.

## English Tips : Good Exam Practice

### Prepare thoroughly for the exam

This applies not only to the material for study but also to any materials to be used during the exam. Make sure you have revised all material thoroughly and that you know how many questions you need to answer, especially if there are optional questions on the paper. You must write in black ink or black ball point pen on the paper; blue pens are not acceptable.

**Take time to consider each question** and where there are optional questions, read through each one before choosing which to answer.

**Structure answers** by making an answer plan, where appropriate.

**Look at the number of marks available for each question and write answers of an appropriate length.** You won't get any marks for writing material that's not relevant to the question and, if your answer is too long for the number of marks available, you'll have wasted time. Don't copy each question into your answer book - this isn't necessary, even when separate answer books are used.

**Look back at the question asked and check you have answered it directly.** You can write a good answer but fail to gain marks because you haven't answered the question on the exam paper.

**Ensure that your handwriting is legible.** Although you won't lose marks for poor handwriting, you might penalise yourself if examiners can't read what is written. Write the two-digit number carefully, exactly as shown on the question paper, at the start of each answer.

### Year 11 Prom - Friday 25 June 2010

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Friday 25 June in the School Hall, from 7.30 to 11.00 pm. The cost of the Prom is £15. Students are reminded that they can Cash-In their merits to help towards the cost of a Prom ticket. For every 10 hours of accredited SAM Learning you will be awarded 100 merits, helping towards your merit total. Remember that 250 merits = £5 Prom Voucher, 350 merits = £10 Prom Voucher and 500 merits = £15 Prom Voucher.

### Duke of Edinburgh news

18 new Bronze DofE Award candidates are off this Saturday to put into practice their map reading skills. They will also be cooking their lunch on camping stoves in preparation for their first weekend camping and walking expedition in Rutland in May this year. 5 staff will accompany the students throughout the day. We wish all our DofE candidates a safe and enjoyable day.

YEAR  
**11**  
COUNT  
DOWN

**05**  
WEEKS to  
half-term

**24**  
school  
DAYS  
to exams

**13**  
Maths &  
English  
LESSONS

**10**  
other  
GCSE  
LESSONS

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